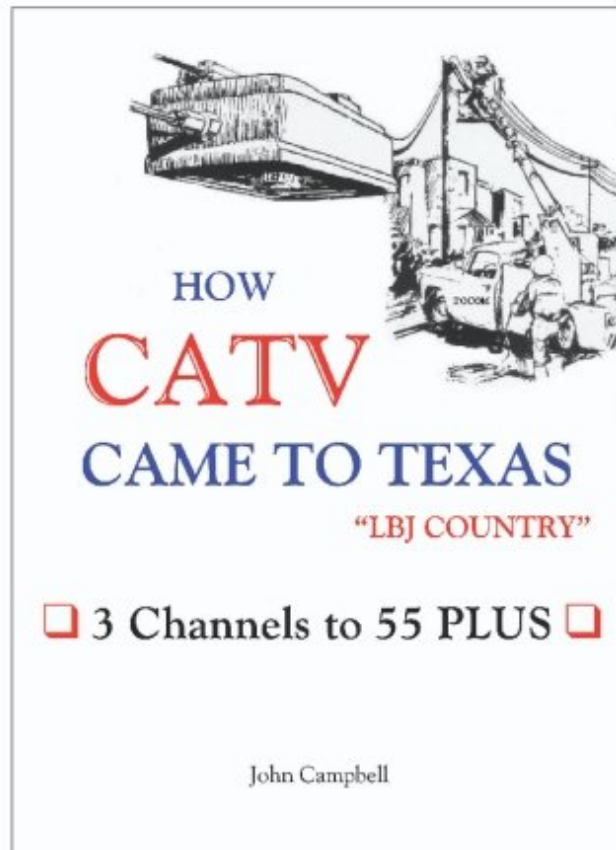


(Free pdf) How CATV Came to Texas - LBJ Country: 3 Channels to 55 Plus

## How CATV Came to Texas - LBJ Country: 3 Channels to 55 Plus

*John Campbell*

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1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Very interesting Twist connecting to well known history By M. Thomas I expected some interesting facts only I would be interested in, But got a whole lot more. It must have been quite a challenge to be a part of this history. I have seen many things that relate to the LBJ dealings and this book tied them all together in a very interesting way.

The author, John Campbell growing up in "Small Town", Texas (LBJ Country) during the depression years and building the first CATV system in the state. History of Texas Community Antenna Television (CATV) . How it started

in Mineral Wells with 3 channels and grew to 55 Plus. The untold story about competing with the LBJ crowd and building a CATV system in Austin "The Heart of LBJ Country" where he and his family owned the only TV station. The often told story of LBJ and his rise to power and riches. Plus: Some new untold stories, about the subject, from those that knew. The birth, in Texas, of interactive two-way cable TV systems as we know it today. A review of the National Cable TV scene, the Pioneers, the Cable Center and the Cable TV hall of fame.

About the AuthorThe author, John Campbell built one of the first cable systems in the country, (the first in Texas) in Mineral Wells, Texas, in 1951 and founded one of the most important manufacturers of hardware, CAS Manufacturing, later TOCOM. Campbell was born in 1926 in North Dakota and moved with his family to Texas. After a stint in the military he attended and graduated from Clifton Junior College in Clifton, TX, and while in college he worked as a projectionist in a local theater in Clifton and on the side repaired radios. After reading an article about the cable system in Lansford, PA, he decided to build a system in Texas and chose nearby Mineral Wells, a town of about 12,000 some 90 miles form Dallas. In his oral history Campbell describes the process of wining city approval for the project, building the early equipment for the system and signing up subscribers. He designed and built much of the equipment, particularly the amplifiers, himself and was soon selling to other operators. In 1964 he won the cable franchise for Austin, TX one of the most lucrative franchises left in the country at that time. Campbell was a co-founder of the Texas CATV Association in 1959, and hosted the first meeting in Mineral Wells in 1960. In the 1970s his equipment manufacturing business, renamed TOCOM, took off as it developed two-way interactive systems that allowed such advanced services as home security and instant pay per view. The system was adopted by many of the cable operating companies that bid for major city franchises in the late 1970s and early 1980s. Campbell sold the business to General Instruments Corp. in 1984. His oral history deals with many of the technical and engineering issues that cable operators confronted from 1950-1984 and includes his recollections of many of the key players in the Texas (and National) cable industry during that time.