ROCKY MOUNTAIN PBS CELEBRATES 50 YEARS!
Looking back at the First Decade of KRMA — January 30, 1956 to 1966
By Laura Sampson, SAM Chair

Throughout 2006, as Rocky Mountain PBS celebrates 50 vibrant years of public broadcasting, Volunteer Vision presents a glance into the history of Rocky Mountain PBS. Information and photographs have been provided by the Station’s Archived Memories.

In April of 1952, Denver Public Schools petitioned the Federal Communications Commission to reserve Channel 6 exclusively for non-profit educational programs. The “Denver Area Council for Educational Television” was formed that same year. It was determined that a studio in the Emily Griffith Opportunity School would be the best venue, in that it was owned by the district and was centrally located.

KRMA was the 17th Educational Television (ETV) station in the nation and the first ETV station licensed to and owned by a school district. From 1956-1987, DPS was the official licensee of KRMA-TV as an ETV station.

In 1953, the call letters KRMA -- “Knowledge for the Rocky Mountain Area” -- were assigned and construction started on the KRMA studios in the parking lot adjacent to the Emily Griffith Opportunity School at 1261 Glenarm Place. KRMA initially began broadcasting in the auto body shop of that school because cameras needed lots of light to operate effectively. Conveniently, the auto body shop had large bright lights used to highlight car dents.

The Denver Symphony Orchestra with conductor Saul Caston presented several live half-hour concerts telecast from Studio A on the first floor.
To the delight of the residents of metro Denver, KRMA went on the air at 6:45 p.m. on Monday, January 30, 1956, with a two-hour slate of live black-and-white programs. The first program on the air was a 15-minute live show, Earl Reum’s "Children’s Story House."

In the early years of Educational TV, programs were primarily done “live” from the Glenarm studios. ETV was intended to be an educational classroom tool for teachers. Most television programs were studio-based because it was many years before mini-cams or electronic field production units became available.

In the early years, programs produced by the Denver Public Schools were selected on the basis of their demonstrated need for supplementing classroom instruction or providing adult education to accommodate people on the large waiting list at Emily Griffith Opportunity School.

Outstanding educational and entertainment productions were done at KRMA in the late ’50s and early ’60s. KRMA attracted viewers with entertaining and instructional programs such as daytime millinery and cooking instruction, performances of the Denver Symphony Orchestra, Ragtime Era with Max Morath, Zoo Time, in-studio performances by local high school choirs, Cowboys West, Synopsis, Glory Trail and many, many more.

On Sunday, January 30, 1966, KRMA celebrated its 10th anniversary. To mark the occasion, Channel 6 created a milestone in its history by going on the air on Sunday — a day when it did not normally telecast. In ten years, Channel Six had grown from producing ten hours a week to telecasting more than 40 hours of programs during its five-day weekly telecasting schedule. By 1966, KRMA was clearly identified as a “significant informational and educational force in the community it serves.”

Next Issue: Volunteers became a cornerstone of KRMA in the 1960s. Read the Spring Volunteer Vision to learn about the development of the volunteer corps of KRMA-TV.

SAM Committee — Organized in 2000, the Station’s Archived Memories Committee is dedicated to the future of our past. Due to the commitment and diligence of this group of volunteers, the history of Rocky Mountain PBS is being preserved for future generations of community viewers, staff and volunteers. Call 303-620-5734 to volunteer your time and talents to SAM.
This is the second of four Volunteer Vision articles reviewing the history of KRMA. This one covers 1966-79.

The 1960s and '70s brought many changes to KRMA-TV. Having established itself in the community since 1956 as Denver's only educational television station, it expanded its telecasting, programming and means of raising funds, and initiated its volunteer corps. Throughout this time period, KRMA was licensed to Denver Public Schools and was broadcasting from its studios at 1261 Glenarm Place. From 1966-1979, KRMA had several Executive Directors: Russ Casement (1963-1971), Gerald Willsea (1971-1975), Paul Blue (1975-76) and Richard Holcomb (1978-1980). Don Johnson was appointed the "Acting General Manager" from 1976-78 (and became General Manager in 1983).

Several milestones in the station's history occurred during the '60s and '70s. Channel Six received funds that permitted it to telecast programs in color. In December 1966, KRMA telecast approximately 25% of its evening programs in color. On November 5, 1967, KRMA expanded its telecasting week to include Sundays from 5:30-10:30 PM. "Soaring Over the Rockies" was its first full-color production, shown that evening.

In June 1966, KRMA, Channel Six, began the only televised summer school in the nation giving credit for high school courses. Offerings included American History, Business Arithmetic, and Notehand. Thirty different elementary school subjects were also televised, teaching Art, American History, Geography, Math, Science, Spanish and more. Other non-credit educational subjects included afternoon programs on American and French cooking, draperies, home accessories, knitting, reading preparation, sewing and upholstery.

Some very popular evening productions by KRMA during the 1960s and '70s included "Colorado Wildlife," "Open End," "Gene's Junction" with Gene Dolph, and "Feed Forward," a 15-week statewide television series on the environment. At that same time, KRMA put itself on the map by producing numerous outstanding programs for national distribution, among them "Racing on Thin Air," "Soaring Over the Rockies," "Trial," "Fryingpans West," and "The Naturalists."

(Continued on pages 6, 7)
The very first KRMA Auction was televised in 1966 in black and white from June 1-3. It was publicized as “bringing the auction block into the home.” Unique auction items included an autographed jacket worn by Vince Edwards, star of “Ben Casey,” boots worn by Chuck Connors of “The Rifleman,” a hat worn by Ernest Borgnine in “McHale’s Navy,” a 500-pound buffalo yearling, and an African spear.

A 1966 Denver Post article said that “if enough funds are raised, it will enable KRMA to extend broadcasting hours to Saturday and Sunday.” A whopping $25,000 was raised during the first auction! Very impressive.

The first auction was the informal starting block for today’s award-winning volunteer corps of Rocky Mountain PBS. The volunteers were later formally organized -- thanks to Gerald Willsea, Don Johnson and Trudy Fowler who made a proposal to the Council for Public Television to develop a “women’s auxiliary.” The volunteers were known in the formative years as “The Ladybugs.” The Volunteer Board was fondly referred to as “The Ladybug Board.”

Since the inception of Auction, volunteers have been a cornerstone of KRMA, Rocky Mountain PBS. It took hundreds of volunteers to procure the donations for Auctions since its inception in 1966. Going business-to-business canvassing the city for donations was a major accomplishment! Known as “Go-Getters,” the volunteers brought in thousands of pieces of merchandise to raise funds for KRMA-TV.

As the licensee of KRMA, Denver Public Schools provided money for daytime instructional programs. To raise additional money for evening programming, KRMA held non-televised membership campaigns. In the early 1970s, 2,000 volunteers scoured the Denver area door-to-door to sell “Booster Buttons” and tax-deductible memberships. This was followed by a mail campaign. By the mid '70s, on-air Festivals (known today as Membership Drives) were made possible by the support of community volunteers. Phone banks, food distribution, the calculation of donations, and more were handled by volunteers.
The Public Broadcasting Act of 1967 was a major milestone in the history of public television. The first time a nationwide network of Education Television (ETV) stations, including KRMA-TV, was established for a live telecast occurred on January 10, 1967. It focused on President Lyndon B. Johnson’s State of the Union address. After the speech, the network stayed on the air for two hours to bring viewers an entertaining, informative, provocative round-table discussion by a group of nationally-known commentators.

More interesting historical facts about KRMA in the 1960s and ‘70s include:

- In 1967, the Denver Board of Education approved a motion to change the name of KRMA to KKEO to honor Kenneth E. Oberholtzer who fostered and developed ETV as an educational tool. No documentation has been found to explain why this never became official. Do any Volunteer Vision readers know?

- In 1971, Mrs. Bird (the mascot of KRMA who was officially known as Big Bird’s mom) added three new playmates: Amanda Suella Ostrich, Olive Owl and Wilbur Weird Bird. All of the characters were created and built by volunteers. The costumed volunteers made appearances throughout the region at schools, hospitals, museums, churches, community fairs, business groups, clubs, shopping centers, parades and local celebrations as a way of promoting the many worthwhile children’s programs on Channel 6.

- In 1977, KRMA Pages (tour guides) began giving tours every weekday at Glenarm Place studios. Hundreds of tours were performed annually by a dedicated group of volunteers.

- In 1978, Don Kinney launched the KRMA production “The State of Colorado," which ran for 23 years.

- On September 27, 1978, the Council for Public Television approved the purchase of a postage machine so that PROMO and press releases did not have to be hand-stamped and licked. A major milestone!

- Beginning in 1979, Channel 6 offered full-day broadcasting on both Saturdays and Sundays.

Stay tuned! The next Volunteer Vision will present more interesting facts about the 1980s.

Auction volunteers in 1970. SAM has identified only Patty Christy (2nd from right, back row) and Julie Walter and Connie Schafer (4th & 5th from left in front row. If you can identify others, please let SAM know.

1974 poster designed by graphic artist Joe Haney.

Action on the 1976 Auction studio floor with runners delivering bids and scribes sorting them. Movers set up the next table in the background. SAM knows that Sheri Bergin is seated in front. Do you know any of the others? SAM needs you!

All photos and information in this article were provided by STATION’S ARCHIVED MEMORIES (SAM). History is being made daily. Volunteers continue to be needed. If you’d like to help preserve the station’s history, contact SAM Chair Laura Sampson, or Ruth Smith at Rocky Mountain PBS, 303-620-5734 or e-mail RMPBS_SAM@krma.pbs.org.
By 1980, KRMA-TV was a well-recognized and productive contributor to the Denver community, having broadcast for nearly a quarter century. During the '80s the station, at 1261 Glenarm Place in downtown Denver, continued to provide excellent locally-produced programming, introduced many new programs, expanded volunteer activities, severed ties with Denver Public Schools and initiated plans to move to a new location.

Three different people led during that period. Richard Holcomb was the general manager from 1978 until September of 1980. Mary Lou Ray served as Interim Manager until Mike Mottler was hired as general manager on January 11, 1981. When Mottler left the station in January 1983, Don Johnson assumed the interim GM position until he was later officially hired as president and general manager of KRMA in April 1983. Don had worked in various capacities at KRMA for 20 years before diving into his new duties, and held the GM job for ten years until his retirement on June 30, 1993.

From 1956-1987 KRMA's license was owned by Denver Public Schools and served its community of viewers as well as thousands of students throughout Colorado. In the early 1980s, nearly half of all the school districts in the state were using instructional television (ITV) in their schools with a majority of schools taping programs for later use. All schools were benefiting from ITV resources in the areas of language arts, science, health, music, art and career and economic education.

Many of the studio sets used during the early years were first modeled in miniature before the life-sized set was constructed. Program sets were designed by the art department of KRMA. Many hours were spent in drawing the set designs that are now done more efficiently by our talented computer graphic designers.

Many new programs were produced by KRMA in the 1980s. "Super Six School News" was first aired on February 6, 1980. Today, "Super School News" remains the longest-running locally produced program on Rocky Mountain PBS, beginning its 27th consecutive year with the 2006-07 season. Do you happen to know any of the children in this 1980 photo? SAM would like to identify them.

In 1981, six college-credit courses were broadcast on KRMA, offered in conjunction with eleven regional universities and colleges. Known as "telecourses," each course was designed around a series of programs.
of half hour video lessons. Guides, manuals, textbooks and supplementary materials were available.

The popular "Season Ticket," about the burgeoning cultural scene in Colorado, premiered September 10, 1980. Thirty-three half-hour segments were produced in its first year, offering a fresh new look at the arts in Colorado and showing offbeat glimpses of people, activities and events.

In an effort to highlight events and activities in the metro area in 1980, KRMA produced an outstanding program titled "Showtime On Ice." Crews spent 309 hours filming the skaters at the Colorado Ice Arena.

"Smith and Muse," a weekly production of the Cultural and Community Affairs Unit of KRMA, premiered September 11, 1980. The program featured Harry Smith and Reynelda Muse exploring issues, ideas, personalities and opinions around the state.

KRMA's commitment to conserving energy was the incentive for the 1983 series "House For All Seasons." The program showcased trend-setting home construction and design ideas, energy efficient remodeling and more. It aired for several years and was distributed nationally in 1985. The station even sent a crew to Europe to shoot some of the episodes.

In August 1983, First Lady Nancy Reagan, visited KRMA to tape promotional spots for "The Chemical People," a nationally televised PBS effort to involve local communities in a campaign to fight drug abuse. Staff members Sally Reed and Arla Watkins remember the day Mrs. Reagan visited.

Colorado children were highlighted in 1986 in the series "At Rainbow's End," which featured 2- to 3-minute book reviews written and delivered on camera by Colorado children. It was a supplement to the popular PBS "Reading Rainbow" series. Two children from each of 25 libraries were featured on the program.

By 1986, KRMA, Channel Six, was broadcasting 18 hours a day. Outstanding programs, many of them locally produced, were aired in the 1980s:

* "Stateline" premiered on KRMA in January 1983. It was a weekly program that dealt with the Colorado state legislature.
* The Denver Symphony Orchestra was aired live from the Glenarm studios in 1983.
* "Our Centennial State" was produced in 1986 using on-location footage and historic photographs to depict the history of Colorado.
* A documentary about the 10th Mountain Division during WW II, "Soldiers of the Summit," was produced in 1987.
* In 1988, KRMA produced the award-winning "First Degree Murder Trial," directed by Susan Kinney. It is still used by the Colorado Bar Association as a teaching device.

The control room, as it existed at the Glenarm Street station in the mid-'80s.
Volumes could be written about the events that were sponsored by KRMA and its award-winning volunteer corps. Remember these special events and milestones?

* The first KRMA Wine Tasting was held at the Sheraton Inn on September 21, 1980. There are no photos in our archives. Do you have one to share? The party was not a fund raiser but a special event for members and volunteers.

* KRMA celebrated its 25th anniversary in 1981 with an outdoor community party.

* The *Cooking on Cue* cookbook was written, tested and published by KRMA volunteers in 1986.

* The first Kids' Auction, a 2-hour segment of the annual General Auction, debuted in 1983 and was underwritten by Mr. Steak. Students from "Super Six School News" and children of volunteers worked as auctioneers and anchors and in auction floor positions.

* PROMO, the monthly program guide, was typeset using a computer for the first time in January, 1986.

* The first Channel Six Garage Sale was held in 1986 at the Gates Warehouse.

* KRMA treated the entire volunteer corps to a Volunteer Appreciation Party on November 6, 1986, at Gates.

* The Mrs. Bird (Big Bird's mother) Project, co-chaired by Laura Hoganson and Amy Carder (pictured at right), was honored with a Community Development Award from National Friends of Public Broadcasting in 1988.

* In 1990 the new staff position of Station Manager was created and was filled by James Morgese (left). He worked with Don Johnson during Don's final three years as GM learning the ropes to become KRMA's General Manager.

* In July, 1991, 190 volunteers from KRMA poured beer just about non-stop in the Coors booths at the first Cherry Creek Arts Festival. This very popular volunteer activity continued for several years.

* The Channel Six thrift shop, RERUNS, opened in September, 1992, at 3260 S. Broadway. Burp Winter (right) supervised volunteers who sorted, stocked and sold the donated treasures.

As early as 1983, KRMA's Council for Public Broadcasting began study committee meetings relative to assuming the license of KRMA, which had been held by Denver Public Schools since 1956. The station realized it was time to sever its ties with Denver Public Schools and become a "community licensed" station. In 1986, it was said that changing the license for KRMA would save Denver Public Schools up to $2.5 million.

After several years of negotiation, KRMA became a community-licensed station on May 1, 1987. Then in 1989, KRMA-TV signed a contract with KUSA, Channel 9, to purchase the current location of Rocky Mountain PBS at 1089 Bannock Street. Much work had to be done and millions of dollars had to be raised before the actual move could occur. The 2006 Fall issue of Volunteer Vision will detail the move to our "new" studios on Bannock Street and much more, covering 1992-2006.

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This is the last of four Volunteer Vision articles reviewing the history of KRMA. It covers 1992 to the present.

In 1992, KRMA-TV moved from its original home on Glenarm Place to its current location at 1089 Bannock Street in Denver’s Golden Triangle. To kick off the capital campaign for the new facility, a grand reception with special guest former President Gerald R. Ford was held at the Stouffer Concourse Hotel on July 22, 1992. That campaign raised $15.5 million for the purchase and renovation of the current facility.

KRMA’s General Manager Don Johnson, his governing board of directors, staff and volunteers were applauded for accomplishing this major move. The station never lost on-air time. It continued to broadcast seamlessly through the chaos of moving desks, equipment, lights and master control. The donor wall in the foyer of Rocky Mountain PBS, dedicated in September 1995, honors the businesses and individuals who were major donors to the capital campaign.

Having served as the General Manager of Channel Six since January 1983, Don Johnson retired from KRMA on June 30, 1993. Don’s accomplishments at KRMA deserve an article all to themselves. Don continues to be loved and respected by both the staff and volunteers who worked with him over his 30-year career with the station. He remains a good friend of Rocky Mountain PBS, giving his time and talents for Station’s Archived Memories (SAM), Auction and other station activities.

The station’s current General Manager, James Morgese, was hired in 1990 as Station Manager of KRMA to “learn the ropes.” James took over the reins as GM on July 1, 1993. He is widely known as a leader and visionary in public television. He was recently elected to the board of directors of National Datacast, Inc. That network integrates the broadcast facilities and capacity of more than 300 PBS stations.

Staff members who worked at Glenarm Place (KRMA’s home for 36 years) remember how very proud they were of their new digs on Bannock. The staff had a full training session just to learn how to use the new phones. Along with a totally renovated building and new computerized studio lighting, there was also the luxury of having ample parking for both staff and volunteers.
After moving to its Bannock Street location, KRMA celebrated many more milestones and both staff and volunteers garnered awards:

- In February 1993, KRMA hosted an open house to celebrate Sesame Street’s 25th Anniversary and KRMA’s first anniversary at the new studios. The open house included special guest, Cookie Monster, plus studio tours, activities and information about KRMA. Hundreds of community members attended the free event. The Telephone Outreach department started in November 1993. Suzanne Banning (current Director of Development) started her career with the station in the early ‘90s as the manager of Telephone Outreach, transforming it into a money-maker by developing it as a membership tool for other non-profits.

- In 1994, Channel 6, which had been “dark” from 2 a.m. to 6 a.m., began to broadcast 24 hours a day, every day. This year saw the first Volunteer Recognition Party, honoring 31 volunteers who had contributed a minimum of 300 hours. The station still hosts this recognition each winter. The locally produced “Spirit of Colorado” premiered with its “Home on the Range” segment in September. This award-winning program continues to be popular on Rocky Mountain PBS.

- KRMA’s 40th anniversary in 1996 was celebrated with great fanfare. Former General Managers Dick Holcomb and Don Johnson (at left with James Morgese) attended an anniversary party on January 30 in Studio A. The striking logo was designed by the station’s Art Department. Memorabilia items for the 40th anniversary included lunchbags, pins, shirts, coffee mugs and more. In December of that 40th year, KRMJ went on the air as Channel 18 in Grand Junction, an affiliate of KRMA. It was the first step toward a statewide network.

- A new corporate name, Rocky Mountain PBS (officially, Rocky Mountain Public Broadcasting Network) was adopted in 1997. In addition, “Super Six School News” changed its title to “Super School News.” The word “Six” was dropped when “Super School News” began including tapings at KRMJ, as well as at the KRMA studios in Denver. Beginning this fall (2006), “Super School News” will also be taped at KTSC in Pueblo.

- Digital Television became the buzzword in 1998. In the spring of 1999 (March 7-12) the Denver station hosted a 65-foot digital TV demonstration truck in our parking lot to educate staff, volunteers and the public about the whys and hows of DTV. KRMA-DT began low-power digital television broadcasting on December 14, 1999, making it the 12th PBS station to broadcast in digital.

- KTSC officially became a part of Rocky Mountain PBS on June 29, 2000. (KTSC was originally licensed with the University of Southern Colorado and began broadcasting on February 3, 1971.) Trudy Fowler (pictured at left), a 35-year employee at Rocky Mountain PBS, retired in 2000. On October 14 of that year, she was inducted to the Heartland Chapter Silver Circle of the National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences. Trudy continued with the station as the head of the capital campaign for conversion to digital television. The Volunteer Leadership Conference, spearheaded by Matt and Jane Schaefer (pictured at left), received the 2001 Cultivation and Stewardship Outstanding Public Broadcasting Volunteer Award. Three Channel Six volunteers have received the National Friends of Public Broadcasting’s Outstanding Public Broadcasting Volunteer Award which honors an individual’s outstanding contributions to public television. Channel Six recipients include: Cora Wall (1987), Laura Sampson (1993) and Joan Johnson (2005).
“Colorado State of Mind,” hosted by Greg Dobbs (at left), premiered on January 31, 2003. The weekly Emmy-winning series is a roundtable of opinionated and passionate people from across the state tackling hot topics from local, regional, national and international news and current events. Its predecessor, “State of Colorado,” was conceived and produced by its host, Don Kinney, and was the recipient of innumerable awards and honors over its long run for both its production and its host.

Rocky Mountain PBS announced in February 2004 that the digital signal transmission of KTSC-DT, Channel 26, located on Cheyenne Mountain, would provide quality digital television to 710,000 viewers, the entire Colorado Springs and Pueblo regions. In addition, the station launched a new portfolio of web-based educational services for students and teachers. Rocky Mountain PBS partnered with national companies to provide online, on-demand services to schools, colleges and other organizations, as well as to individuals. In December 2004, the network launched a digital station in Durango. The new station, KRMU-DT, Channel 20, was the 3rd station in our network to broadcast digitally. KRMU was the nation’s first digital TV station with no prior analog assignment, meaning it was created from the ground up as a digital broadcaster.

Rocky Mountain PBS enjoys a wide and envied reputation as an innovator and producer of quality public television resulting in numerous award-winning programs. “La Raza de Colorado” and “Jewel of the Rockies” are two recently-lauded programs generated by the station’s Production staff for and about the people of Colorado. The locally-produced “Life Wise,” “Spirit of Colorado” and “Colorado State of Mind” have also been the recipients of numerous awards. Rocky Mountain PBS now offers state-of-the-art teleconferencing and three types of videoconferencing services including satellite downlink/uplink, compressed video and microwave videoconferencing.

The future is bright for our network! Thanks to the amazing volunteers and staff, Rocky Mountain PBS is respected by the Colorado community and by all PBS stations. Rocky Mountain PBS reaches one million viewers weekly in Colorado and the surrounding states, providing top-quality education, entertainment and news programming. It is Colorado’s only statewide television network and its only full-service PBS member broadcaster. Rocky Mountain PBS remains synonymous with quality educational programming and outreach services. There’s so much more to learn about this network. Find out about podcasts, Cooks Club, Kids Club and more by visiting www.rmpbs.org and STAY TUNED for many wonderful years ahead.

Correction: Barb Winter conceived of, initiated and supervised RERUNS, the Channel Six thrift shop, during the early to mid-90s.

Created by volunteers in 2000, SAM continues to archive the collected historical information as well as the history being made daily at Rocky Mountain PBS. Volunteers interested in photography, scanning, data entry, and conducting oral history interviews are needed year round. Contact Laura Sampson (SAM Chair), Donna Dickinson (Photo co-chair) or Ruth Smith (Station Research chair) at the SAM Office — 303-620-5734 — to volunteer for SAM. Or, send an e-mail to RMPBS_SAM@KRMA.PBS.ORG
2006-2015: REMEMBERING THE PAST DECADE AT ROCKY MOUNTAIN PBS
By Laura Sampson, Founder of Station’s Archived Memories

Rocky Mountain PBS has celebrated numerous noteworthy milestones over the past decade, 2006-2015. This list reflects the milestones that have been preserved by Station’s Archived Memories as of January 1, 2016.

2006
- On January 30, RMPBS celebrated 50 years of public broadcasting by hosting a Press Party and Open House with greetings & presentations by former Denver Mayor Hickenlooper (now Colorado Governor) and Michael Bennett, former DPS Superintendent, now Colorado State Senator. (photo)
  - Several special events were part of the 50th celebration
    - A Fall Preview with PBS Producers
    - Rocky Mountain PBS Night at the Colorado Symphony
    - Cherry Creek North Gourmet Tasting Event experience
    - Andre Rieu in Concert at the Pepsi Center
    - A ticketed luncheon with guest, Jim Lehrer of The NewsHour
- KTSC celebrated its 35th year with a public open house.
- KRMJ kicked off its 10th anniversary with an open house in Grand Junction.
- The KRMJ transmitter project (moving the transmitter from Grand Mesa to Black Ridge) was completed.

2007
- In January, state-of-the-art videoconferencing equipment capable of ISDN and IP based video calls was installed at the Aspen Institute.
  - KRMZ first aired as a part of RMPBS.
  - On August 2, Rocky Mountain PBS’ KRMA-DT expanded its reach throughout the Front Range by replacing its digital transmitter on downtown Denver's Republic Plaza with a new digital transmitter on Mt. Morrison.
  - Former KRMA General Manager, Don Johnson, received the prestigious Professional Broadcasters of Colorado Hall of Fame Award.
  - Ray Suarez (photo) of the NewsHour with Jim Lehrer was the keynote speaker at the RMPBS Newsmakers Luncheon at the Brown Palace.
2008
- Taking a leadership role in the move to incorporate mobile technology into the world of philanthropy, Rocky Mountain PBS announced the launch of a new program designed to capture donations via text message. Throughout the month of July, viewers were able to use their cell phones to donate $5 to Rocky Mountain PBS.
- Rocky Mountain PBS and Colorado Public Radio collaborated to bring television and live radio coverage during the Democratic National Convention, August 25-29.
- RMPBS established its presence on Twitter, MySpace, Facebook, and YouTube.
- RMPBS began offering an electronic “e-PROMO” to its members and viewers in July 2008. Viewers could opt out of receiving the costly printed version and use only an electronic version.

2009
- RMPBS held a digital TV workshop for the community on the digital transition (photo).
- Judy Woodruff of The PBS NewsHour was the guest speaker for the annual Newsmaker Luncheon.
- As of 2:45 pm April 29, KRMJ-DT began broadcasting on Channel 18.
- A major reorganization took place at RMPBS eliminating both the Education and Auction Departments.
- In June, Pueblo (KTSC) converted to digital.
- Super School News began the celebration of its 30th season on RMPBS. A major open house was held on February 6, 2010 to commemorate the exact day in 1980 when SSN first aired on KRMA.

2010
- Rocky Mountain PBS partnered with I-News, the Rocky Mountain Investigative News Network, to produce online investigative news projects.
- The RMPBS production, Living with Dying, premiered on RMPBS.
- The Volunteer Vision newsletter for RMPBS volunteers was changed to an electronic version in May 2010.
- In May, Super School News was awarded the National Friends of Public Broadcasting Community Development Award.
- Cynthia Hessin, executive producer of Rocky Mountain PBS, was inducted into the Denver Press Club Hall of Fame in September.
- In the fall, Red Green (Steve Smith, PBS personality of The Red Green Show) appeared at Colorado Heights University Theater.
2011

- In February, KTSC celebrated its 40th anniversary. KTSC was owned and licensed by Colorado State University-Pueblo, previously known as Southern Colorado State College and later, 1975, as the University of Southern Colorado.
- PBS’ Nightly Business Report opened a new Denver bureau to cover stories of national interest that involved Denver and the Rocky Mountain Region.
- In July, Rocky Mountain PBS received an Emmy for The Colorado National Monument: Celebrating 100 Years of John Otto’s Dream at the 2011 NATAS Heartland Emmy Awards.
- Rocky Mountain PBS contracted with a successful door-to-door fundraising company called Rocky Mountain Voter Outreach (RMVO) to assist the station in recruiting new members and financial support.
- Rocky Mountain PBS hosted a Live Facebook Chat with renowned PBS Chefs in November.
- RMPBS joined the PBS multiyear platform campaign known as “Women & Girls Lead.”

2012

- Two local RMPBS documentaries were awarded: Living with Dying and Green Up Colorado. Living with Dying was awarded the 2012 National Telly Award. Green Up Colorado received the 2012 National Telly Award.
- In June, Colorado Parent readers voted RMPBS as 2012 "Family Favorite TV Station."
- The Gill Foundation announced in July their $1.3 million one-time gift to Rocky Mountain PBS through the donation of its building (The Tim Gill Center) in Colorado Springs.
- The RMPBS Governing Board approved a merger with KUVO and incorporated I-News into Rocky Mountain PBS.

2013

- January 1, I-News officially joined Rocky Mountain PBS.
- 1/16/2013 LLC’s articles of incorporation with KUVO were filed with the Colorado Secretary of State.
- 13 half-hour episodes of Colorado Experience premiered on RMPBS.
- RMPBS.org became a “responsive” site, meaning that it displayed across all devices, from mobile phones to iPads to your desktop computers.
- December, a collaborative reporting center called “Inside Energy” was established with seven public radio and television stations from the nation’s energy epicenter including the lead station of Rocky Mountain Public Broadcasting Network, Inc.
- Matchwits was awarded as “Best Mini-Documentary or Series” by the Colorado Broadcasters Association.
2014
- The first Rocky Mountain PBS “Masterpiece Costume Ball” was held in celebration of *Downton Abbey’s* 4th Season.
- For the first time ever, the high school televised academic quiz tournament, *Matchwits* -- produced by Rocky Mountain PBS/Pueblo -- went statewide for its 29th season with 80 schools from across Colorado participating.
- KUVO was ranked number one internet radio station in the jazz and soul category by Pete Naughton of The Telegraph.

2015
- Rocky Mountain PBS began its celebration of 60 years of broadcasting!
- Rocky Mountain PBS was honored with five awards at the annual Colorado Broadcasters Association’s Awards of Excellence banquet on March 7, making it another banner year for our public media network.
- KUVO celebrated its 30th anniversary.
- Rocky Mountain PBS teamed up with the John McConnell Math and Science Center of Western Colorado to present *Family Science Night* on the first Thursday of every month, starting Feb. 5. A new theme is introduced monthly with access to hands-on exhibits and stations that offer opportunities for families to explore science together.
- The Tim Gill Center for Public Media partners with 21 different organizations and in 2014 provided free meeting and event space to Southern Colorado nonprofits, engaging over 12,000 people.
- In July, RMPBS received a 2015 Heartland Emmy Award in the historical documentary category for “Colorado Experience: Sand Creek Massacre”
- Rocky Mountain PBS was named a partner in a national campaign aimed at helping children nationwide read at grade level by the third grade. The effort, known as the *More Hopeful Futures Initiative*, is spearheaded by the Campaign for Grade-Level Reading.