

Dwight Weist

Dwight Weist was one of a select number of performers to garner the title “man of a thousand voices” for his work on *The March of Time*, where he became such historical figures as George Bernard Shaw, Benito Mussolini, Adolf Hitler and Franklin D. Roosevelt.

Weist was born January 16, 1910 in Palo Alto, California. However, he grew up in Scranton, PA and after high school attended Ohio Wesleyan University. While in college he wrote and announced for WAIU in the nearby city of Columbus and subsequently worked stock theater around Ohio before landing a lengthy job with the Cleveland Playhouse.

Soon after graduating in the early 1930s Weist moved to New York, where he became a busy radio performer. In addition to the aforementioned *The March of Time* Weist was the announcer for *The Aldrich Family*, *Andy Hardy*, *Big Town*, and *By Kathleen Norris* among others, and he was the host of *We The People*. He also fronted *Grand Slam* with Irene Beasley. Weist can claim several appearances on *The Shadow*, having stepped in for Ray Collins many times to portray Commissioner Weston on *The Shadow*. He did announcing duties on the show and returned to the Commissioner’s role in the late 1930s and early 1940s as well. Weist was the first actor to portray the unnamed titular character on *Mr. District Attorney* during its first few months on the air in 1939.

He was the co-founder of the Weist-Barron School of Television and Commercial Acting. Dwight Weist passed away in 1991, in Block Island, New York.