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NATIONAL RADIO CLUB
438 EAST 21ST STREET
BROOKLYN 26, NEW YORK

March 13, 1963

Radio Station WDON
11216 Georgia Avenue
Washington, D. C.

Attention of the Chief Engineer

Good Morning!

I have tried so many times to hear WDON here at home, and finally last evening, I caught your sign-off, just after Station WPTS in Pittston, Pennsylvania, also on 1540 kilocycles, left the air. Apparently WJMJ in Philadelphia had gone off at 6:00 p.m. that day, as they were not heard. WPTR in Albany was quite weak, with reception conditions favoring stations to the South, so I was able to hear WDON for the first time here in Brooklyn. I had heard WDON once before, but it was while driving in Staten Island about four years ago, and then too it was at sign-off. However, I do not count reception of stations heard away from home.

My receiver is a Hammarlund HQ-129-X and the antenna is an indoor tuned loop, with 12 turns of wire around a three-foot-square wooden frame, mounted on a spindle - 144 feet long in all. I have been a DX fan for 30 years now, since I was 14 years old, and I have 3,215 verifications from that many different standard broadcast stations, like WDON, including 36 from Maryland. I do hope you will be so kind as to verify my reception of WDON. Here is what I heard:

Date: March 12, 1963 - 1540 kc/s.

6:14:40 p.m., E.S.T. (as WPTS left the air) - Announcer said, "This was a paid announcement of Capital Records." Then WDON began to sign off. With the seconds ticking away, the announcer talked very rapidly. He said, "This is WDON in Wheaton, Maryland, with studios at 11216 Georgia Avenue, and transmitter at 2647 University Boulevard. WDON operates on a frequency of 1540 kilocycles with 1,000 frantic, wonderful watts, by authority of the Federal Communications Commission. WDON is owned and operated by the Commercial Radio Engineering Company. We will return to the air tomorrow morning at 7:00 (?) a.m." Then, WDON left the air immediately, with no sign off music.

I know this doesn't cover much in time heard, but I believe I got it word for word here. I do hope you'll be so kind as to verify my reception of WDON, and please send me one of your WDON coverage maps, if you can spare me one. And should you care to, I'd appreciate it if you would pass my name and address along to the Wheaton Chamber of Commerce. I'd like to receive some of their pamphlets, and in particular, some picture post cards of Wheaton. Thank you!

It certainly was a pleasure to hear WDON finally, and I only wish it could have been longer. Do you have any early-morning test periods coming up soon? Return postage is enclosed, and I shall be anxiously awaiting your reply, for which I thank you, in advance of your favor.

Yours DXingly

"d
Ernie"

Ernest R. Cooper

*Verification is correct as
you heard it.
WDON*