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HUNTER HANCOCK
1916 - 2004

August 6, 2004

Claremont, CA — Groundbreaking R&B disc jockey, Hunter Hancock, died early morning on Wednesday, August 4, in Claremont, CA, where he had been a resident of Claremont Manor for the past 9 years. He was 88.

"Ol' H.H.," as he was nicknamed, was credited as being the first DJ on the West Coast to play what were once referred to as "race records," later to be known as "rhythm & blues." Born in Texas, he eventually moved to Los Angeles to continue on the radio path which he began there. Throughout his 26 years on-the-air, Hunter Hancock put a smile on the face of thousands with his corny DJ style, and helped launch the careers of countless musical acts by spinning their records on such Los Angeles stations as KFVD, KPOP, and KGFJ. He may best be remembered for his countdown show, "Huntin' With Hunter," and its unmistakable bugle theme. His "record hops" in the 1950s were popular in the communities of Watts and East Los Angeles, and he briefly hosted *Rhythm & Bluesville*, a short-lived Friday night TV program known to feature such greats as Ella Fitzgerald, Duke Ellington, Fats Domino, and Little Richard.

Hunter's career had clearly been built on faithfully playing the records that his audience wanted to hear. Increasingly frustrated with the new "politics" of radio, he retired in 1968 to further explore his other passions of hunting, photography, classical music, and travel with his wife Dorothy, who predeceased him in 1999. Throughout his life he was active in Methodist churches, where he freely shared his talents as a tenor (often as soloist) in the choir.

Though often modest about his "contribution" to the world, Hunter has truly left behind a rich cache of memories for fans, friends, and family alike. A memorial service will be held on August 28 at 2:00 PM at Claremont United Methodist Church, 211 W. Foothill Blvd., Claremont, CA 91711. In lieu of flowers, the family has asked that memorial contributions in his name be made to the church. For more information please visit www.hunterhancock.org.