

Bill Anderson

"Happy Birthday to You"

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(Wally)

You got some rather nice duty to do don't you Bill?

(Bill)

Yes, I do Wally, you know 1975 marks the fifty birthday of the oldest continuous radio show in the history of American radio. It was in November of 1925 that an old bearded fiddle player named Uncle Jimmy Thompson came into the studio of WSM. And he fiddled and as they say now he fiddled the taters off the vine. And there was an announcer there named George D. Hay. George D. Hay was called "The Solemn Old Judge" and just prior to Uncle Jimmy Thompson coming on the air there had been a program of classical music on the air "Grand Opera" and George D. Hay was a little upset because the conductor at the Grand Opera said that there is no place in the Classics for realism.

And when he came on with Uncle Jimmy Thompson, he said, "Ladies and Gentlemen you have heard Grand Opera without realism, now you are going to hear something real 'The Grand Ole Opry'." And he gave it a name and it's fifty years old in 1975.

(Wally)

Shall we wish it happy birthday?

(Bill)

I think we should I think we should be the first people in the world. This is like being the first person to wish

somebody a
Merry Christmas, you know a way ahead of time,
because
the birthday is not actually until the month of
November. But
one of the reasons that we got this program tonight is
so that
all of us way over here thousands of miles away on the
other
side of the world, can send birthday greetings back to
the
Grand Ole Opry.

And is everybody in good voice? Can you'll sing in the
key of
G? Alright to the Grand Ole Opry here we go.

Happy Birthday to you
Happy Birthday to you
Happy Birthday Grand Ole Opry
Happy Birthday to you...

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