

Ernest R. Cooper

NATIONAL RADIO CLUB

438 EAST 21st STREET

CARRIER ROUTE 28 56

BROOKLYN, N. Y. 11226

December 21, 1973

Radio Station WSMD
La Plata, Maryland

Attention of the Chief Engineer

Good Morning, Sir!

Imagine my surprise when, on Wednesday morning, I awoke at 6:45am with my radio tuned to 1560 (for WQXR) and found they were NOT on the air! Well, I got up as quickly as I could and got to my DX set to see what could be heard on 1560 with silent. Well, one station heard was yours, and it's one I've been hoping to log on an early morning test, but to no avail - until now! WQXR was off the air for two days, and were back this morning, Friday. WSMD and CFRS (Simcoe, Ontario) were the only two making it with any consistency here, with an occasional mention of "Ohio" noted behind you two. There are four Chicanos on 1560, so it was not possible to tell which one I was getting - but I don't need any of them as they've all been heard and verified on tests.

I list below some of the things I heard on 1560. Items marked * I am not sure if they came over WSMD or CFRS, but I'm sure it was over one of these two - you and/or Simcoe, Ont. Here is what I heard, on Wed. Dec. 19, 1973, on 1560:

- X 7:18 a.m., E.S.T. (as I tuned in) - Christmas song, "Sleighbells Jingling, Jingling-Jingling" etc. I think it might be called "Sleighride."
- X 7:22 - Christmas-Wintery type song, I think sung by Johnny Mathis or someone similar.
- X 7:30 - News broadcast, with a lady announcer.
- X 7:32:25 - Man delivered a commercial for I believe, a bank in La Plata - and it was pronounced like in "plate" - La Plata. I know you know this, but I didn't - until that moment! I always thought it was like "La Platter". Said they have two offices in La Plata, and I think there was another site as well mentioned.
- X 7:35:45 - Weather forecast given.
- X 7:37:30 - "Wonderrul Time of the Year," male vocal, sounded like Andy Williams.
- X 7:39 - Announcer, man, mentioned 1560 AM and 104.1 FM.
- X 7:40 - Female vocal.
- maybe - 7:42:45 - Said state roads were open, but mentioned something that was late - perhaps a commuter train, or something similar?? (This was during the Eastern Ice Storm period, remember!)
- X 7:43 - Said it was 17 minutes before 8, and mentioned WSMD.
- X 7:50 - * "The First Noel". Then mentioned a phone number including 7358, and mentioned 9 a.m. to 9 p.m., Tue. & Wed. 9 - 6, Sat. 9 - 5.
- X 7:51:40 - * Mentioned more snow clling tomorrow, mentioned Storm Watch.
- X 7:55 - * Mentioned "five minutes away from news." Said it is 20° outside.
- X 7:55:30 - * Female vocal. * - 7:57 - March by a band, no vocal. - *definitely ours!*
- 8:00 - * Time pip; news, man announcer. (I think this was CFRS, though).
- 8:05:45 - * Mentioned "Board of Elections."
- 8:07 - * Child sand "All I Want for Christmas is my Two Front Teeth."
- 8:09:40 - * Mentioned 240.
- not us. 8:11 - * mention of a bad fire yesterday.

Now, on Thursday, 12/20/73:

- not us. 8:25:45 - *Mentioned apartments are available in some complex. Mentioned the name "Larry Jerome".

WSMD

PHONE 301/934-4612

CHARLES COUNTY BROADCASTING CO., INC.
BOX 776, LA PLATA, MARYLAND 20646

December 27, 1973

Mr. Ernest R. Cooper
National Radio Club
438 East 21st Street
Carrier Route 56
Brooklyn, New York 11226

Dear Sir:

Thank you very much for your letter of December 21, 1973, and the interesting information that you heard our AM signal in Brooklyn while WQXR was off the air.

It would have been exciting if we had known in advance that WQXR would be silent for a couple of days. I would have asked the FCC for permission to fire up the AM at an earlier time. That would have certainly caused them some internal decision-making problems.

Enclosed herewith is a Xerox copy of the first page of your letter, and I have indicated with "X" marks the items which I can acclaim to be ours with some degree of certainty. It's fairly obvious that as the morning went on the competing Canadian station was beginning to top our signal.

We pronounce the name of the county seat to rhyme with "plate" as you mentioned, and this is always a problem when we have new jocks from out of the area.

In December we sign on the AM at 7:15 a.m. at 250 watts, and at 9:15 a.m. we increase to 1,000 watts. We cut back to 250 watts at 2:45 p.m., and sign off at 4:45 p.m. In the month of January, those times are 7:30 a.m., 9:30 a.m., 3:15 p.m., and 5:15 p.m., respectively.

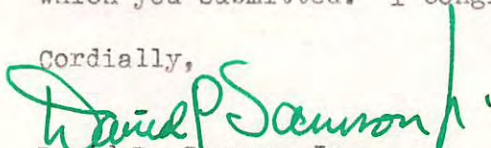
As you probably know, stations in small markets such as ours are permitted to simulcast, and we get the FM on the air at 5:45 a.m. six days a week and go until 10 p.m., unless we stay on later because of a ballgame or some other event. I would be interested in knowing whether you could ever pull in our FM signal, which is on 104.1.

I also enclose a coverage map, such as it is. You will note that it shows both the AM and the FM coverage, and also further note that they are calculated contours. The actual coverage will vary in both directions from the theoretical.

We have no plans for any testing in the near future. As a matter of fact, the station has been sold, and settlement is planned for January 15, 1974. Possibly the new owners will have some test plans sometime after that date; however, I am in no position to make a guess in this area.

It was most interesting to receive your letter and observe the extent of detail which you submitted. I congratulate you on your hobby, and send all best wishes.

Cordially,


David P. Samson, Jr.
President

AM - 1560 — FM - 104.1