



Melvin Purvis
SCBA President, 1951-52

- Purvis received his law degree from USC and practiced law before joining the FBI as a special agent in 1927. He was appointed to head the Chicago bureau in 1932, where he received national attention leading the manhunts that tracked down such outlaws as Baby Face Nelson, Pretty Boy Floyd and John Dillinger. He left the FBI in 1935, again practiced law for a short time and then bought WOLS in Florence.
- After serving in the US Army as colonel during World War II, he returned to Florence and worked in broadcasting full time. In 1949, he was elected to the SCBA's first executive board. During his year as President, disc recorders were still in use at most broadcast stations and the Board discussed the prices being paid to stations for vinyl scrap. President Purvis instructed the Board to seek out the highest prices being paid and then notify the membership.
- Also under his presidency, the Board went on record as endorsing the Radio Libel Bill, which proposed relieving broadcasters of libel and slander action when political candidates are speaking on their own behalf.
- Purvis served as General Manager at WOLS until his death in 1960