

## **George Dill (7/15/23)**

What is written about COMSAT by Wikipedia is incomplete and contains inaccurate information about the company and its principal achievements. None of the new technology invented and promoted by the employees of COMSAT Laboratories that contributed greatly to the success of the communications satellite industry as well as to the success of COMSAT and Intelsat is mentioned.

Wikipedia does not mention that Earlybird is actually the first synchronous satellite in space, a significant accomplishment that is now used by many types of satellites for the betterment of all the people around the world. Earlybird was also the first commercial communication satellite that reliably served telephony, data and video (TV) applications. This led to a significant economic national and international industry that commercially and economically benefits all of the world's population.

It is now 58 years since Earlybird was successfully launched, maintained in a geosynchronous orbit and used to serve telephony, data and television between North America and Europe. I was 33 years old then - I am now 92 years old. I was employed by COMSAT on September 20, 1964 when its headquarters was in the old Tregaron Estate located in the Cleveland Park neighborhood of Northwest, Washington, D.C. Think about it, when you add another 32 to 52 years onto their age for its early employees to have the experience needed to become qualified to be employed by COMSAT in 1964-65, all of COMSAT's early employees must be from 90 to 110 years old now. I may be the only former COMSAT employee who was an active member of the Earlybird Launch and Operation Team that is still alive. I still have a copy of the COMSAT Launch Operations Plan. I also remember sleeping on the floor in my office at 2100 L Street in Washington, D.C. for three nights and days during the launch, working with each of the telemetry and tracking earth stations around the world, sending the command to fire the last stage rocket to achieve a synchronous orbit, then later reading the computer printout that proved we had achieved the geosynchronous orbit desired and finally the COMSAT employees at our Andover earth station reporting the first successful transmissions between Andover and Goonhilly Downs. Another little tidbit, I also remember a few days later that a group of those who slept three nights and days in their offices were given free tickets to see the Washington Senators baseball game.

During the past several months I have also been casually collecting and preparing a bibliography of the many inventions, technical notes, technical papers and technical presentations I prepared and presented during my career, many of which I did while at COMSAT for the years September 1964 through June 1977.