David Garroway*  
*Class of 1931
*Awarded posthumously

Without the late David Garroway, morning television might never have come to be. Prior to becoming the first host of NBC's “Today” show, Garroway pioneered numerous techniques leading to the advent of morning television, including news, live entertainment, and conversational-style shows.

Garroway’s television years began in 1948 with “Garroway at Large,” notable for the excellence of its singers and musicians and the urbanity and articulacy of its host. Inevitably, Garroway wound up in New York, manning the “Today” show for almost a decade.

The ‘50s were virtually a Garroway decade. In addition to “Today” and a New York version of “Garroway at Large,” there was the elaborate “Wide Wide World,” which at one point employed over 100 cameras, and the three years of Sunday evening stints on “Monitor.”

Before television, Garroway worked radio. He was heard in St. Louis on radio station KSD. According to the December 23, 1948, edition of the St. Louis Post-Dispatch, Garroway recalls having eased his way through University City High School with nothing more spectacular to his credit than his knowledge of how to operate the public address system the school had acquired. This feat saved him from being kicked out of the school when he was caught shooting dice in the principal’s office.