

John Catron Jackson (1910-2007)

John Catron Jackson was born 24 April 1910 to Elijah Jackson and Rhoda Maude Catron Jackson in Barbourville, Kentucky, where his grandfather was Justice of the Peace. He and his sister stayed in Kentucky as youngsters until their mother decided to move west to a rural community in Northern California. In California the small family moved around as John's mother was able to find work as a nurse. At times John had to ride a horse to get to school and at other times row a boat across a lake.

As a young man he attended several colleges but did not get a degree until later in life. About this time John met Marguerite and soon made her his wife; Marguerite passed away in 1995. Also, as a young man, he developed strong interests in both aviation and radio, particularly amateur radio. An interesting anecdote recalls how John, was one of the first to hear and forward to authorities the radio distress messages from the U.S. Navy dirigible Macon as it was going down in a storm near Point Sur, California in the evening of 12 March 1935. As well as getting his amateur radio license (His recent call was W6EMI.), John also earned his private pilot's license, which he maintained into his eighties. Before joining Litton in 1963, one of John's major occupations was servicing and maintaining theater sound systems for Altec-Lansing. His territory was quite wide spread with some sound systems as far away as Kotzebue in northwest Alaska. Even in the U.S. the systems were widespread, and oftentimes John would fly in the plane that he owned at the time to reach distant locations rather than drive a car.

At Data Systems John was primarily concerned with communications design for the ship systems programs. After he retired 1975 he tried his hand at setting up a neon sign business as he had done as a young man. Not finding a fruitful market, he turned to the design and manufacture of custom electric transformers which became quite successful. As time went on he took in his sons Ronald and David. In 1992, John and Marguerite moved from their home on Woodley Avenue in the San Fernando Valley to Grass Valley, California where he continued to do the design work and manufacture cores for the transformer manufacturing enterprise. To satisfy his love for flying he decided to bring his pilot's license up to current status, and shortly he purchased a single-engine aircraft.

John Catron Jackson passed away in Grass Valley on 28 March 2007. He leaves two sons, Ronald and David, daughter-in-law, Corliss Jackson (Widow of John's son, Norman) and some close friends.

See also: [jacksonat85.pdf](#)