

The “Great One” **Jackie Gleason *1916 - 1987*** was a long time Shortwaver & radio bug. The first inkling the public was aware of, in the early 50's the night of an Edward R. Murrow award winning broadcast series “See It Now” on CBS-TV. This was the first live coast to coast network show Narrated and co-produced by Murrow. This news magazine and documentary came from CBS studio 41, downtown New York City.

Murrow visited celebrities in their homes and Gleason was just making it big time, Dumont TV in NYC then his contract bought by CBS. The New York 5th Avenue Gleason apartment was equipped with a mounted wall shelf and a spiffy Collins Model 51J all wave receiver.

Dear heavens I can see the cigarette smoke still from Murrow in the studio set and thick fog on Gleason’s end.



Gleason chatted about his career during the interview and mentioned how he could listen to stations from all over the world from his apartment. Gleason gave Collins credit by name and mentioned the model. The top rated CBS show would be later called “Person To Person.” That sequence is remembered yet today by many.

After retirement in Florida it was known Jackie was still monitoring short wave and it was reported he owned several Icom receivers, first the Model R71 and model R-7000. In 2002

Jackie’s wife Marilyn was interviewed on CNN’s Larry King Live, Marilyn said they had 18 rooms in their home and one room at one time was a servants quarters which was built into his radio shack. He used to love to go in the middle of the night and turn and listen to the short wave and get all excited that something was happening somewhere and he could hear the fire engines or the police directly. He enjoyed it, Marilyn said.



A bit of trivia about Edward R. Murrow. His given name was Egbert Roscoe Murrow, born Polecat Creek, North Carolina. Wikipedia stated Gleason was born and raised in Brooklyn by his mother but it was unfortunate she expired when our subject was only 16 years of age.

Jackie rests at Our Lady of Mercy Cemetery, Miami FL. The most distinctive thing about his tomb is its deliberate anonymity. There is no name, no date, anywhere affixed. Its only inscription, the four words that were Gleason’s signature line, “And Away We Go.”