

DX News

Serving DX'ers since 1933

Volume 68, No. 22 - March 12, 2001 (ISSN 0737-1659)



Inside ...

2 .. AM Switch
4 .. DDXD

12 .. IDXD

15 .. Musings of a Member

16 .. "Battle of the Century" - WGY Story

CPC Test Calendar

WMIB FL 1660 March 25 0000-0400

WMIB-1660 (601 Elkam Cir #5 - Marco Island, FL 34145) will be testing on their day power of 10 kW from 0000-0400 ELT on March 25, 2001. Says OM Phil Beckman, "Expect old rock 'n' roll and old jingles and general silliness. I don't have the ability to do code ID's, but I'll try to run a 1 kHz tone at the top of each hour. Additionally, the new call letters applied for at WMIB, WODX, will not be used. The sale fell through last fall." Arranged for the NRC by Phil Beckman, Ops Manager (on a part-time basis now) for 1480 WODX and 1660 WMIB <<philbeckman@gulfaccess.net>>.

WTIC/KRLD Non-test ... Received at midweek (Feb.28) were the following e-mail messages: From KRLD CE Erik J. Disen: "Due to the fact that our common point RF meter has not yet been returned from the mfr. after recalibration, I am cancelling the off-air period for KRLD that had been scheduled for March 4, Midnight to 1:30 AM. We'll re-schedule in a couple of weeks when we have the unit in hand. Thanks." And an addition from WTIC CE Jeff Hugabone: "Due to the conflict, WTIC has elected to postpone our off air time as a courtesy to the BCB Dx community. It will be re-scheduled. We apologize for the "false start".

The rescheduled non-text could occur at any time (nothing had been received as I prepare this page mid-day March 4), so I'd advise DX'ers to monitor 1080 around the previously scheduled time(s) during the weekends. (Note that next week is a "skip" week for DXN; your next DXN has a publication date of March 26). As for the ambiguous times provided to us ... I've asked the CE's to review the scheduled times for the next event to make sure that there's no mixup of CST vs. EST times.

From the Publisher ... No DXN in your mailbox next week; and inasmuch as reportage to the DX columns has slowed down, we have room for another excellent historical article from radio historian Thomas White, one which has been resting in the DXN archives for some time now. Also to follow soon is an account of odd "sounds" on and around 1140 kHz near both Las Vegas and south-

ern Florida. We're still sorting out what went on in mid-February, and when we do, look for the complete story in Dave Braun's "DX'er's Notebook"

Publication ... Although not really DX-related, I enjoyed John Dunning's *Two O'Clock Eastern Wvertime*, a novel set mostly in and around a fictional New Jersey radio station during the early days of World War II. Dunning lives in Denver and has not only written other novels (murder mysteries, several dealing with his other vocation, book selling) but has written a history of radio. The radio-related details seem very accurate except perhaps for the omission of mention of a second tower for the directional station around which the story is centered, and a passing reference to the station later acquiring the call letters "WROK" which still belong to a certain facility in Rockford, IL. If you've enjoyed reading the recent nostalgic pieces in DXN, you'll enjoy this book.

DX Time Machine

From the pages of DX News:

50 years ago ... from the March 10, 1951 DXN: Continued good reception from Brazil was reported, with Gene Francis, Elmhurst, NY, hearing 12 between 0400 and 0430 on March 3. The S-9 plus signal from PRG9 (1100) was "so excellent" that he sent a recording to the Brazilian Ministry of Communications ... from the March 17, 1951 DXN: DX programs for the coming week were scheduled from TGN-1180 on March 21 and from CFAR-590 and CKDM-1230 on March 23.

25 years ago ... from the March 15, 1976 DXN: Apologies for not running notice of an anonymous tip that R. Million-625, San José, Costa Rica, was to run a DX test were offered, as the test actually ran and was heard by several NRC'ers ... from the March 22, 1976 DXN: more notes on the R. Million test noted that it was heard better in the west and midwest than in the east on March 8, probably via leased time from R. Omega, although intermittently due to power problems caused by generator failure.

10 years ago ... from the March 18, 1991 DXN: Mike Hawk, Omaha, NE, led in the current NRC Contest standings, followed by Nancy Hardy, Aberdeen, WA; Robert Kramer, Chicago, IL; Jim Renfrew, Rochester, NY; Dave Hascall, Fortville, IN; Doug Smith, Nashville, TN and Madison, WI; Bill Hardy, Aberdeen, WA; William Moser, Lake Preston, SD; Robert Vance, Ft. Belvoir, VA; John Tudenham, Joplin, MO; and Ed Janusz, NJ.

AM Switch

Jerry Starr w8jv@yahoo.com
c/o WHOT Radio
4040 Simon Road
Youngstown, OH 44512-1320

Status changes in AM stations, supplied by the FCC and listeners

CALL LETTER CHANGES

	<i>Old call</i>		<i>New call</i>
730	CKLG	BC Vancouver	CJNW
930	WYNI	AL Monroeville	WVMA
970	WWIT	NC Canton	WBCG
990	KIKI	HI Honolulu	KHBZ
1080	WFIV	FL Kissimmee	WHOO
1120	WRBF	FL Kendall	WRHB
1160	WXRT	IL Chicago	WYLL
1190	KJOI	TX Dallas	KTRA
1300	WILP	PA West Hazleton	WOGY
1320	KNRQ	OR Eugene	KSCR
1370	WMJT	WV Moundsville	WVLY
1380	KHJJ	CA Lancaster	KWJL
1490	KSAM	TX Huntsville	KHVL
1510	KIKA	CA Ontario	KMXM
1510	WAVB	PR Lejas	WTCV
1510	WNRB	MA Boston	WSZE
1600	KBLO	WA Blaine	KVRI

APPLICATIONS FOR NEW STATIONS

740	PRPonce: 500/100 U1 (synchro)
1200	NYKingston: 2000/400 U4 (competes with existing application)

GRANTS FOR NEW STATIONS

None

APPLICATIONS FROM EXISTING FACILITIES

790	WLLB	ME Rumford: 10000/18 U4
900	WCOR	TN Lebanon: 5000/5000 U1
930	WSLI	MS Jackson: 5000/3100 U2 (CP modification)
990	KATD	CA Pittsburg: 10000/5000 U4
1050	KMAP	CA Frazier Park: 10000/7 U5
1270	KSCB	KS Liberal: 5000/30 U1
1340	CJAN	PQ Asbestos: to 99.3 FM (shown on 1240 in #19)
1430	KEZW	CO Aurora: 10000/5000 U2
1450	WSIV	NY East Syracuse: 2500/400 U2
1470	KVLH	OK Pauls Valley: 890/61 U4
1570	WNHS	MA Beverly: 5000/500 U4
1700	KTBK	TX Sherman: 10000/700 U1

GRANTS TO EXISTING FACILITIES

580	CKAP	ON Kapuskasing: to 100.9 FM
730	WSCC	SC Charleston: 5000/103 U3, relocate transmitter
960	WBMC	TN McMinnville: relocate transmitter
990	KRKS	CO Denver: 6500/400 U2
1040	KGGR	TX Dallas: 3300 D1, relocate transmitter
1050	KBBV	CA Big Bear Lake: 1400 D3, relocate transmitter
1170	CKGY	AB Red Deer: to 95.5 FM
1300	KKSC	CA Brawley: relocate transmitter
1490	KDRS	AR Paragould: relocate transmitter
1490	KRTN	NM Raton: relocate transmitter
1500	WQCR	AL Alabaster: 2300/3 U1

What a Time-saver - the County Cross Reference

A complete list of counties, parishes, and similar political divisions in the U. S. and Canada. Two lists are included: alpha by county, and by state. Compiled by Bill Hale and designed and produced by Wayne and Joan Heinen. \$6.50 for members, \$9.95, non-member. Order item CCR from the NRC Publications center; NY residents, please include sales tax.

AM 570
NEWS/TALK
WKYX

1530	KQNK	KS Norton: 1000/58 U1
1550	KYCY	CA San Francisco: 50000/40000 U4 (CP modification)
1590	WZUM	PA Carnegie: 1000/24 U4, relocate transmitter (CP modification)

KXO
Radio
AM 1230
FM 107

OTHERNESS

680	KBRD	WA Lacey: CP to relocate transmitter is on
810	KBHB	SD Sturgis: CP for 25000/60 U1 is on
900	WKDW	VA Staunton: CP for 2500/127 U1 is on
920	KLOC	CA Ceres: station is SILENT
1040	WJNA	FL Boynton Beach: CP for 25000/1100 U4 is on
1080	WALD	SC Walterboro: station is SILENT
1100	KZPM	CA Bakersfield: station is SILENT, will return in June
1140	WRQM	FL Orlando: CP for 5000 D1 is on
1140	KCXL	MO Liberty: CP for 500/6 U1 is on
1150	KSRB	WA Seattle: CP for 10000/6000 U2 is on
1160	WYRU	NC Red Springs: for a year this station has been where Clear Channel was periodically "parking" the call WTEL to keep it from being reassigned. It was shuttled back and forth with 860 in Philadelphia numerous times. In December 2000 it was reported that WTEL was again assigned here on 1140, and in January the call WYRU was shown to be the new call for WAWX-1630. However, on February 13 your editor was just a few miles from Red Springs and monitored the station frequently using "WYRU" including legal IDs. Stay tuned.
1170	WCTF	CT Vernon: CP for 2500 D3 is on
1170	KBNZ	HI Honolulu: silent station is ON THE AIR
1230	KBTM	AR Jonesboro: CP to relocate transmitter is on
1240	KTLO	AR Mountain Home: CP for 830/830 U1 is on
1290	WCFI	FL Ocala: silent station is ON THE AIR
1300	WTLS	AL Tallassee: CP for 1200/30 U1 is on
1310	KMYX	CA Taft: station is SILENT
1320	KSDT	CA Hemet: silent station is ON THE AIR
1340	KKYD	CO Denver: station is SILENT, will return in March
1340	WAGR	NC Lumberton: silent station is ON THE AIR
1340	WCVI	PA Connellsville: station is SILENT for "technical upgrades"
1390	WEGP	ME Presque Isle: silent station is ON THE AIR
1430	WOIR	FL Homestead: CP for 5000/47 U2 from new site is on
1450	KGAM	CA Palm Springs: CP for 960/960 U1 from new site is on
1470	WXAG	GA Athens: CP to relocate transmitter is on
1480	WGFY	NC Charlotte: application for 10000/5000 U4 is DISMISSED
1490	KDRA	AR Paragould: CP to relocate transmitter is on
1510	WRNJ	NJ Hackettstown: CP for 2000/230 U2 is on
1520	KMPG	CA Hollister: CP for 5000/3500 U4 is on
1520	WTRI	MD Brunswick: silent station is ON THE AIR
1570	KUAU	HI Haiku: station is SILENT (again)
1580	KRAN	CA Merced: station is SILENT
1590	WKTP	TN Jonesborough: CP for 5000/5000 U3 is on
1660	WMIB	FL Marco Island: CP to relocate transmitter is on
1660	WGIT	PR Canavanas: new station has been testing on the air

BKF and I had an enjoyable time traveling from Ohio to Key West and this month between our NASCAR stops. Some of the above information is the result of extensive on-the-road monitoring from that trip. Now that this break is over AM Switch should appear in every issue until October.

THANKS: Bill Hale, Ed Krejny, Don Kaskey, Shawn Axelrod, Al Merriman, Walt Breville, Dale Park, Les Johnson and MSJ.

73 and Good DX, Jerry Starr & Buffalo K. Foonman

Jimmy & BKF

Need more information about AM DX'ing?
Mail a First-Class stamp to NRC Publications - P. O. Box 164 - Mannsville,
NY 13661-0164 and ask for the NRC Publications Catalog.

Domestic DX Digest

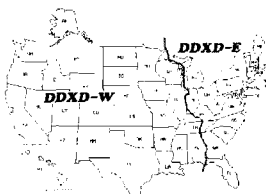
West: Bill Hale phantom2@eaze.net

6124 Roaring Springs Drive - North Richland Hills, TX 76180-5552

East: Michael Shaw mshaw002@tampabay.rr.com

455 Alt. 19 S., Apt. 176 - Palm Harbor, FL 34683-5931

(Division line is
between East and
Central time zones)



DX Catches in the U. S. and Canada, with 24-hr. ELT

DDXD-West

MEDIUM WAVE RAMBLINGS

Voice of the Deep South

WBAM

740 KC. MONTGOMERY 2, ALABAMA 50,000 WATTS.

- With all the earthquake action out west, I've been waiting to hear of some stations in those Washington/Oregon areas affected who were either damaged, or extending daytime facility coverage... but not much reported. Hopefully, our members living there have escaped with minimal damage.
- Comments: "The dial was porous the night of 2/21-22, so after hearing CKSW, I was expecting a feast to the northeast. However, it only went as far as CKDM and CKRM; needed CJGX, CBKF, CBKF1, CHQR, CKSB and CJNB were not to be had/heard." and "KJR is indeed transmitting from the KHHO site at this time but not with a lot of power. I can't loop down their MAX signal strength on the 2010 but I can hear CFAC-960 when the loop is in the same position which is needed to null KHHO. When they tested it two months ago, 930-970+ were wiped out. They could be using a single stick. And yes, they received the CP a year ago but seemingly have had a lot of trouble diplexing from the KHHO site (850 vs. 950). - PT-WA; "On a technical note, the local sports media column in the *Tulsa World* newspaper has reported two recent instances of automation malfunction at the station with the "AM-14-30 KTBS The Buzz" promo/ID repeated over and over after 11 PM, once the week of 2/5 (exact date unknown) it lasted for 6 minutes before being corrected, the second incident was the week of 2/12 (again date unknown) when the loop lasted for *16* minutes before being corrected. I am usually DXing other frequencies that time of evening and not listening to 1430 so I haven't heard the incidents reported but it might be a DX ID opportunity for others around the country." - BW-OK; "Nice to have a little time off to DX. Nothing new but WSOY and WHOW were nice to hear. Now going into March and the summer, I will concentrate more on the GY channels." - JJR-WI;
- A slight adjustment to Andy Rugg's WQDY Graveyard record appears below. Remember to let me know from where you DXed, so I don't assume wrongly.
- Well, folks, we're into the non-weekly schedule 'til the Fall. Remember, my deadline is always the day prior to the Topeka deadline. See you in two weeks...

Faithful Band o' Reporters

FA-ID Frank Aden, N7SOK Boise room full of equipment <N7sok@aol.com>
 PB-WA Phil Bytheway Seattle ICOM R-70 w/FL44, RadioPlus+ QX Pro loop <phil-bytheway@teknologic.net>
 KR-AZ Kevin Redding Mesa Magnavox D8334 barefoot <lwdxer@juno.com>
 JJR-WI John J. Rieger South Milwaukee IC-R75 + KIWA Loop or GE Superadio III w/Terk AM1000 loop <johnrieger@webtv.net>
 PT-WA Pete Taylor Tacoma Sony ICF 2010, Kiwa air core loop <taytac@worldnet.att.net>
 RT-CA Rich Toebe Davis Sony ICF 2010 barefoot <richtoebe@jps.net>
 MS-MB Morris Sorensen Winnipeg Drake R8 + McKay-Dymek DA-9 Loop <SMosor@aol.com>
 BW-OK Bruce Winkelman, AA5CO Tulsa R-8, Quantum Phaser, Random wires <tulsarx@worldnet.att.net>
 JW-CO John Wilkins Wheat Ridge Drake R-8 + 4-foot box loop <peakbagger3@juno.com>
 Ed.-TX Editor North Richland Hills

STATION NEWS & NOTES

600 KNRO CA Redding - Has been silent since 2/22. (RT-CA)
 920 KLOC CA Ceres - Despite reports that the station has gone silent, they are still on with La Bonita Spanish format, with weaker signal than usual, allowing daytime reception of KIHM Reno. (RT-CA)

1050 KGTO OK Tulsa - Now simulcasting KJMM-FM 105.3 as *Fresh Jamz 1-0-5* and urban contemporary programming. (BW-OK)

1430 KQLL OK Tulsa - I keep hearing a quick, soft-voiced AM-14-30 KQLL Tulsa ID, usually at the top of the hour, immediately followed by a much louder AM-14-30 KTBS *The Buzz* <buzz-buzz>. They are using a slogan of *Talk All Morning, Sports All Day* and are all sports programming. A recent AM Switch indicated the call letter change to KTBS as now official. I called the station today (2/27/01) and asked the pleasant young lady that answered the phone what the official call letters of the station are. She said that until she was told differently they were still KQLL. KTBS is still listed on Internet sites as licensed to an FMer in Texas. None of the AM station information sites I am aware of show the call sign change to KTBS in FCC documents (but then again, the FCC has been known to be incorrect or slow to change the records). For now, I will assume that the licensed call letters for the 1430 station in Tulsa are KQLL and KTBS is promotional hype only. Question: as long as they legally ID once an hour at the top of the hour as AM-1430 KQLL Tulsa can they use the call letters of another station as well, even if it is a promotional or branding phrase?? Inquiring minds want to know! (BW-OK)

WAGC
★ AM 1560 ★

CENTRE, ALABAMA 37660
PHONE (205) 927-6552
HOURS (206) 927-3248

1000 Watts

1470 KIID CA Sacramento - 2/26 1028 - No format change yet, but KRAK calls are gone. During break from Imus, announcer used *Gold Country 1470 KIID* moniker. Top of hour ID this afternoon mentioned *New Country 105.1 KNCI* and 1470 KIID. (RT-CA)

UNIDs and UNID HELP

670 UNID ?? - 2/22 0303 - Teletalk about schools, under KBOI. Wrong direction for KPUA. (PT-WA)

DX AND EQUIPMENT TESTS

560 WGAI- NC Elizabeth City - 2/16-17 2330-0030 - Nothing heard under KPQ that sounded like a test. (FA-ID)

MIDNIGHT TO MIDNIGHT ELT

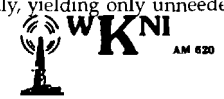
570 KLIF TX Dallas - 2/24 0750 - With a lawn and garden show and a contest: *Who wants to win a new lawn?* (KR-AZ)
 570 CKSW SK Swift Current - 2/22 0118-0153 - In and out of partially nulled KVI, with *Country Music 570* slogan. First logging of anything through KVI in four years. (PT-WA)
 570 CKSW SK Swift Current - 2/27 0354 - In KVI null, with C&W and ID. (PB-WA)
 590 KLBj TX Austin - 2/18 0500 - With *Coast to Coast*, then ToH ID and into news of an earthquake. (KR-AZ)
 600 CKAT ON North Bay - 2/27 1927 - Poor, in WMT null, with weather and C&W. (JJR-WI)
 600 CJWW SK Saskatoon - 2/27 0406 - In and out, in CKBD null, with news. (PB-WA)
 630 KWRO OR Coquille - 2/21 0130 - Holding its own over KIDO and nulled KCIS while I was looking for CKOV. Very rare. (PT-WA)
 640 WWLS OK Moore - 2/26 0034 - Under KFI, with 1-On-1 Sports, and talking about sports agent, *Lee Steinberg*. (KR-AZ)
 650 WSM TN Nashville - 2/27 0035 - ID, then playing *Too Old to Die Young*. (KR-AZ)
 690 KGGF KS Coffeyville - 2/28 0747 - With Kansas Agriculture Network farm show, giving stock prices around the area and an ad for *Quality Toyota* in Independence. Under XETRA in very tight null. (KR-AZ)
 730 CKDM MB Dauphin - 2/22 0310 - With CKSW in convincingly, I thought I'd try for this long sought-after station, and indeed, it was here, about even with talkers CJNW and KULE. (PT-WA)
 770 KNWX WA Seattle - 3/2 0943 - With Seattle area traffic and AM-77 IDs. Call ID at 0945 as M-77-KNWX. Mixing with CHQR, who were both atop nearby KCBC. (DKK-CA)
 810 WHB MO Kansas City - 2/20 0220-0305 - Poor under Christine Craft on KGO, but I got the calls on tape. Assistant PD confirmed they were on day power due to remote control unit failure. (PT-WA)

- 6
- 820 WBAP TX Fort Worth - 2/21 0120 - Excellent, with truckers' show, over/around KGNW. Loudest ever heard. (PT-WA)
- 890 CJDC BC Dawson Creek - 2/28 0319 - ID atop, in KDXU null. Oldies format. Nice to hear again. Last time noted was in '87. (DKK-CA)
- 970 KESP CA Modesto - 2/26 0100 - With ESPN Radio 970 IDs and then KESP call. Noted thru KABL slop from 0050-0102. (DKK-CA)
- 970 WJMX SC Florence - 2/27 0635 - Fair, but fluttery 'til fade-out, with news and weather. (JJR-WI)
- 980 CKRM SK Regina - 2/22 0323 - Overwhelming CKNW with C&W. Signal sounded over-modulated and distorted. Rare for Canadians. (PT-WA)
- 1090 KYCW WA Seattle - 2/24 1100 - With ID: Classic Country KYCW. Had been in from 0745-0800 with Classic Country slogans and C&W music. QRM from religious station (KLWJ?) and XEPRS. (DKK-CA)
- 1120 KMOX MO St. Louis - 2/16 0600 - The 5 AM CBS News didn't come on and there was a lot of ad-libbing by the announcer who was apologizing. At 0603: News from Mid-Americas most trusted source, KMOX, then KMOX news. (KR-AZ)
- 1140 KSFN NV North Las Vegas - 2/27 2006 - Crushing KHTK, with Cruisin' Oldies slogan and OLD/Adult Standard type format. Also 1140 AM slogans. In well thru 2037 when CHRFB suddenly took over. CE finally realized he was on 10 kW yet, I guess. (DKK-CA)
- 1200 WOAI TX San Antonio - 2/21 0143 - Best ever heard, with Art Bell. No CKXM or KOQL. Obviously a good Texas night - for at least WBAP and WOAI (no KRLD, KVOZ and KQXX was normal). (PT-WA)
- 1230 KOBB MT Bozeman - 2/27 0858 - NOS music, legal ID at 0859:50: . . . 1230 . . . here at the favorite . . . KOBB Bozeman, Montana, then more music. Bits and pieces of NOS popped thru in the next 15 minutes in the jumble. New here, MT #25. (JW-CO)
- 1240 KTHE WY Thermopolis - 2/26 2158 - C&W tune, ID at 2159:53: 1240 AM KTHE Thermopolis, Wyoming, then ABC News. Briefly fair in zoo. (JW-CO)
- 1250 KNEU UT Roosevelt - 2/26 2020 - Loud and atop, with Vernal/Roosevelt ads by woman announcer. Your Kind of Country slogan noted at 2021. C&W music. Great signal. . . also noted 2/27 at 2043 with same format and clear call ID at 2050. Most likely forgot to switch to night power at 2000. (DKK-CA)
- 1270 KXBX CA Lakeport - 2/26 0500:15 - Signal rose up over KXPS with nice ID during break in NOS format music. Several good clear IDs noted over next six to seven minutes as they stayed atop. KPLY came back with a blast at 0507. (DKK-CA)
- 1270 KXPS CA Thousand Palms - 2/26 0500 - With ID after ESPN radio at 0453-0500. Powerhouse KPLY was off. KXPS signal was very weak and fadey, but up at ToH ID. First time heard. (DKK-CA)
- 1300 KKOL WA Seattle - 2/27 0300 - ID after a talk program ended. Many station promos for their conservative talk format. Signal was quite good with a nice null on adjacent KMKY. (DKK-CA)
- 1310 KIQQ CA Barstow - 2/23 0458 - Latino vocal music, legal ID at 0459:50: KIQQ Barstow, KIQQ Newberry Springs, Trece Diez AM, . . . punto . . . FM and back to XE banda music. Fair-to-poor in group. Last heard as KIOT a few years ago. (JW-CO)
- 1310 KNOX ND Grand Phorks - 2/23 0512 - John Deere spot, IRS PSA, call ID, weather; back to 1-on-1 Sports at 0514. KNOX Weather Line at 0519. Fair, occasionally good in the group. (JW-CO)
- 1320 KYHNp AR Fort Smith - 2/26 2059 - Casino ad, dual ID at 2059:50: America's Number 1 overnight talk show is back - Art Bell week nights at midnight on KWHN-KYHN Fort Smith, then ABC News. Generally fair, with fading and QRM. The KWHN call was to go to 1650, so presumably 1320 is now KYHN. Impossible to tell from the dual ID which is which. (JW-CO)
- 1320 KOLT NE Scottsbluff - 2/24 0000 - Very poor, with partial ID, way under KELO mentioning western Nebraska. (MS-MB)
- 1340 WSOY IL Decatur - 2/28 0700 - Poor, in local WJY1 null! News Talk 1340 WSOY. (JJR-WI)
- 1350 KRLC ID Lewiston - 3/1 - ID at 2024 as AM 1350 KRLC. C&W music format. In nicely, in KSRO null. (DKK-CA)

15wkxo
 PILOT BROADCASTING CO.
 P.O. Box 307
 BESEA, KY. 40403
 (606)-986-9321

- 1350 WTAZ IL Peoria - 2/28 0605 - Poor, with calls in mess. Not common. (JJR-WI)
- 1380 KWJL CA Lancaster - 2/23 1007 - With NOS type music followed by The New K-Jewel ID. Ad for new web site <www.KWJL.com> at 0713. At 0720 local Palmdale ads/traffic reports, weather and more K-Jewel IDs. Nice signal thru 1025. Minor QRM. (DKK-CA)
- 1400 KKTL WY Casper - 2/26 0836 - ESPN features, local spots, feature about Lewis & Clark. Fair at best, in pileup. (JW-CO)
- 1440 WDOV MI Dowagiac - 2/27 0700 - Poor in mess, with ID and Fox Sports. (JJR-WI)
- 1440 KDIZ MN Golden Valley - 2/24 1835 - Fair, with Radio Disney. No usual WROK/WNFL. (JJR-WI)
- 1450 KYLS MO Fredericktown - 2/23 0208 - Poor, with calls and oldies, in fade up/out. (JJR-WI)
- 1460 KXNO IA Des Moines - 2/21 1806 - Fair, asking for listeners' comments to be sent to kxno@clearchannel.com. KXNO ID with slogan Sportsradio 1460. Previously logged as KDMI and QSLed years ago as KSO. (MS-MB)
- 1470 KIID CA Sacramento - 2/28 1221 - ID: It's 9:21 at Gold Country KIID. Many IDs during break in imus show. Still C&W from KNCI-FM tho . . . 3/2 I heard Radio Disney at SSS. (DKK-CA)
- 1470 KBSN WA Moses Lake - 3/1 - Atop with ID at 2020. Markets and weather/ads. (DKK-CA)
- 1480 KVNR CA Santa Ana - 3/2 0152-0300 - Noted in/out, mostly atop, with Asian (probably Vietnamese) programming. QRM from KYOS/KRXX/KGOE, but generally good signal. (DKK-CA)
- 1480 WCIN OH Cincinnati - 2/27 1851 - Poor, with 1480 WCIN in mess. No usual WHBC. (JJR-WI)
- 1520 WHOW IL Clinton - 2/26 1829 - Poor, with sign-off with many WHOW-AM mentions. C&W. (JJR-WI)
- 1520 KOLM MN Rochester - 2/26 1830 - Poor, with calls and NOS music. Over KOMA a bit. (JJR-WI)
- 1550 WBSC SC Bennettsville - 2/26 1825 - Fair, with Super B, WBSC out of song into ads. On top of frequency. (JJR-WI)
- 1550 KMRI UT West Valley City - 2/26 2004 - ID by female after gospel song, then late into news. This must be the gospel/nymn station I've heard recently. (DKK-CA)
- 1550 WEVR WI River Falls - 2/24 1830 - Poor, with ID: WEVR AM and Stereo FM. Not common. (JJR-WI)
- 1570 WRJQ WI Appleton - 2/24 1855 - Good, obliterating semi-local CKMW, with ID Throughout the (?) city people are tuned to 1570 WRJQ, into nostalgic instrumental music. (MS-MB)
- 1570 CKMW MB Winkler - 2/28 0553 - Poor, with Manitoba's Continuous Country, Country 1570. (JJR-WI)
- 1660 (KXOL) UT Brigham City - 2/19 0205 - Had OC only, yielding only unneeded WQSN and KQWB. (PT-WA)

GRAVEYARD DX UPDATE



					Miles
1230 kHz:	WQDY	ME	Calais	Andy Rugg	Nun's Island, QU 308
1340 kHz:	XESL	SLP	San Luis Potosi	Tim Hall	San Antonio, TX 531
	XEMT	TA	Matamoros	Tim Hall	San Antonio 257
1450 kHz:	XEJM	NL	Monterrey	Tim Hall	San Antonio, TX 288
	XEVH	TA	Villa Hermosa	Tim Hall	San Antonio 262

DDXD-East

Oh...NOW I remember why I got out of broadcasting! This has been my first week of doing morning news on Money570 (570 WTBN FL Tampa) and this "going to bed at 2100 and getting up at 0330" routine is crazy. I did it for 17 years and thought nothing of it, but getting back into the swing of things after a long hiatus only proves what I already knew...I ain't so young anymore! Still, I'm like a kid in a

candy shop. The WFLA-TV 8 News Center (WFLA hired me to work for the station which is privately owned) was built just last year, and it's incredible—all shiny and new and very impressive. I feel like I'm walking into the Emerald City every morning!

I do get a kick out of my wife's reaction to hearing me on the air. Even though she's heard my old airchecks a dozen times, I guess it's still a novelty that the old psychotherapist is now a newscaster. Even our cat Timothy stares at the radio. Guess we'll have to rename him Nipper...

Roy Barstow (RB-MA) writes "Note: 1978-79 NRC Domestic Log with 2001 WRTH being used for now, after being away forty years from the AM band". Roy, do you think it might be time to update to a newer log? Actually, though a few of Roy's loggings were placed in the **UNID, UNID HELP, PRESUMED AND CORRECTIONS** section for lack of details, he logged one (1180 WJFF RI Hope Valley) that he listed as an UNID, probably because his Log information was so old!

STATION NEWS **WBBM NEWSRAD 78**

- 1250 CJYE ON **Oakville** - 02/23 1611 - Good with Contemporary Christian music and "Joy 1250" slogans; no longer // to CHWO-740. Ex-CHWO and NOS music. (JF-ON)
- 1430 WNSW NJ **Newark** - Goes to Chinese-language programming effective 03/01 between 0500 and 1900 ELT daily, dropping its two-year-old Popular Standards format which simply wasn't brining in advertising dollars [per nyradioguide.com]. (RJE-PA)
- UNID, UNID HELP, PRESUMED AND CORRECTIONS
- 720 CHTNp PEI **Charlottetown** - 02/10 0125 - "Island watch...what's happening on the island". Back into music. About equal to WGN. (RB-MA)
- 870 WLAMP ME **Gorham** - 02/13 0100 - Oldies. "The home of America's best music". (RB-MA)
- 940 UNID MA _____ - 02/12 1445 - "All-new Cool Country", weather for Uxbridge; temperature for Sturbridge. (RB-MA) [Maybe WGFP Webster - MS]
- 970 UNID _____ - 02/14 1915-2015 - An all-70's format; faded out and never returned at 1955. (SK-PA)
- 1020 WNTKp NH **Newport** - 02/12 1645 - "Charlie on the MTA"; "Classic Country music; Your Hometown Station". Also plays folk and bluegrass. (RB-MA)
- 1040 UNID _____ - 02/24 0645 - French or Creole male announcer into old-fashioned English-language C&W. Fadey, but believe also played a French C&W tune. Naturally they faded at 0700 and gone thereafter. (CB-NY)
- ✓ 1200 WQLS AL **Ozark** - This is the UNID from RCP-IN (DDXD-East Volume 68, Number 19). Moved to 1200 from 1210; slogans are "Sun Country" and "Music with a Message". Fairly regular into North Carolina. (RB-NC)
- 1390 UNID _____ - 02/16 2046 - Sounded like "...on 1390 WRIG and 1390wrig.com". Could also be WRIV or WROA. Had NOS, but that's no help. (SK-PA)
- 1570 WISP PA **Doylestown** - Is DL-MD's UNID here with EWTN Catholic Radio programming, not WPGM. (RJE-PA)
- 1620 UNID _____ - 02/12 1340 - Spanish-speaking preacher, Luis Arao (sounds like). Maybe something like "Focus on the Family"-type theme. Signed off at 1353 then into what sounded like Spanish religious vocal music with no announcer, just dead air between songs. No ID at 1400. Probably the same as my earlier posting on this frequency. (CB-NY)
- WTAWp TX **College Station** - 02/10 2325 - Woman announcer, CBS News, then talking about the stock market. Over WHLY at times. (RB-MA)

DX AND EQUIPMENT TESTS

- 1280 WFBS PA **Berwick** - 02/17 0000-0200 - Nothing heard resembling a test. Quite surprising considering I'm only 40 miles southwest of them. (SK-PA)

STATION LOGGINGS

- 580 WGAC GA **Augusta** - 02/26 0600-0610 - A complete jumble on the frequency and then just after 0600 a lady began giving a news report with many mentions of Augusta and Georgia. There was a report about a fire in the area and then at 0609 "WGAC news time 6:09". A local advertisement followed and then lost to WHP in Harrisburg, PA. First time heard and signal was poor. (GMC-MD)

- 0670 WIEZ PA **Lewistown** - 02/21 1500 - "This is the news and information station WYEZ Lewistown"; ABC News on the hour. I listened to this station at the top of 3 different hours. The same female announcer gave an ID that sure sounded like WYEZ then WIEZ. Local news for the two minutes just before the top of each hour then network. (DL/MD)
- WISZ** **WTZQ**
STEREO 1510 AM 1520
UNFORGETTABLE MUSIC
DO LOOKOUT ROAD
ASHBURNVILLE, NC 28694
- WSCR IL **Chicago** - 02/21 1800 - (SPT) "This is the new fifty-thousand watt powerful home of WSCR Chicago, an Infinity Broadcasting Station. The Score, Chicago's Sports Radio six-seventy". (DL/MD)
- 680 WAPA PR **San Juan** - 02/13 2140-2145 - Big signal in auroral conditions, wiping out usual pest CFTR and others, with local ads and "Guapa Radio" IDs. Most of the nearby channels were dominated by Cubans! Unneeded but still a nice treat. (BM-ON)
- 730 WJTO ME **Bath** - 02/12 1230-1306 - Easy Listening music, seagull sounds, then ID; into news. "Music as easy as the breeze". (RB-MA)
- 850 WREF CT **Ridgefield** - 02/18 1653 - While passing, ad for fairfieldcountyhelpwanted.com. Jingle "Oldies radio; Oldies 850". Very clear, first time heard this new millennium. (SK-PA)
- 890 WFKJ PA **Cashtown** - 02/19 0730 - Sign-on with "Good morning, this is WFKJ 890 AM in Cashtown Pennsylvania, signing on the air for another broadcast day". Also mentioned ownership and transmitter location (seven miles west of Gettysburg on Route 30), into program called "Ever Increasing Faith". Good over WKNV; nulled WLS. New. (BM-ON)
- 900 WMVU NH **Nashua** - 02/15 0700 - "This is talk radio WMVU, Nashua's top voice in (?)...", into USA Radio Network news; fair under CHML. New, NH #24. (BM-ON)
- 920 WGHQ NY **Kingston** - 02/21 1600 - Nice well-enunciated ID: "WGHQ, Kingston-Poughkeepsie, your news, talk and information station, it's AM 920 WGHQ", into CNN news. (BM-ON)
- 960 WATS PA **Sayre** - 02/20 1953 - Ad for Northern State Bank in Sayre, then directly into song "The Sign". Fair. (SK-PA)
- 970 WZAM MI **Ishpeming** - 02/23 0800 - Here's a recipe for confusion: WZAM fighting it out with WZAN! Heard under WZAN with ID "The news station...970 WZAM news, Ishpeming-Marquette, all day"; into news. (BM-ON)
- WZAN ME **Portland** - 02/23 0800 - Local ad, promo for Imus in the Morning, ID "970 WZAN Portland", into news; slightly over WZAM. (BM-ON)
- 1000 WLNL NY **Horseheads** - 02/19 1720-1730 - Christian light rock music, ID "This is The Lighthouse, WLNL Horseheads". Good; alone on channel before WMVP appearance. (BM-ON)
- CKBW NS **Bridgewater** - 02/22 2137 - Mentioned FM frequencies, ad for Bridgewater auto dealer, C&W music; mixing with WMVP Chicago. (DT-CT)
- 1040 WJTB OH **North Ridgeville** - 02/16 1804 - Sign-off with legal ID; fair in mix with WHO, WYSL and CJMS. New. (BM-ON)
- 1070 CHOK ON **Sarnia** - 02/22 2200 - "Broadcast News" feed at top of hour, ID; Jimmy Buffett song; mixing with CBA NB. (DT-CT)
- 1110 WSWF NY **Seneca Falls** - 02/20 1959 - Message to call WGVA at 348-5000. Does not match number in Log book for 1240. Mixing with WBT. WSWF and WUHN see-saw back and forth staying on 24 hours. (SK-PA)
- WUHN MA **Pittsfield** - 02/12 1800 - ID into ABC News. "...Platters at the crown Plaza Ballroom, Pittsfield"; "Country 111, WUHN One Eleven". C&W music. (RB-MA)
- 1130 WDFN MI **Detroit** - 02/24 1658-1702 - (SPT) "Detroit's best sports radio, The Fan". WBBR was not a player during this sample. Long wire. (DL/MD)
- 1180 WJFF RI **Hope Valley** - 02/12 1545 - "Radio Ranch, broadcasting from the country". C&W music. "WJFF in Thunder Country". CBS News; Wakefield car dealer ad. (RB-MA) [See my note in the preface to the column - MS]
- 1240 WATN NY **Watertown** - 02/23 1122-1132 - Ad cluster, "Mike Gallagher Show", ad for TV station. "News Watch 50-WWTI". ID at 1130 was "AM 1240 WATN, The News and Talk Authority". (AR*NY)
- 1260 CKHJ NB **Fredericton** - 02/23 1702 - Faded up with weather report "Minus 5 on KHJ", then Anne Murray song. New! (JF-ON)
- 1280 WNAM WI **Neenah** - 02/21 0006-0031 - Nostalgia music, occasional ID's and ads. Weather

10 at 0019 covered the Fox Cities and Green Bay. (AR-ON)

1310 **KXAM AZ Mesa** - 02/20 2023 - At end of ad string, promo for somebody "...in the morning on (jingle) KXAM", then smothered by NOS station. Was under a second station that remained. (SK-PA)

1320 **WLOH OH Lancaster** - 02/14 2026 - Northland vs. Lancaster basketball. One team was the Lady Gales. End of the quarter "...on 1320 WLOH". Heard only once before on their higher ex-1000 watt day power. (SK-PA)

CJMR ON Mississauga - 02/15 0051 - Religious rock music. Canned ID "You're listening to Christian Radio for Southern Ontario, Joy 1250". Went directly to 1250 and the same thing was heard mixing with WEAE. (SK-PA)

1370 **WBTV VT Bennington** - 02/15 0822 - Man and woman discussing local issues, gave number to call in and several IDs; good for a few minutes until swamped by WXXL. Rarely heard. (BM-ON)

1390 **WDCW NY Syracuse** - 02/18 2358-2402 - "We the staff, management, and owners of WDCW want to thank you, our very loyal and faithful listeners for your support...". This sounded like a sign-off announcement, however co-channel was such that this could not be confirmed. (DL/MD)

1410 **WENU NY South Glen Falls** - 02/20 1725-1735 - Standards, ID, then into an Andy Williams tune. Good; mostly on top. (BM-ON)

1430 **WNAV MD Annapolis** - 02/18 1658 - While passing, "For excellence in reporting, stay with your hometown station, 1430 WNAV". Clear for this long, then lost to CHKT fade-up. (SK-PA)

1550 **CBE ON Windsor** - 01/19 0458-0502 - Canadian National Anthem; "Welcome to another broadcast day on this oldest...station of the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation. CBC Radio One service is a combination of local, regional, national, and international programming. We broadcast from CBE Windsor at fifteen-fifty and simultaneously on CBEG thirty at ninety point three...(co-channel). Here is CBC News..." (DL/MD)

WRCM
1440 AM

WYTK PA Pittston - 01/19 0758-0802 - Moderate co-channel, sounded like oldies. "...WYTK fifteen-fifty...all of Northeast Pennsylvania"; right back to music. No advertising or PSAs on the top of the hour. (DL/MD)

1570 **WISP PA Doylestown** - 02/26 2300 - ID with mention of Philadelphia, followed by "EWTN Radio" network ID, Rosary being recited repeatedly. (DF-CT)

WFLR NY Dundee - 02/27 0715 - "WFLR weather, light snow", ad for Wildflower Florist. (DF-CT)

WYTI VA Rocky Mount - 02/26 0645 - Bluegrass-style music, ID, ads for mobile home dealership on Route 220 north of Rocky Mount, Nissan dealership, Franklin County Respiratory, and McCall's Insurance. Station has real hometown flavor. (DT-CT)

WANR OH Warren - 02/13 2059 - Live ID "WANR (Warren? but not heard), Today's Christian Hit Radio". At 2106 live announcer "WANR, Warren's new (Christian Hit Radio?). Up and down in partial WPGM null. (SK-PA)

WXLN IN New Albany - 02/15 2014 - Basketball game with Jeffersonville vs. Gosberg; teams were the Warriors and the Red Devils. Break "...on WXLN AM 1570". In partial WPGM null. (SK-PA)

1600 **WKKF WV Wheeling** - 02/26 1800 - Stock market report leading into top of hour, ID "BusinessTalk Radio, the new WKKF Wheeling, WV". I think they dropped their power at this point; signal dropped dramatically but still audible. (DT-CT)

WWRL NY New York - 02/24 1930-2010 - Announced that WWRL was simulcasting with an FM outlet in Trinidad and Tobago. "75 years of broadcast excellence, this is New York's Urban Mix WWRL". Loop nulling east/west. (DL-MD)

WHJB PA Bedford - 02/24 1908 - NOS and Big Bands music. "WHJD Bedford, we are pleased to be your radio station". USA Radio News; loop nulling east/west. (DL/MD)

WPDC PA Elizabethtown - 02/20 2041 - Ad for business at 123 Center Street in Middletown. The ad was done by John Hess who's with WPDC, plus Middletown's near Elizabethtown. Mixing with WWRL. (SK-PA)

1620 **WTAW TX College Station** - 02/25 2300 - ID "News, talk 16-20 WTAW" at top of hour; news followed by call-in talk show discussing Roger Clinton. (DT-CT)

1630 **KCJJ IA Iowa City** - 02/25 2227 - Adult contemporary music. IDs as "Best hits, best variety KCJJ" and a chorus jingle "16-30 KCJJ". Announcer was Sid Chase. Dominant over WRDW GA which is the regular here. (DT-CT)

1660 **KQWB ND West Fargo** - 02/20 1847-1912 - Nostalgia music, many ads and "Star 1660" IDs. ID at 1900 was "You're listening to your memory station KQWB AM West Fargo. CNN News is next on Star 1660." When properly looped, their signal blew away both Radio Unica and WQSN. My first ND logging since the KEYD-1220 test in 1967, and best signal ever heard from that state during 40+ years of MW DXing. (AR-ON)

WCGO
WTAS
102.3 M.C.S./FM
WMIB FL Marco Island - 02/21 2216-2232 - Canned Oldies program // WHKT 1650. Promo for "Wisdom Made in America heard on 14-80 W___ and 16-60 WMIB." Also requested comments on programs to their e-mail address <WMIB@email.com>. (DT-CT)

1680 **WQSN MI Kalamazoo** - 02/08 1745 - ID under ever-present WWRV. (RB-MA)

WTJR FL Winter Garden - 02/11 0004 - Travelers Information Radio. Short weather reports, Kennedy Space Center Tours, SeaWorld; resort (407) 656-3333 at \$40.00 a night. (RB-MA) [Every time this station is logged, I want to put it in TIS, HAR AND MISCELLANEOUS, but it doesn't quite fit. I guess. Your thoughts? - MS]

1700 **WEUV AL Huntsville** - 02/24 1847-1852 - Booming signal on car radio with gospel music. At 1852 ID'ed as "AM 1600 WEUV" and abruptly vanished (perhaps pattern change). (AR*NY)

KBGG IA Des Moines - 02/25 1755-1800 - CNN Headline News, followed by on-hour ID as "The new AM 1700 KBGG, all news, all day". (AR*NY) + - 02/08 1825 - Ad for Ohona Steak House in Des Moines; mostly talk. (RB-MA)

WAFN FL Miami - 02/21 2200 - Top of hour ID as both "Voz Cristiana" and "Radio Luz", web address of <www.vozcristiana.com> given in Spanish; mentions of Miami. (DT-CT)

KTBK TX Sherman - 02/17 0200 - Up from the mix; ID's as Dallas-Fort Worth. (RB-MA)

TIS, HAR AND MISCELLANEOUS

1640 **TIS NY Rockland County** - 02/08 1700 - Seems like constant info: what to have on hand in case of emergency, etc. Comes in about every early evening before WKSH takes over. (RB-MA)

REPORTERS

RB-NC Ron Bailey Shelby - UNID help.

RB-MA Roy Barstow Teaticket - GE SuperRadio with Space Magnet.

CB-NY Charles Bernth Eastport - Drake SW-8.

GMC-MD Gerry Conkling Greenbelt - Grundig Millennium 800 with Radio Shack loop.

RJE-PA Russ Edmunds Blue Bell - UNID help and Station News.

JF-ON Jeff Falconer Clinton - Drake R8B, pair of 135' noise-reduced/terminated wires (one pointed east and one pointed west), modified MFJ-1026 phasing box; Timewave DSP-599zx audio filter.

SK-PA Steve Kennedy Coal Township - GE SuperRadio III; indoor wire.

DL-MD David Larrabee Columbia - ICOM R8500 and IC706; loop and long wires.

DL-/MD David Larrabee Columbia - Unattended AMRAD LF-modified Ten-Tec RX-320, long wire; running KF5OJ RX-320 controller gathering timed samples at the top of the hour.

BM-ON Barry McLarnon Ottawa - JRC NRD-525, one-meter loop; inverted-vee.

AR*NY Andy Rugg Syracuse-Watertown area - Buick car radio.

AR-ON Andy Rugg Cornwall - Hammarlund HQ-180AC and Quantum Loop.

DT-CT Dave Twiggs Bristol - Yaesu FRG-7; Terk Loop.

NON-ARCANE ABBREVIATIONS USED IN DDXD

//:parallel to :00: on the hour AC:Adult contemporary AP:Associated Press BBD:big band C&W:country & western CCR:contemporary Christian radio CHR:contemporary hit radio CID:code ID CL:call letter EZL:easy listening EE:English FF:French GOS:gospel LSR:local sunrise ISS:local sunset NFL:National Football League NBA:National Basketball Association NHL:National Hockey League NPR:National Public Radio OC:open carrier PSRA:pre-sunrise authority PSSA:post-sunset authority QRM:man-made interference (power lines, etc) QRN:natural interference (lightning, etc) QTH:location PRI:Public Radio International REL:religious ROK:rock 'n' roll RS:regular schedule \$:stereo SID:singing ID SRS:sunrise skip SS:Spanish SSB:Star Spangled Banner SSS:sunset skip TC:time check TT:test tones UC:urban contemporary UPI:United Press International VID:voice ID

International DX Digest

Jim Renfrew renfrew@localnet.com
6988 Bank Street Rd.
Byron NY 14422-9702

Foreign DX Catches. Times are UTC; for ELI, subtract 5 hrs.

Bruce's comments about the cost of IRC's, inspires this week's IDXD quiz. Name the country where the following units of currency are used. As before, there is one fake currency included here! Answers are shown at the end of the column.

Colon _____	Rand _____	Quetzal _____
Won _____	Gourde _____	Leone _____
Lempira _____	Rupee _____	Córdoba _____
Balboa _____	Platano _____	Sucre _____
Gauarani _____	Nuevo Sol _____	Bolívar _____
Shekel _____	Dong _____	Lek _____
Drachma _____	Zloty _____	Escudo _____
Tala _____		

Now ... on to DX!

Jim

TRANS-ATLANTIC DX

- 162 FRANCE RFI Alouis, FEB 20 0903 - Female FF reading the news good signal no static. [Stromsted-MA]
- 177 GERMANY D. Radio-Berlin, Oranienburg, FEB 20 0220- American Blues session, very good taste in music selections with great vocals including segment. "Got to find a new gal." Strong signal, no interference or static. S9+20. [Stromsted-MA]
- 180 TURKEY TRT Polati FEB 18 0124 - MidEastern music (religious) with high voiced male and strings (wailing) best signal so far at S9+10. 0238 more holy music, clear with no static or other interference. [Stromsted-MA]
- 189 ICELAND Rikisutvarpid, Gufuskalar, FEB 18 0128 -Rock "Pretty woman strolling by the hour.." 0233 Icelandic "Country" style song with vocal followed by a fast American rock "I can never be a cowgirl..some things gotta give. gotta give..Oh, Oh..", then more rock, good signal. 0301 "I got my mind set on you, followed by a calypso tune "Hot, hot, hot..so when we come together" etc. But the amazing thing is subsequent reception at 1624 (12:24 pmnoon, local Eastern time!) of a man with high voice talking -poor reception. FEB 19 0219-0227 - "Barcelona" from a Broadway musical..then "...from San Francisco Bay,we can laugh our lives away.." Strange "wow" on playback of these selections/poor line voltage regulation? Extremely strong signal S9+35! FEB 20 0850 - Finally, a daytime program with Male/Female talk-show hosts with male caller interview, then music intervals, good reception S9+15 with no static and minimal Aero beacon interference. 0406 Musical chimes into news. [Stromsted-MA]
- 198 ENGLAND BBC Synchros, FEB 17 2150 - Film review with Female interview of male visitor, good signal. FEB 20 0228 Female BBC host with interview of American female health and education expert re the role of poverty and illiteracy on success/failure of economic aid. Curiously there was nice rock music zero beat in the background from unidentified station (under). [Stromsted-MA]
- 225 POLAND Polskie Radio Konstanyow, FEB 19 0215 - Polish popular dance tune (foxtrot). Beautiful female voice, this song followed directly by another vocal. Loud signal S9+20 [Stromsted-MA]
- 261 RUSSIA R. Rossi, Taldom & synchros, FEB 19 0207 - Call in deep-voiced talk host and male caller, good signal S9+20. 0210 - Female announcer, then western contemporary music with female singer and strong bass, strings -S9+. 0250-0345 -.Musical chimes? between some news items, male newscaster, good signal, then, female talk host mentions "R. Rossi" & Ruski?...music bumpers, slow soft rock, then a Russian? popular tune with male solo rock. Strong signal S9+20. Confirmed // 4485 kHz (Yazykovo) R. Rossi SW, poorer and clear signal but with flutter, also // 5930 (Monchegorst) somewhat weaker. All stations are listed in WRTH. It's interesting that the LW station was the best reception. [Stromsted-MA]
- 270 CZECH REPUBLIC Cesky Rozhlas Uherske-Hradiste, FEB 2140 - Rock music/bass and drums and high pitched vocal, loud signal S9+20 on peaks. Then male /female hosts responding to a male caller, loud signal. TOI! Aero beacon interference. [Stromsted-MA]
- 855 SPAIN RNE synchros FEB 26 0415 - Fair; Bruce Springsteen "Hungry Heart," man and woman in Spanish. [Conti-NH]
- 864 EGYPT ERTU Santah FEB 26 0425 - Fair; Koranic recitations parallel 9755, mixing with

X.E.N.U.

La Rancherita

- France Bleu. [Conti-NH]
- 1062 DENMARK Danmarks Radio, Kalundborg FEB 26 0525 - Good; man and woman in Danish, English rock/pop music, fanfare into news at 0530. [Conti-NH]
- 1062 TURKEY TRT-1 Diyarbakir FEB 25 2250 - Good; Middle Eastern music, woman in Turkish, time pips marking top of the hour at 2300, news, then sign off with anthem at 2306. Report sent. [Conti-NH]
- 1188 HUNGARY Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty, Marcali FEB 26 0025 - Good but with deep fades; woman in Slavic (Serbo-Croatian) language with news, 0057 instrumental music, then seemed to sign off at 0100. [Conti-NH]
- 1314 NORWAY NRK Kvitsoy FEB 26 0007 - Good; boy-band hit "Nobody Wants to Be Lonely Now" and man in Norwegian announcing song title in English, then Paul McCartney and Wings "Band On the Run." [Conti-NH]
- 1386 KALININGRAD LBH Radio, Bolshakovo FEB 25 2310 - Good; man in English with LBHradio.com ID, Donna Summer "On the Radio." [Conti-NH]
- 1467 FRANCE TWR Roumoules FEB 25 2340 - Good; end of Billy Graham Evangelistic Association program, "We'll return on this frequency tomorrow night...Until then, on behalf of all the staff at TransWorld Radio... thank you for listening and good bye," interval signal then off at 2245. Report sent. [Conti-NH]
- 1494 FRANCE France Bleu synchros FEB 25 2335 - Fair, first time heard on this frequency; John Travolta/Olivia Newton John "Summer Love" from Grease parallel 1377. [Conti-NH]
- 1512 BELGIUM R.Netherlands, Wolveterm FEB 25 2320 - Good; feature news story in English about Israel/Palestine conflict. [Conti-NH]
- 1530 VATICAN R.Vaticana, Vatican City FEB 26 0540 - Interval signal and man in French parallel 7250, through nulled WSAI. [Conti-NH]
- 1548 KUWAIT VOA Kuwait City FEB 25 2357 - Weak; "From Washington, you're listening to VOA News Now." [Conti-NH]

Bruce speaks: "The amazing transatlantic DX conditions continue. Reception reports went out to TWR France (Monaco) and TRT Turkey. The price of an IRC has increased from \$1.05 to \$1.75! Despite the cost, I'm going to try to QSL a few more of these while the signals are strong." (Bruce, I got a prompt reply from TWR 216 just the other day - it gives Roumoules as the transmitter site. I also noted the dramatic increase in the cost of IRC's Jim)

Erik speaks: The Long Wave band is really getting interesting here with better reception into Springtime. The MW band is still off a bit although DLF on 756 briefly reached Big Signal status last night.

PAN-AMERICAN DX

- 1170 MEXICO XERT Reynosa, FEB 20 0230-past 0300 - talk with man and woman in Spanish (sounded like discussion show or newsmagazine-type program). Tuned away briefly chasing another ID near top of hour and came back at 0259 in middle of ID; missed calls but several mentions of "Radiorama Reynosa, Tamaulipas." Well atop KVOO at times. New log for me. [Stewart-MO]
- 1220 MEXICO XEB Mexico City, FEB 20 0310-0337 - rare here in graveyard-like mix on this channel, but this evening was often at frequency with discussion/talk show; great ID 0329 "X-E-B, la B Grande de Mexico." Into news headlines mentioning Vincente Fox, Zapatistas etc. By 0335 into male romantica/ballad-type vocal. [Stewart-MO]
- 1313.0 CUBA R Portada de la Libertad, Niquero, Granma, MAR 1 0258-0345 - blowing in with SS female vocal, then woman "Boletin de la noticias, R Portada de la Libertad" and into news summary by man, back to Cuban modern ballads with male DJ, more ID's. 0359 with man and woman closing announcement from 0358: woman: "Portada de la Libertad... fin de la transmision... Desde Niquero en la provincia de la Granma..."; man: "... buenas noches." then into vocal National Anthem till 0359. Carrier remained till 0405*. Super signal, thanks to being up 1 kHz. Correct site per Jay Novello-FL and recording from Exuma, Bahamas last fall. The first log of this Local for me. [Krueger-FG]

QUERIES

- 1017 unID FEB 24 2310 - Good; ud and string instrumental music, Germany seemed to disappear. Turkey was supposed to sign-off at 2305 according to Newfoundland DXpedition logs. Any ideas? [Conti-NH] Bulgaria? [Mauno Ritola, Finland] Possible. However, according to WRTH, Turkish programs are 0430-0500W, 0600-0630SS, and 1730-1800 daily. I listened to Horizont 2300-2400 on the Internet in Real Audio, and only heard local pop/rock music and telephone talk in presumed Bulgarian. I wonder if SWR Germany broadcasts any ethnic programs overnight on the weekend. I will check for SW and Internet parallels if I hear it again. Thanks for the suggestion. [Conti-NH]

INTERNET RESOURCES

"Paul Crankshaw comments on a web controlled receiver which can be found at <http://ralabs.com/webradio/> These are two receivers located at Syracuse NY. You can select frequency, mode, filter,

XERP 1570
LA PODEROSA !!
A.M.
CD ACUNA, COAHUILA, MEXICO

etc. It's quite fascinating listening in to the US AM band as a local might!" [Medium Wave News (UK), FEB 2001]

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

KALININGRAD: 1386 Bolshakovo, LBH Radio has a new schedule since JAN 15: 2100-0200 (ex 2200-0300). [Timofeyev JAN 20 in ARC FEB 19]



LUXEMBOURG EFFECT

Recently Niel Wolfish and Jim Renfrew independently reported hearing an unidentified transmission underneath TWR 216. The only possible station is Azerbaiian, but at 0500 Azerbaiian would be in daylight. Jacques d'Avignon suggests that this second signal is probably the "Luxembourg Effect", and sent a copy of an article "IONOSPHERIC MODIFICATION" from Monitoring Times that he wrote which describes the phenomenon.

"In the last few years we have heard and read a lot about Project HAARP and the installation of the necessary equipment in a remote region of Alaska. It might surprise many readers that ionospheric modification, as will be attempted by this project, is nothing new! The first report of possible ionospheric modification by radio wave was reported in 1933 by Tellegen (1). At that time it was not yet fully understood, but it already had a fancy name: "The Luxembourg Effect". Why this name? And what was this effect? In the early 1930's, a very powerful low frequency (LF) radio transmitter was installed in Luxembourg and the programs transmitted by this installation were being heard mixed with another program transmitted by another site and being received in another part of Europe. It was postulated in 1934 by Bailey and Martin (2), that the transmissions from the Luxembourg transmitter were actually modulating the ionosphere and interacting with the other transmissions in Europe. It should be noted that in Europe and in North Africa, LF transmitters operating in ITU (International Telecommunication Union) Region 1 utilizes very high power. For example it is not unusual to see some of the LF stations list their power as 1000, 2000 KW and, in some cases, higher. I am assuming here that this is the power at the antenna. If this assumption is correct and the efficiency of the transmitters is about 25%, we are looking at transmitters consuming between 4000 and 8000 KW of power. That is the equivalent of 80,000 regular home lightbulbs or 40,000 PC's, operating or lit at the same time! Now this is power! I am glad I do not have to pay the electricity bill! The Luxembourg effect phenomenon was then described by Frederick Terman in the 1943 edition of his book: "Radio Engineers Handbook" but from reading the short paragraph describing the Luxembourg effect, it would appear that Terman was not fully convinced of the reality of this phenomenon. For a while, the phenomenon was forgotten but was probably still "up there." It was then observed again in the 1960's when the modulation of the transmitter from the Voice of America operating on 173 KHz, located in Germany, was being heard on many other transmissions in Eastern Europe. It was also reported that at the same time that the LF transmitter of Radio France International was causing similar effect on signals being transmitted from other sites in Western Europe. Is this phenomenon strictly confined to the LF part of the spectrum? It appears that it can be found also in the medium wave (MW) part of the spectrum. A few years ago some discussions of this topic on the Net revealed that the Luxembourg Effect was "alive and well" in Iran. (1) Telegen, B. D. H., Interaction between radio waves?, Nature, 6, 369, 1933 (2) Bailey, V.A. and D.F. Martyn, Influence of electric waves on the ionosphere, Phil. Mag., 23, 369, 1934"

This is from an article that I wrote and that was published in *Monitoring Times* in October 1998. [Jacques d'Avignon <monitor@rac.ca>] (I am sorry to say that the last two paragraphs were corrupted somehow during my cut and paste process. For a complete copy, get in touch with Jacques! - Jim)

DOES ANYBODY REALLY KNOW WHAT TIME IT IS?

Via Jeff Kadet <jkadet@macomb.com> on the WTFDA list: MEXICO CITY (AP) - What time is it? That soon may be a tough question to answer in Mexico. Mexico City Mayor Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador decreed on Monday that the nation's capital would refuse to "spring forward" with the rest of the country - or much of it anyway - for daylight savings time in May. That immediately turned the clock into a constitutional crisis, pitting the leftist mayor against President Vicente Fox of the conservative National Action Party. Lopez Obrador, who is a possible presidential candidate in 2006, insisted that Fox "does not have the power to change the hour." Fox's office issued a release late Monday insisting that it did, saying Lopez Obrador's decree "is unconstitutional." "Daylight savings time is greater than our individual preference, in benefit of the greater good, that of Mexico," according to the presidential bulletin. It said that an earlier mayor from Lopez Obrador's own party had admitted as much in 1999 in grudgingly accepting the time change. But the prospect for confusion does not stop there: Other states in the country want to adjust the clock to their taste. Some say they will have five months of daylight savings time, some six, some seven. Federal officials say the measure saves hundreds of millions of dollars in energy costs and helps coordinate Mexico's companies with their main trading partners in the United States. They are worried that a conflict over the time will baffle tourists flying into Mexico City - as well as workers struggling into the capital by subway and minibus from its sprawling suburbs. "All the federal government offices and services would have a different hour than

the local offices and services," the president's office noted. Lopez Obrador acted after sponsoring a telephone poll over the weekend in which the majority voted against daylight savings time. A poll by the newspaper Reforma also showed a clear majority disliked the time shift - but also opposed having Mexico City's clocks vary with those of the rest of the country.

R.I.P. ALAN ROYCROFT

Alan Roycroft passed away FEB 12 in Hilo, Hawaii. Alan was 80 and had retired from Radio Engineering a few years ago, a field in which he was legendary! He was a friend to all radio hobbyists everywhere! [Chuck Boehnke via HCDX FEB 13 in ARC FEB 19]

CONTRIBUTORS

Bruce Conti, Nashua NH; R8B, MWDX-5, 30-m wire, 30-m east sloping wire, noise reduced via 4:1 matching xtms and buried coax.

[BACONTI@aol.com]

Terry Krueger, Clearwater FL. <tocobagadx@earthlink.net>

Randy Stewart, Battlefield (Springfield) MO; Yaesu FRG-100, 15" Sanserino loop. <jrs555t@smsu.edu>

Erik Stromsted/W1ZBT, Pepperell MA; Yaesu 1000MP, 500 meter terminated Beverage

aimed NE (toward Europe); also using a Palomar preselector. <microadv@mindspring.com>



QUIZ ANSWERS

Costa Rica/El Salvador, South Africa, Guatemala, Korea, Haiti, Sierra Leone, Honduras, India/Pakistan, Nicaragua, Panama, Fake, Ecuador, Paraguay, Peru, Venezuela, Israel, Vietnam, Albania, Greece, Poland, Portugal, Western Samoa. 1-8 correct: Do not ever travel anywhere!; 9-16 correct: consider applying for the job of NRC Exchequer; 17-22 correct: Isn't that your portrait on the back of the 100 Platano note?

Musings of the Members

Dave Schmidt NRCMusings@aol.com

P. O. Box 3111

Scranton, PA 18505-0111

Times are local per Muse; submit double-spaced only.

Thoughts from NRC members ... the opinions expressed in this column are those of the individual writer and do not necessarily reflect those of the editors, publishers, or the National Radio Club, Inc.

César Objio - Calle Enrique Henriques 69, Ensanche Lugo, Gazcue, Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic

Hi, do you remember me? I have been with the NRC and *DX News* since 1966 and I have enjoyed every year of it; you can be sure of that! I have attended 4 conventions, but always wishing to get to a new one. They were Boston '68, New Jersey '70, Miami '72 and Atlanta '78, the last one in the company of my old friend Ronald Schatz. After that, inflation soared up so much, both in your country and much more in mine. That has prevented me from attending any additional. I was close to the New Hampshire convention in '92; I was visiting in Albany, NY at the end of that month but could not make it. I have been related to radio in a very different way as everybody else. In this country, when you like radio, it means that the idea is to become a radio speaker, but I don't like to speak on microphones. Most of these radio-enthusiastic young boys end up becoming a radio speaker and then a radio station owner. I don't like that. I prefer to watch or listen to the stations from the outside, even though most of the speakers know me, but not now, that was a long time ago. Now there are so many stations in this country that I don't have time to prepare an AM list of radio stations, not to say FM, one of the longest and largest, whichever you like. So I have been related to radio since 1935 when a radio station opened at San Pedro de Macoris; yes, that is town from where most of the Dominican baseball players come from. I was living there at the time. Being a small boy, I was taken to visit it. It was HIJ, operating on short wave at the time. So I became enthusiastic with radio, and used to keep track of the stations through the years, starting in 1953 when I bought my first set. And I can tell you that I know more about the history of radio in my country than most of all actual radio speakers working right now in all stations scattered around the country. I was even a monitor for the *World Radio TV Handbook* for some time, also for *DX Radio*, a radio magazine published in Stockholm, at the same time with *DX News*. So, because of that, as there is not one history of radio in the Dominican Republic I decided to write it. And I have started to write it with the help of old time speakers, most of them retired now, also with old newspapers and everybody who happens to know something about radio. Now, you can help me too. And this is my request: Do you have any verifications from the Dominican Republic of any station and any year? If you do, please send me a copy in order that it can be included in my book, and you'll get credited with the publication of your verification in my book. Naturally, the book is going to be written in Spanish. Your help would be appreciated. Thank you very, very much and 73s to you all. (Good luck on your project César! Please let us know how you're doing with it as time goes along. And was it really '68 when I met you in Boston? DWS)

"Battle Of The Century": The WJY Story

Thomas H. White - June 1, 1992

In 1921 Julius Hopp had a "brilliant" idea – why not broadcast the upcoming heavyweight championship prize fight? Hopp's inspiration and groundwork led to one of the most celebrated experimental broadcasts in U.S. radio history. But you've never heard of him. The idea was so successful that others rewrote history in order to claim credit for Hopp's work, and their misrepresentations have been repeated as fact up to today. Some have also been given credit for the efforts of a number of other hard working individuals. This is a review of the history – or more precisely, the histories, exaggerations, distortions and myths – that arose out of Hopp's original idea. It is also an attempt to piece together an accurate record of what really happened, including, to the best of my ability, who did what, in contrast to who later claimed credit.

Backgrounds

The most comprehensive account of this historic broadcast, and the only one I've found which mentions Hopp's pivotal role, appeared in the August, 1921 issue of *Wireless Age*. This account doesn't say what sparked Hopp's proposal. However, it may have been prompted by the April 11, 1921 broadcast of the Johnny Ray-Johnny Dundee fight, reported live from ringside by Westinghouse's KDKA in East Pittsburgh, PA. In any case, Hopp suggested that KDKA's broadcasting "first" be duplicated in a big way in the New York area, by reporting the upcoming "Battle of the Century" – the World Heavyweight Championship bout pitting American Jack Dempsey, the champion, against France's Georges Carpentier, on July 2, 1921.

At this time Hopp was manager of Madison Square Garden concerts. According to the *Wireless Age* account, Hopp's first step was to gain the approval of the fight's promoter, George Lewis "Tex" Rickard. At this time Rickard was operating Madison Square Garden under a ten-year lease signed the previous year, with the financial backing of circus promoter John Ringling. Both Rickard and Madison Square Garden treasurer Frank E. Coulter were enthusiastic. Now all Hopp had to do was find a radio transmitter and an audience. At this time the only people in the New York area with transmitters and receivers were the government, amateurs and commercial firms. There were some on-going experimental broadcasts in the area, but nothing that was well organized. KDKA had been on the air in East Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania for about half a year, and Westinghouse was in the process of setting up WJZ in Newark (now WABC New York), but it had not yet begun regular service.

According to the *Wireless Age* account, after receiving Rickard's approval, "Matters were left in Mr. Hopp's hands, and he set about the task of securing the required apparatus and personnel. Manufacturers, individual amateurs, clubs and radio organizations of all characters were made acquainted with the plan". The chronology is a little vague, but Hopp appears to have first approached the local amateurs. According to the *Wireless Age* account, Hopp had been favorably impressed by their Second District Convention, held at the Hotel Pennsylvania in New York from March 16th to 19th, which had been designed to introduce radio to the general public. (The Convention Committee chairman was J. Owen Smith, and one of the banquet speakers was Major J. Andrew Smith, both of whom would play important roles in the fight broadcast.)

Amateurs

Then as now the most prominent U.S. amateur organization was the American Radio Relay League. Hopp con-

tacted an individual who is not named, but sounds a lot like ARRL president Hiram Percy Maxim, asking for help with the proposed broadcast. Hopp was turned down, on the grounds that the scheme was impractical. This is unfortunate, since it would have been valuable to have had a full and independent report by the ARRL of the events. Instead, the only mention of the fight broadcast in QST, the ARRL's official publication, is a single paragraph report in the September, 1921 issue, which noted that "Amateurs in many nearby cities copied the returns and presented them to assembled audiences whose admission fees were turned over to charitable works under arrangements made by the Madison Square Garden Corporation".

Fortunately for Hopp there were a couple of other amateur organizations in addition to the ARRL. One was the National Amateur Wireless Association, sponsored by *Wireless Age* magazine. According to "Two Hundred Meters and Down" NAWA wasn't particularly dynamic or well organized, and it disappeared a few years after the fight broadcast. However, J. Andrew White, NAWA's "Acting President", who was also editor of *Wireless Age* magazine, offered to help with Hopp's proposal. (Guglielmo Marconi was the nominal president of NAWA; Harry L. Welker served as the Association's secretary.)

Wireless Age had originated as "Marconigram", an American Marconi publication. In 1919 the U.S. government, fearing foreign domination of a key industry, had forced Marconi to sell its American subsidiary to General Electric. This resulted in a new General Electric subsidiary, the Radio Corporation of America. At the time of the fight broadcast *Wireless Age* was published by Wireless Press, Incorporated, an RCA subsidiary. White, a Wireless Press vice president, approached the parent company for support with the proposed broadcast, but found only limited interest. An exception was RCA's General Manager David Samoff. Samoff, who White knew was interested in broadcasting, found \$1,500 to help support the project. RCA also loaned the services of a number of engineers.

One of these engineers, J. Owen Smith, proved to be a real dynamo. A month after the New York amateur convention Smith became director of the Correspondence Division of RCA's Radio Institute of America. Because of his new position he had been required by ARRL's constitution to resign his seat on the ARRL Board of Directors. According to "Two Hundred Meters and Down", as an experienced amateur (2ZL) one of Smith's first jobs was to help revitalize NAWA, which had been nearly dormant since World War One.

Since few people had radio receivers at this time, it was decided to equip theaters and halls with receivers connected to loudspeakers, charging a entrance fee for persons wanting to hear the live fight report. (At this time it was common to rent theaters and halls and charge boxing fans admission for bout reports from direct telegraph lines, much as later theater audiences would pay to watch fights via closed-circuit television). According to the *Wireless Age* account "arrangements for securing theatres and halls were entrusted to Mr. Hopp by the American Committee for Devastated France and the Navy Club, and this feature of work was from then on directed from the office of the former organization". An initial report on the preparations, appearing in the July, 1921 *Wireless Age*, said theaters, halls and auditoriums were to be engaged in sixty-one cities. (A later New York Times report placed it at "upward of seventy

halls".) Individual amateurs were encouraged to set up receivers for local groups in localities where the charities did not have sites.

There was also an plan, canceled at the last minute, to send out the broadcast of the main bout to a crowd in Times Square around the New York Times building. A direct connection of the receiver to loudspeakers wouldn't work for some reason, so the plan was to write down the commentary and repeat it over the loudspeakers. Later the Times announced that, to avoid reducing attendance at the theaters hired by the charities, it would not use the broadcast reports. Instead, its loudspeaker announcements would be based on telegraphed summaries. The results were also posted on bulletin boards for persons beyond the range of the loudspeakers. (For publicity purposes, newspapers in many cities across the United States and Canada posted or announced telegraphed reports to assembled crowds.)

Initial Steps

It fell to White, through NAWA, to find a transmitter and amateur clubs to install the aeriels and receivers needed to pick up the broadcast at the halls and theaters. According to White, Owen Smith gets credit for discovering that General Electric was building a high power 3 1/2 kilowatt ship transmitter for the Navy, which might be available for the broadcast. Getting permission from the Navy proved difficult – until one day Smith brought former assistant Navy secretary Franklin Roosevelt to White's office and got permission to use the transmitter as a "test" of its capabilities. (At some point the planned broadcast became linked with fundraising for the American Committee for Devastated France. It's not stated in the *Wireless Age* account how this link originated, but it seems likely it can be traced to Hopp and his Madison Square Garden associates. A few months earlier Rickard, at the request of committee chairman Annie Taylor "Anne" Morgan, had staged a lightweight championship fight between Richie Mitchell and Benny Leonard at Madison Square Garden as a charity fundraiser for the committee. In contrast to this earlier fight, the Dempsey-Carpentier theater revenues were to be shared with the Navy Club. Since Roosevelt was president of the Navy Club, it's likely one of the conditions for use of the Navy transmitter was support for its fundraising project).

The transmitter's delivery, by tug from General Electric's Schenectady plant, was arranged by White. General Electric also sent an engineer to help with the installation. Arthur Batcheller, the government's Chief Radio Inspector of the Second District, "accomplished wonders" in securing a temporary transmitter authorization, assigned the call sign WJY. (Batcheller's reputation has suffered unfairly due to an earlier run-in with Lee DeForest. In early 1920 DeForest moved his experimental broadcast station, 2XG, from High Bridge in the Bronx to Manhattan, without first obtaining government approval. Batcheller shut down the station because of this infraction. DeForest, in his autobiography, "Father of Radio", both misspells the inspector's name as "Bachelor" and paints him as a narrow-minded and short-sighted tool of the status-quo, quoting Batcheller as saying "there is no room in the ether for entertainment". Actually, as shown by Batcheller's efforts in getting the WJY authorization, there was room, as long as you followed the rules).

Through NAWA, *Wireless Age*, and a general circular issued June 10th amateurs were recruited to handle the sets in the theaters. (E. Howard Armstrong was listed as being in charge of the Yonkers Elks Club installation. With characteristic attention to accuracy and fairness, Armstrong later wrote in to note that Paul Hobe actually deserved most of the credit). Although heartened by the number of volunteers, there were "numerous cases of 'cold feet'" on the part

of amateurs who decided the task was too demanding, and dropped out. The amateurs also required a certain amount of support and education. Most at this time used headphones for reception, and mainly listened on the standard amateur wavelength of 200 meters (1500 khz). WJY would operate on a longwave wavelength, 1600 meters (187 khz), and in order to entertain a theater full of people the receivers had to operate in conjunction with loudspeakers, which at this time were very temperamental and difficult to adjust. The amateurs provided the receivers and constructed aeriels to receive the fight, in most cases paying the costs out of their own pockets. For those who didn't have loudspeakers Smith and others "worked day and night" to assemble amplifiers attached to hearing aids, which were mailed along with instructions to the amateurs in charge of the theater sets.

Ringside Setup

The initial plan was to install the transmitter and temporary wooden masts for an aerial next to the boxing ring, which was located within a 91,000 seat octagonal arena built at Boyles Thirty Acres in Jersey City, New Jersey. However, according to White, Rickard's silent partner John Ringling objected to the proposed broadcast and wanted it canceled. A compromise was developed – the broadcast would still take place, but the transmitter and aerial would be located outside the arena.

Fortunately there was a good transmitter site available, located two and a half miles (four kilometers) away, at the Delaware, Lackawanna and Western Railway terminal in Hoboken. A telephone line, installed by American Telephone & Telegraph, would be run from ringside to the transmitter, so that the ringside announcements could go directly over the air. A huge aerial was strung between the terminal clock tower and a radio tower that had been constructed for tests a few years earlier. The railroad provided for use of the end of a hallway within a shack, normally used by Pullman porters, in order to house the transmitter. (Smith slept in the shack at night to protect the equipment from vandalism).

The goal was to broadcast a good signal over a 200 mile (320 km) radius. Beginning June 24th the transmitter was tested by sending to the amateurs, whose telegrams and telephone calls reported on signal quality. The initial results were dismal – the signal was far weaker than expected. Changes were made, but the transmission was little better. Finally on July 1st, the night before the fight, the transmitter started working properly.

Telephone Line Problems

According to White's accounts, the three months of preparation were a period of tremendous tension. White and Smith stayed up late many nights getting everything ready, resolving one crisis after another. However, just when everything appeared to be under control, a final crisis appeared. AT&T refused to connect the ringside telephone line to the transmitter. The whole project was in jeopardy.

White was caught by surprise by this final crisis. There was no reason for him to expect the telephone company would place restrictions on the phone line. In April it had supplied a line to KDKA for the Ray-Dundee fight, so it could be broadcast directly from ringside. What had changed? The reasons given by the various accounts for AT&T's action are vague, but it appears this was an opening shot between AT&T and RCA over the right to use telephone lines in conjunction with radio.

Beginning in 1920 a series of cross-licensing agreements were made between AT&T and a number of other companies, including General Electric, over the use of radio patents. The agreements also carved up which areas the various companies would be allowed to pursue, a feature that eventually was found to violate antitrust standards. Under

the agreements AT&T was assigned exclusive rights to "public service" uses of radio. Giving this a broad interpretation, the telephone company would later claim this gave it the exclusive right to interconnect phone lines to radio transmitters.

According to "The WEAF Experiment" the telephone company had been closely monitoring KDKA's pioneering requests of phone lines for remote broadcasts. At first Westinghouse's requests were met, although as far as the telephone company was concerned it was merely extending a courtesy. Later AT&T would deny Westinghouse use of remote phone lines, under its interpretation of the agreements. Apparently AT&T decided there was no need to extend a similar exemption to RCA for the fight broadcast, and so denied the direct ringside connection. Once more a compromise was developed. Instead of being connected to the transmitter, the ringside line would run to an ordinary telephone handset located in the transmitter shack. There the ringside reports would be recorded and read over the air.

(The struggle over telephone lines – necessary for quality network interconnection – would continue for years. In the same month as the fight broadcast an internal AT&T memo reviewed the use of telephone wires to interconnect broadcasting stations. Three months later another memo suggested that a "network of wires" could link stations together, and a December memo proposed an interconnection of 38 stations nationwide. AT&T went on to develop the "WEAF Chain", which dominated early network broadcasting. A few months after AT&T publicly announced its plan to connect stations nationwide, David Samoff suggested a similar plan for RCA. However, denied telephone lines, RCA's initial efforts were severely limited because its small chain of stations were crudely connected using telegraph wires. In 1926 the telephone company sold out its broadcasting interests to RCA, and the "WEAF Chain" became the "NBC Red Network".)

The Battle of the Century"

White, a former amateur boxer, practiced announcing the fights – there were six preliminaries scheduled in addition to the main event – by commenting as he "fought himself" in the mirror. The Navy promised its stations would keep the longwave wavelength used by WJY clear of interference during the broadcast. According to the account in "This Fascinating Radio Business" White, Smith and Harry Welker (misidentified in this account and others based on it as "Walker") stayed up the entire night before the broadcast preparing the transmitter. Then White and Welker set things up at ringside, and once they surrendered their tickets they had to stay within the enclosure. A photograph of the two at ringside appears in the *Wireless Age* account. White would soon celebrate his 32nd birthday. Welker, described as "an auxiliary observer", appears to be in his twenties.

There is a humorous story associated with Welker, which White mentions in a sidebar included the *Wireless Age* account. It was a hot sunny day, and White started announcing non-stop beginning around 11:30 AM. Welker had a thermos of ice water, which he was supposed to share with White. However, according to White, it was two and one-half parched hours into the four hour broadcast before Welker remembered to provide him with water.

Most early accounts, including *Wireless Age*, agree on one point – because of the AT&T restriction it was Owen Smith's voice that went out over the air, reading typed bulletins produced by an unnamed "high speed telegrapher" listening to White over the ringside telephone line. However, there are numerous apparent contradictions to the claim that White's voice wasn't being broadcast. Many of the re-

ports printed in *Wireless Age* mention distinctly hearing the opening and closing bells, and one claimed to hear crowd noise. Since the transmitter was a long distance from the ring it's hard to imagine how arena sounds could have been audible within the enclosed transmitter shack. In his 1924 Radio Broadcast interview White claimed a special gong had been placed and sounded within the transmitter room, but this doesn't explain the crowd noise. Another oddity is that in the *Wireless Age* account White thanks the amateurs who copied the broadcast verbatim and sent transcripts to him, noting "It's only through these that I know what I said". What did Smith do with the bulletins he read over the air – burn them? Also, if White's words were merely being typed for rebroadcast, why did he feel he couldn't take a short break to retrieve the water bottle from Welker? In addition, the account that appears in "This Thing Called Broadcasting" notes that Owen Smith was "partially blinded for days" from the glare of the transmitter tubes during the broadcast. Since the front of the transmitter was a solid panel, this places Smith in the narrow gaps at the sides and in back of the transmitter, an odd position for someone reading bulletins over the air, especially since photographs show the transmitter microphone on a table in front of the transmitter. And when a tube burst during the last round of the main event, it was Smith who replaced it, burning the palms of his hands so badly that he later had to go to the hospital to get them bandaged. It seems strange that one of the other engineers wasn't in charge of monitoring the transmitter and replacing tubes, if Smith was busy reading the announcements over the air.

Thirty-four years after the historic broadcast White supplied the missing information. Reader's Digest carried his account of the fight, entitled "The First Big Broadcast", in its December, 1955 issue. (It received the Digest's \$2500 "First Person" Award.) In this article White noted that, thanks to Owen Smith's ingenuity, it actually was White's voice from ringside which went over the airwaves. In order to get around the telephone company's restriction on connecting the phone line directly to the transmitter, "Smith put a five-inch diaphragm into the receiving telephone and hooked another telephone with a big diaphragm to the radio transmitter" so that White's voice could "leap the gap" and go out over the airwaves. (It's doubtful that AT&T would have applauded Smith's ingenuity, which explains why the *Wireless Age* account had Smith doing the broadcasting.)

Results

In spite of all the crises, traumas and fears of failure, the broadcast seems to have gone off well. (Dempsey retained the championship by knocking out his foe in the fourth round.) White did have one final moment of panic, however – after the broadcast ended he momentarily became fearful that he had in fact been speaking for four hours into a dead phone line. Many of the reports carried in *Wireless Age* mentioned the high quality of WJY's signal, and the range of the reports suggests the transmission coverage met all expectations. However, *Wireless Age* can't be expected to have highlighted problems, which is why the lack of an independent QST report is a loss. A number of newspapers carried a short note that a radio enthusiast, one Casper Risley in Margate City, NJ, was badly shaken up while listening to fight returns (presumably WJY) when his aerial was struck by lightning, destroying his receiver. Somehow this was left out of the *Wireless Age* account.

Wireless Age reported attendance figures for the halls and theaters "operated under contract" by the two charities. Thirty sites are listed – ten in New York City, with the other twenty located as far north as Springfield, Massachusetts, as far west as Bethlehem, Pennsylvania, and as far south as

Wilmington, Delaware. There were also sites listed in New Jersey and Connecticut. Total attendance for these theaters was just over 10,000, or about 340 per site. It's not clear if this was a large enough attendance to be considered a fundraising success, especially if the theaters and halls were rented. For example, although 500 attended at the Queensboro Athletic Club, its seating capacity was 8,000. According to the *Wireless Age* account, the largest crowd was the 1,200 gathered at Loew's New York Roof Theater. (There may have been additional, unreported theaters and halls, since thirty is less than half the number of theaters and halls originally planned).

According to the reports listed in *Wireless Age*, the broadcast was heard by individual amateurs as far north as Maine, and west to Ohio. The more distant receptions would have been using headphones, since at the farthest points the signals would have been too weak for loudspeaker reproduction. Many later accounts of the fight state that the broadcast was received as far south as Florida, and in his 1955 review White even claims that a theater crowd listened to it in Saint Augustine. However, none of the *Wireless Age* reports, which fill six pages, came from farther south than Jessup, Maryland, and that one was an individual amateur who reported hearing the broadcast through "heavy static". Although "Maine to Florida" is a catchier phrase than "Maine to Maryland", it's doubtful any boxing fans in the Sunshine State actually heard the historic broadcast.

One of the more innovative receiving setups was located on the Asbury Park, NJ boardwalk. W. Harold Warren, who according to *Wireless Age* contributed \$13 to the cause, operated a "roller chair" that was equipped with a radio receiver, so passengers could listen to the fight broadcast. Warren was adept at getting publicity for his roller chair receiver – a year earlier he, his chair, and two sisters had appeared on the August, 1920 cover of Radio News. At that time chair occupants were being entertained by voice and phonograph transmissions from 2XJ, an experimental station located in Deal Beach, NJ and operated by AT&T subsidiary Western Electric.

The estimates of the number of WJY's listeners ranged from 200,000 to 500,000, with the *Wireless Age* account and the amateur's certificates placing it at 300,000. Even today it's hard to measure an "invisible audience" and avoid the tendency to be caught up in the enthusiasm and inflate its size and significance. (For example, according to the *Wireless Age* account the attendance at Kruger's Auditorium in Newark, NJ was 303. However, in the September, 1921 Club Gossip section of Radio News, the Irvington New Jersey Radio Club, which had operated the auditorium receiver, claimed that "This auditorium holds two thousand five hundred people and was packed long before the fight began"). Since only amateurs and those in the theaters had the receivers needed to hear the broadcast, the size of the audience can be estimated from the *Wireless Age* reports. I personally think an estimate of 20,000 to 50,000 – in other words somewhat smaller than the crowd gathered at Boyles Thirty Acres – is more realistic.

Significance

As with many other exciting events, the impact and significance of the WJY broadcast has increased with each retelling of the story over the years. Many later accounts vastly overestimate the importance of this experimental broadcast, as having brought "radio to the millions". Actually, at the time it was barely noticed by the general public. One problem limiting its impact was a lack of publicity. In his 1955 account, White complained: "We needed advance publicity, but we did not get it. The only newspaper to pay us any attention was the New York Times". And even the

Times accounts were only brief references on inside pages. In the tremendous hoopla surrounding the fight, the broadcasting experiment was only a minor, and little noticed, side-show as far as the public was concerned. In fact, it is very difficult to find contemporary reports of the broadcast, especially in general circulation publications. Overall the fight broadcast seems to have created less notice than some earlier broadcast "stunts", especially compared to the international attention given to experimental broadcasts from Clemsford, England the previous year. The Clemsford series had been highlighted by a June 15, 1920 concert by world famous opera star Madame Nellie Melba, sponsored by the Daily Mail of London, which was heard as far away as Paris.

Also, radio was not the only technological advance vying for attention. At the time it was eclipsed by flashier innovations – airplanes swooping over the arena, racing to deliver fight photos to distant newspapers in time for Sunday editions, and circling Paris ready to signal the outcome: "motion picture machines" on a special stand filming the bout's progress normally and in slow motion; and scores of telegraph lines running to ringside sending up-to-the-minute reports to Canada and the United States as far away as California, while other telegraph and cable lines were used to transmit photographs to newspapers beyond the range of the aircraft. In addition, promoted by the New York World, there was the magnificent "giant Underwood Typewriter", typing telegraphed fight results in three-inch (7.6 cm) letters for an appreciative crowd. (It's occasionally wistful to read about forgotten mechanical marvels in newspapers now defunct, both destined to be killed off by radio and its evil twin television).

The broadcast also doesn't seem to have had much impact in the boxing world. In his autobiography Dempsey mentions it only in passing, noting it was conducted with "Nat Fleischer and Andrew White nervously manning the controls". Nat Fleischer was a sports reporter for the New York Press – a few months later he would start The Ring magazine. Fleischer's role in the broadcast actually seems to have been minor. He doesn't even mention the broadcast in his own autobiography, and in his biography of Jack Dempsey he devotes exactly two sentences to the topic, noting that "Major Andrew White was at the controls and I was his assistant" without specifying what that entailed.

Overall the fight broadcast was only a one-shot publicity stunt, the latest in a series of experimental broadcasts in the New York area dating back to DeForest in 1907. It actually had a relatively small audience and impact, especially compared to the millions that radio would command in just a few years. Although the *Wireless Age* account said additional broadcasts by WJY were planned, no others were ever made. Broadcasting would only begin to gain widespread visibility in Gotham three months later, when Westinghouse's WJZ began daily operation from Newark in early October, prompting the public at large to begin to buy radio receivers for their homes. Unlike the fight broadcast, which went out on a government longwave wavelength of 1600 meters, WJZ operated on the mediumwave wavelength of 360 meters (833 kilohertz), which shortly thereafter was formally set aside as the standard entertainment wavelength for broadcast stations.

(The similarity of the callsigns for the fight's temporary Hoboken longwave authorization, WJY, and Westinghouse's WJZ in Newark was probably only a coincidence. To make things more confusing, RCA later took over operation of WJZ and moved the station to New York City, where it is now WABC-770. In 1923, RCA built a second New York City broadcast station, christened WJY, which lasted until

1927. There is no direct link between the two WJYs, although the reuse of the historic call probably commemorated the earlier temporary longwave station).

The fight broadcast was much more important in establishing careers within the emerging broadcast industry, J. Andrew White's in particular. In late 1921 RCA opened a short-lived broadcast station, WDY, in Roselle Park, NJ. (Some accounts incorrectly have WDY using WJY's old transmitter – it actually had its own 500 watt set). J. Owen Smith was in charge of setting up WDY – White was station manager. White served until 1923 as RCA's "director general of broadcasting". He also continued to announce, specializing in sports events and political conventions, and in a 1924 Radio Broadcast article was described as the "most famous announcer in radio". In 1926 White became the first president of the Columbia Broadcasting System, although he was eventually eclipsed and then ousted by William Paley.

Certificates and Credits

The amateurs who participated in the broadcast were issued certificates of appreciation. A sample, issued to "Mr. American Amateur", appears in the *Wireless Age* account. The certificate noted that money raised in conjunction with the broadcast went to "The contribution of financial and material aid in the task of rehabilitating the war-torn and devastated regions of France and bringing relief to an heroic people" and for "Aiding establishment and maintenance of a home, hotel and club for enlisted men of the United States Navy and Marine Corps". This raises the question of exactly how much money was raised for the two causes. *Wireless Age* reported that independent amateurs had donated about \$600, and the theater figures would appear in a later issue, but they never did. According to "The General" the broadcast provided the French Committee "its single biggest windfall". But according to a George H. Clark quote in "History of Radio", although the broadcast was a scientific success, "financially it benefitted the two club organizations in name only".

Eight signatures appear on the sample certificate: J. Andrew White, Acting President of the National Amateur Wireless Association; Anne Morgan, Chairman, Executive Committee, American Committee for Devastated France; Franklin D. Roosevelt, President, The Navy Club, plus Jack Dempsey, G. Carpentier, G. L. Rickard, Frank E. Coultry – and Julius Hopp. The *Wireless Age* account hailed the broadcast as "a co-operative effort toward an achievement worthwhile". Moreover, "Every individual who participated earned as much credit as the next one". Well, maybe initially – but that would soon change.

Rewriting History – Part I

The October, 1924 issue of Radio Broadcast featured an article reviewing the career of J. Andrew White. Not surprisingly, a major topic was the broadcast of the Dempsey-Carpentier fight three years previously. It is described as a "brilliant idea", but not Julius Hopp's – he's never mentioned. Instead, White claimed credit for having originated the idea of broadcasting the fight, said to have been triggered by reading a newspaper account of the upcoming bout. According to the Radio Broadcast article, White had mused: "This whole country has become interested in the Dempsey-Carpentier fight. Now why can't my radio be tied up with it. Why can't I send this fight broadcast?"

The broadcast is described as White's personal project, designed "to introduce radio telephony to the nation at large". In fact, the broadcast's whole complexion has changed. Missing are not only Julius Hopp but the Committee for Devastated France and the Navy Club. In this account White personally recruits the amateurs, and they in turn secure the

halls and theaters. No mention is made of the charitable underpinning. (To White's credit, some of the missing participants, although not Hopp, do reappear in his 1955 Reader's Digest account).

Next Stop – Sarnoff

The August 7 and 14, 1926 issues of the Saturday Evening Post, featured the reminiscences of David Sarnoff, "as told to Mary Margaret McBride". This article has already gained notoriety for embellishing history. Sarnoff's review of his role during the Titanic disaster has been roundly attacked for vastly exaggerating his own importance. In addition, in this account his November, 1916 "Radio Music Box" memo is back-dated to 1915, in order to omit the influence of DeForest's High Bridge broadcasts on Sarnoff's thoughts. And I have some doubts about the accuracy of his recollection of the Dempsey-Carpentier fight.

Again Hopp and the two service organizations are missing – the implication is that White originated the idea. But there is an addition, completely missing from the *Wireless Age* account and White's two accounts – Sarnoff places himself at White's side during the fight. There are a couple of other references which have Sarnoff at ringside, but neither is conclusive. A write-up of the broadcast appeared in the August, 1921 issue of Radio News, produced by RCA publicist Pierre Boucheron. (Boucheron had been Associate Editor of Radio News until a few months earlier. In 1928 he would publish a comprehensive radio history, "The Electric Word", under the pseudonym "Paul Schubert". Surprisingly, it doesn't mention the Dempsey-Carpentier broadcast.) Boucheron's Radio News account states that "Mr. D. Sarnoff, General Manager of the Radio Corporation of America, and Mr. J. A. White were located at ringside in the press stand and took turns at reporting the most important features..." However, not even Sarnoff himself ever claimed to have reported the fight. In addition, a short notice appearing on page six of the July 3, 1921 New York Times closes with the following: "The phones at ringside were operated by J. N. White, David Saranof and H. L. Welter". However, it hard to give a lot of credibility to a short reference which manages to misspell the names of all three participants. No other first-hand accounts, including the *Wireless Age* photograph, place anyone besides White and Welker at ringside. In the Saturday Evening Post account Sarnoff also claims first hand knowledge of "water bottle incident". Poor Harry Welker, who from earlier accounts appears to be have been an RCA technician, is reduced to a nameless "boy who had been brought along expressly with iced water" for Andrew White. Sarnoff states that while ringside with White, he witnessed White's fruitless signals to "the boy" for water. Sarnoff does not explain why, if he was in fact there, he didn't go ahead and retrieve the "precious fluid" from Welker and hand it to White.

Also, Sarnoff states that the WJY transmitter "went smash" immediately after White finished announcing the main bout, and White "could not have transmitted another syllable over it". Although according to a number of accounts the transmitter was somewhat worse for the wear after the broadcast, this seems a little more dramatic than what actually happened, since one of the *Wireless Age* reports mentions hearing the station send out the fight results in telegraphic code after the main bout had finished.

Interestingly, Sarnoff credits White, not himself, with initiating the broadcast, and with coming up with the idea to transmit to a theater audience. That would soon change. In 1938, Gleason Archer wrote "History of Radio", a comprehensive review of the industry. By now seventeen years had passed since the fight, and White was no longer with RCA. Although Archer tried to be accurate and impartial,

he was at a disadvantage because he had little background in the radio industry. Thus, he was susceptible to any "disinformation" that his helpers might choose to present. And he was heavily dependent on RCA for much of his information. This becomes clear in his account of the fight broadcast, much of which is based on the review appearing in "This Fascinating Radio Business" plus an apparently unpublished account by George H. Clark. According to Archer the person who first had the "brilliant idea" to broadcast the fight was neither Julius Hopp nor J. Andrew White – it was David Sarnoff. Moreover, in a reverse of the earlier accounts, it is Sarnoff who recruits White for help.

Twenty-eight years later, in 1966, Eugene Lyons published a biography of David Sarnoff, his cousin. This work has drawn few accolades for accuracy or impartiality. Lyons' review of the fight is largely based on White's 1955 *Reader's Digest* article, understandable since Lyons was a *Reader's Digest* editor, but with numerous subtle changes that brighten the spotlight on Sarnoff at White's expense. (In the *Reader's Digest* account White noted in passing he was eighteen months older than Sarnoff, which matches their listed birthdates. However, in Lyons' account this inconvenient fact is inverted and White becomes "eighteen months Sarnoff's junior".) No use looking for Julius Hopp – he hasn't been heard from for forty-five years. According to this account it is Sarnoff who "came up with an idea that was to make broadcasting history" when he "proposed to broadcast the championship battle on the air, blow by blow". Once again White becomes involved at Sarnoff's direction.

Lyons' account also implies Sarnoff was responsible for coming up with the link of the bout to the charities. Sarnoff is placed at White's side during the broadcast, although this "fact" does not appear in White's 1955 account. Naturally, the success of the broadcast brings Sarnoff hosannas for his foresight and leadership.

Later Accounts

In the years following Sarnoff's biography a number of additional reviews of this period of radio history have appeared. Something I find disconcerting is that although they are justifiably skeptical about the accuracy of some of the RCA-slanted works, in many cases they then go ahead and give Sarnoff more credit for directing the entire industry than even Lyons' fawning biography.

An example is the recently published "Empire of the Air". This work is obviously the result of a lot of hard work, and hardly uncritical of Sarnoff. In fact, it claims that the photograph included in the Lyons biography showing Sarnoff at the Wanamaker station during the Titanic disaster is a "crudely air-brushed" fake. (Incidentally, I believe that the photograph appearing in "Empire of the Air", showing engineers preparing for the Dempsey-Carpentier fight, is actually from a later fight, as the microphone atop the equipment cabinet is too modern for 1921). In many cases "Empire of the Air" gives Sarnoff even more credit for broadcasting developments than Lyons did. Sarnoff is credited with almost single handedly advancing early broadcasting and network operations, something I personally see as mainly the accomplishment of others, particularly DeForest, Westinghouse and AT&T.

With respect to the Dempsey-Carpentier fight, in "Empire of the Air" Sarnoff is again credited with independently coming up with the idea to broadcast the championship fight. Moreover, Sarnoff proves himself a great business leader by personally directing the logistics and promotion of the entire event, leading the group that gets the station's temporary permit and the transmitter, and publicizing the event. Sarnoff is credited for connecting the event to the American Committee for a Devastated France and the Navy Club.

And, with help from NAWA, "Sarnoff arranged to install loudspeakers in about 100 theaters, Elks, Masonic and social clubs from Florida to Maine". Not bad for a guy who isn't even mentioned in the original *Wireless Age* account.

All J. Andrew White gets credit for is announcing the broadcast, although even the Lyons biography assigns him more importance than that. White's name is even omitted from the list of signatures on the certificates issued to the amateurs, even though his was at the very top. J. Owen Smith's name never appears in the "Empire of the Air" account, although he does make an appearance as "an engineer at the station" supposedly repeating White's words over the airwaves. And there is still no sign of poor Julius Hopp, who by now hasn't been heard from for seventy years.

Even worse, there are additional errors, original to this work. Some are minor – Rickard's octagonal arena loses two sides, becoming a hexagon, and the "American Committee for Devastated France" becomes the "Fund for Devastated France". However, others substantially inflate the significance of the fight broadcast. The crowd around the New York Times building receiving fight results is said to be 100,000 people – ten times the newspaper's own estimate of 10,000. And they are supposedly listening to the Hoboken transmissions, although as noted earlier the plan to carry the radio broadcast had been canceled, and they were actually receiving reports from a telegraph wire summary.

Reality vs. Myth

I put this review together because if there is a complete and accurate account of this historic broadcast I couldn't find it. And recent accounts seem to be getting even worse. Part of the problem is the natural expectation that earlier reviews are reasonably accurate and complete. Unfortunately, in many cases this is not true. Thus, later accounts have picked up and even amplified earlier mistakes and misrepresentations. In order to get an accurate view of early broadcasting events – especially if RCA was involved – a tremendous amount of time consuming detective work and fact checking is required. But if you don't put in the necessary work, instead of history you end up with something between "docudrama" and "myth".

One benefit history can provide is a perspective on the present, by giving an accurate assessment of the past. But most accounts of this broadcast subtly instill a sense that the United States has declined, since it no longer produces heroes like David Sarnoff, blessed with a clear and infallible vision, boldly leading the way for the bewildered masses. However, this is a false conclusion – "hero-Sarnoff" never existed. It was actually the "bewildered masses" – of whom we have plenty today – who conceived the broadcast and were responsible for its success.

In my view the three who deserve the most credit for the success of the broadcast are Julius Hopp, J. Andrew White, and J. Owen Smith. Hopp, along with his Madison Square Garden associates, not only came up with the original idea and gathered various groups in support, he also had the lead in securing the halls and theaters. (And without an audience you don't have an broadcast). White appears to deserve the most credit on the logistics and publicity side – with Smith's able help he procured and set up the transmitter, recruited amateurs to aid in the reception, and publicized the event through NAWA and *Wireless Age*. And Smith deserves a great degree of credit on the technical side – putting in long hours getting the transmitter to work, setting up loudspeakers for amateurs to use, coming up with a way to get White's voice on the air in the face of the telephone company's restriction on a direct link, and most likely working as the lead engineer.

Other groups and individuals also provided significant assistance. The individual amateurs and clubs, who contributed their time and money to set up aeriels and get the receivers working at the theater sites, provided critically needed support. *Wireless Age* noted that some also set up their own sites "in small halls, in homes, or in some cases wood sheds". Another significant participant was David Sarnoff, who supplied engineers and \$1,500 of funding for the project. This was one of the first actions the 30 year-old Sarnoff took after being promoted to General Manager of RCA, and in doing so he put his reputation within the company on the line. (Sarnoff's promotion was reported in the June, 1921 edition of *Wireless Age*, which noted he "received his honors with becoming and customary modesty, and attributed his success principally to the cooperation of his co-workers in the organization"). However, I have to stress that Sarnoff's role was as a "supporting actor". It's only in later accounts that he becomes the author, lead actor, stage manager, producer, business manager and director (while not selling tickets out front) of the entire event. Sarnoff's signature doesn't even appear on the amateur certificates – if he really did everything that is claimed for him it would have been at the top, as large as John Hancock's. Sarnoff did have the ability to spot good ideas. This was no small achievement – in the chaotic early days of radio it was important to separate the wheat from the chaff. Unfortunately, he also had a marked tendency to claim other's ideas and work as his own, while implying that no others were even remotely capable of his vision and resolve.

Many other individuals and groups, some missing from this account, also worked hard to make the broadcast a success. It's unfortunate that, in the rush by others to gain prominence, some deserving people and their contributions have disappeared from sight.

Obviously, given all the rewriting of history that has taken place, there is no way I can claim to have developed a 100% complete and infallible review of what took place. In the bibliography I've listed the sources I used for my compiled account – others might develop a different rendering of the events. I don't know of any first hand accounts by such principles as Julius Hopp, J. Owen Smith, Harry Welker, Anne Morgan or Frank E. Coultry, which no doubt would provide a better understanding of their own contributions plus the overall events. A copy of one of the verbatim transcriptions mentioned by White would be very valuable. Franklin Roosevelt's numerous biographies omit his role in the fight broadcast, reviewing his tenure as President of the United States but not his work as President of the Navy Club. I also had to work with contradictory reports, picking the version that appeared to be most accurate. By far the most valuable account is the report appearing in the August, 1921 *Wireless Age*. First-hand accounts tended to be more accurate than those produced by later historians.

Westinghouse's Contributions

Most histories of the fight mention only WJY's broadcast. However, KDKA in East Pittsburgh also participated, by relaying WJY's announcements. A report on the upcoming fight broadcast in the New York Times noted that Westinghouse actually planned to carry the fight broadcast over not one but two of its stations. In an article which appeared the day before the fight, after reviewing the upcoming transmission from WJY in Hoboken, it noted: "The Westinghouse Electric Company will also extend the service westward. The wireless telephone news will be picked up at the company's plant at Newark, relayed by wire to Pittsburgh, and from the big wireless telephone plant there sent out over another great circle of 200 miles radius. It will

reach Cleveland, Ohio, Johnstown, Pa., and Wheeling, W. Va. where audiences collected by the Committee for Devastated France and the Navy Club will hear the description of the fight". It also noted that "The amateurs have not been forgotten, and for those whose instruments will not pick up the high wave lengths of 1,600 meters [WJY's wavelength] the news will be retransmitted from the Newark plant over wave lengths of 330 meters..." (909 khz)

The "big wireless telephone plant" located in Pittsburgh was Westinghouse's KDKA, which at this time was also transmitting on 330 meters. (A few months later the Westinghouse stations would switch to 360 meters). And the Newark transmitter referred to in the article presumably was Westinghouse's WJZ, licenced in May but not yet in regular operation. At the time this report appeared there were still plans, later canceled, to receive the fight broadcast at the New York Times building and repeat it over loudspeakers. Since the "wireless receiving set" installed at the Times had been loaned by Westinghouse, it's possible they planned to tune it not to WJY in Hoboken, but to their own WJZ in Newark. It would have been an impressive start for Westinghouse in the New York area. However, I found no reports of any fight transmissions by Westinghouse from Newark.

The *Wireless Age* account doesn't mention Westinghouse's plans to carry the fight broadcast. This isn't too surprising because *Wireless Age* had virtually ignored KDKA and Westinghouse's earlier pioneering broadcasting achievements, probably because Westinghouse was seen as an upstart and competitor to RCA, *Wireless Age's* corporate parent. However, the *Wireless Age* account does contain a couple of references to Westinghouse activities. After reviewing the attendance at the theaters which had listened to the WJY transmission on 1600 meters, it noted that no reports had been received "from the six theatres arranged for in the Pittsburgh district and assigned to the Westinghouse company". Also, one of the amateur reports, from Donora, Pennsylvania, noted that "while returns of the big fight were being received from Hoboken, the Westinghouse station in East Pittsburgh, PA came on the air and announced that no fight returns had been received". It wasn't until almost a year later, in an article about WJZ, that *Wireless Age* finally mentioned KDKA's broadcast of the Dempsey-Carpentier fight. This later article noted in passing that Westinghouse engineers in Newark had monitored the Hoboken transmission, and that the "Newark factory picked up these results and telegraphed them to the Pittsburgh plant, KDKA, from which place they were broadcast".

The Pittsburgh papers provided somewhat better coverage of KDKA's broadcast than the New York papers did for WJY. Both the *Pittsburgh Post* and *Pittsburgh Dispatch* included references to KDKA's fight broadcast, with the *Dispatch* reporting that "Fight bulletins were wireless from the East Pittsburgh station of the Westinghouse Company yesterday and picked up by wireless telephone stations over a wide area. Cleveland, Wheeling, Cincinnati, Columbus and Dayton reported receiving the blow-by-blow report perfectly. A wireless phone at Forbes field also took the service".

The Forbes field reception actually was sponsored by the rival *Pittsburgh Post*, in conjunction with the Pittsburgh Baseball Club. (A ballgame was being played that day at the field). Apparently there was no attempt to connect the KDKA broadcasts to the stadium loudspeakers, as the *Post* reported that "six megaphone men" provided a "vocalization of the fight" for fans throughout the stadium. Both the *Post* and *Dispatch* also provided results, by megaphone, to crowds around their offices, although these appear to have

been based on telegraphed summaries. According to the *Post*, the wireless reports at the stadium beat the telegraph "by more than two minutes", while the *Dispatch* reported that "at the same moment that the special wire from the ringside flashed Dempsey's victory, the wireless telephone also screamed 'knockout'."

According to an advertisement, crediting the "Westinghouse Radio Broadcasting Service", that appeared in both papers, the fight broadcast could also be heard at two local theaters – the Regent and the Liberty. The ad proclaimed: "Sit in comfort in the cool theater, watch the film feature and at 3 o'clock today we will commence announcing the fight returns direct from ringside. There will be no

Final Words

The ultimate success of the fight broadcast by WJY and KDKA is a tribute to innovation and hard work on the part of a large number of people. But because of the subsequent rewriting of history, there ended up being a larger than usual number of "unsung heroes" among those responsible for the achievement. I hope this work at least belatedly will provide credit for their efforts, plus give a fuller picture of one of the steps along the way to establishing broadcasting as a part of our cultural fabric.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

- Archer, Gleason L. *History of Radio*. New York: The American Historical Company, 1938, p. 212 - 215.
- , *Big Business and Radio*. New York: The American Historical Company, 1939, p. 18 - 22.
- Banning, William Peck. *Commercial Broadcast Pioneer: The WEA Experiment 1922-1926*. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 1946, p. 32 - 67.
- Barnouw, Erik. *A Tower in Babel: A History of Broadcasting in the United States to 1933*. New York: Oxford University Press, 1966, p. 80 - 81.
- Bilby, Kenneth. *The General: David Sarnoff and the Rise of the Communications Industry*. New York: Harper and Row, 1986, p. 55 - 57.
- Boucheron, Pierre. "Reporting the Big Scrap by Radiophone", *Radio News*, August, 1921, p. 97+
- Chase, Francis, Jr. *Sound and Fury: An Informal History of Broadcasting*. New York and London: Harper, 1942, p. 16 - 17.
- Dempsey, Jack (with Barbara Piatelli Dempsey). *Dempsey*. New York: Harper & Row, Publishers, 1977, p. 146.
- DeSoto, Clinton B. *Two Hundred Meters and Down: The Story of Amateur Radio*. West Hartford, CT: The American Radio Relay League, 1936, p. 67.
- Douglas, George H. *The Early Days of Radio Broadcasting*. Jefferson, NC and London: McFarland, 1987, p. 25.
- Dreher, Carl. *Sarnoff: An American Success*. New York: Quadrangle/ New York Times Book Company, 1977, p. 72.
- Easton, William H. "Out-of-the Studio Broadcasting", *Radio Broadcast*, March, 1923, p. 364 - 368.
- Fagen, M. D. (editor). *A History of Engineering and Science in the Bell System: The Early Years (1875-1925)*. Bell Telephone Laboratories, Inc., 1975, p. 424 - 445.
- Fleischer, Nathaniel. *50 Years at Ringside*. New York: Greenwood Press, Publishers, 1969, p. 103, 245 - 248.
- , *Jack Dempsey*. New Rochelle, NY: Arlington House, 1972, p. 115.
- Goldsmith, Alfred N. and Austin C. Lescarboura. *This Thing Called Broadcasting*. New York: Henry Holt and Company, Inc., 1930, p. 209 - 211.
- Landry, Robert J. *This Fascinating Radio Business*. New York: Bobbs-Merrill Company, 1946, p. 39 - 40.
- Lewis, Thomas S. W. *Empire of the Air: The Men Who Made Radio*. New York: Edward Burlingame Books, 1991, p. 157 - 158.
- Lynch, Arthur H. "Dempsey-Carpentier Fight via Radiophone", *Science and Invention*, September, 1921, p. 442 - 443.
- Lyons, Eugene. *David Sarnoff*. New York: Harper and Row, 1966, p. 99 - 101
- May, Myra. "Meet J. Andrew White, the Most Famous Announcer in Radio", *Radio Broadcast*, October, 1924, p. 447 - 453.
- Samuels, Charles. *The Magnificent Rube: The Life and Gaudy Times of Tex Rickard*. New York: McGraw-Hill Book Company, Inc., 1957, p. 217 - 251.
- Sarnoff, David (as told to Mary Margaret McBride). "Radio", *Saturday Evening Post*, August 7, 1926 p. 8+ and August 14, 1926 p. 24+
- Schubert, Paul (pseudonym for Pierre Boucheron). *The Electric Word: The Rise of Radio*. New York: The MacMillan Company, 1928.
- Shurick, E. P. J. *The First Quarter Century of American Broadcasting*. Kansas City: Midland Publishing Company, 1946, p. 113 - 114, 123.
- White, J. Andrew. "The First Big Broadcast", *The Reader's Digest*, December, 1955, p. 81 - 85.
- New York Times* (no authors listed): "700 Newspapermen Will Circle Ring", June 29, 1921, p. 11; "Big Fight Arena To Be Ready Today", "Radiophone to Tell Times Sq. of Fight", July 1, 1921, p. 9; "Crowd in Times Sq. to Hear Fight Story", July 2, 1921, p. 11; "Times Sq. Crowd Roars For Both", July 3, 1921, p. 5; "Wireless Telephone Spreads Fight News Over 120,000 Miles", July 3, 1921, p. 6; "Bolt Hits Wireless Man", July 3, 1921, p. 9.
- Pittsburgh Dispatch* (no authors listed): "The Radio Digest", June 26, 1921, Third Section, p. 1; "First Fight News Given By The Dispatch", July 3, 1922, p. 1; "Fight By Wireless", July 3, 1921, p. 2
- Pittsburgh Post* (no authors listed): "Attention, Everybody", July 2, 1921, p. 1; "Dempsey-Carpentier Fight Returns Today at Forbes Field", July 2, 1921, p. 10; "Post Supplies News of Jersey Battle By Wireless 'Phone", July 3, 1921, Section 2, p. 2QST (no authors listed): "The Second District Convention", May, 1921, p. 47 - 49; "Our Board of Direction", August, 1921, p. 19 - 20; and "Strays", September, 1921, p. 47
- Radio News* (no author listed): "The Radiophone on Roller Chair", August 20, 1920, p. 74.
- Wireless Age* (no authors listed): "David Sarnoff Given Important Post by Radio Corporation", June, 1921, p. 10; "July 2nd Fight Described by Radiophone", July, 1921, p. 10; "Voice-Broadcasting the Stirring Progress of the 'Battle of the Century'", August, 1921, p. 11 - 21 (includes "Some Impressions" by J. Andrew White on p. 12); "The Monthly Service Bulletin of the National Amateur Wireless Association", August, 1921, p. 36; and "WJZ", June, 1922, p. 36 - 37.