

October 5, 1964

Radio Station WBGS  
Slidell, Louisiana

Attention of Mr. Bryant Woodham, Chief Engineer

Good Morning, Mr. Woodham!

Yesterday morning, I was tuning around the dials in search of new stations, and I came upon your station on the air with the Hurricane warnings, and I do hope that this had some spared your city. I also hope it might be of some interest to you to know that WBGS was heard up here in Brooklyn on this program, and I certainly would appreciate it if you would be so kind as to verify my reception of WBGS. I was disappointed that I had failed to hear WBGS when it was conducting its preliminary equipment tests, and of course, it was a thrill to hear you on this occasion, but I was sorry it had to be under severe storm conditions there in Slidell.

WBGS had considerable interference until their sign-off from Station WDKR in Paducah, Kentucky, but they left the air at 1:00 a.m., C.S.T., and then WBGS was in the clear, with an S 5-C signal, with a rather quick, sharp fade noticeable. We have a 50,000 watt local on 1560 kilocycles here in The New York Times' classical music station, WQXR, but they are off the air from 1:00 to 6:00 a.m. our time, giving us DX fans a chance to "work" 1560 for DX stations. The receiver is an 18 tube 1964 Hammarlund HQ-180, and the only antenna possible here is an indoor tuned loop, 144 feet long in all - 12 turns of wire around a three-foot-square wooden frame, mounted on a spindle. It is on the first floor of a three-story residence, so it is not the best antenna systems possible, but as I said, it is the only thing possible here. It has truly served me well.

I have been a DXer for 33 years, and have a grand total of over 3,550 stations on the standard AM Broadcast Band, including 41 from Louisiana.

I do hope you will be so kind as to verify my reception of WBGS, and here is what I heard, on Sunday morning, October 4th, 1964, on 1560 kilocycles:

- 12:55 a.m., C.S.T. - A selection I think was "Red Silk Stockings and the Green Peasants," but there was no vocal. I could be wrong on it, however.
- 12:57:30 - Gave station ID and said WBGS was on for Hurricane Hilda warnings. Said the wind velocity was now 40 M.P.H.
- 12:58:50 - Mentioned a mobile unit.
- 12:59 - Mentioned "flashlights out back there."
- 1:00:40 - Music, light concert style.
- 1:03:45 - Gave the latest forecast, said the wind was now 45 M.P.H. Gave a temperature range of 72-76°, and on Sunday, 78-82°. Mentioned the Red Cross and WBGS, saying WBGS would remain on the air all night until the emergency is over. Said that in case of a power failure, WBGS would be back shortly with its emergency power unit.
- 1:05 - Music.

I surely would appreciate your VERIFICATION of the above, sir, and also a coverage map if one is available. Another of my hobbies is picture postcard collecting, so if you happen to have a card of two of Slidell around, I'd surely appreciate one! Thank you!

Here's hopin' Hilda didn't do any damage to Slidell, sir, and the best of continued success to WBGS, and congratulations on your wonderful community spirit in serving so well in times of stress and duress! Fine American Radio! -Yours DXingly *Ernest Mc*

*Handwritten in red ink:*  
NO. 114611  
11/19/67, MGR