

WUOM
91.7 FM Ann Arbor
WVGR
104.1 FM Grand Rapids
WFUM
91.1 FM Flint

24 July, 1991

Mr. Ernest R. Cooper
5 Anthony Street
Provincetown, Massachusetts 02657



The University
of Michigan
Public Radio Stations
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313-764-9210

WUOM

Dear Ernest,

Please forgive the inexcusable tardiness of this QSL. It has been a very busy month, and nothing seems to get done on schedule. Besides power outages from severe thunderstorms, we've had our share of too much to do in other areas.

I've also noticed quite a bit of sporadic E this summer, mostly on TV (Rapid City, S.D. on channel 3, for instance). A few years ago, maybe during the last sunspot cycle, I remember hearing KERA, Dallas, on my clock radio one morning (line cord antenna). Your reception of WCSR in Hillsdale is quite impressive, considering their Class A power!

In high school at Needham (Mass.) I used to operate home brew SSB on 6 meters (50 MHz) and worked much E skip, some Aurora and occasional meteor scatter with QRP (about 20 watts and a 3-element fixed yagi atop a pine tree). That was in the mid sixties. I lived in the shadow of all of Boston's TV towers and remember when WGBH-TV moved from the Great Blue Hill to the Westinghouse tower. A UHF/microwave pioneer lived atop a nearby hill (Hank Cross, W100P) and I tried to study solar noise vs/propagation effects for a science fair project one year.

I never played brass, but taught myself piano by ear around age 3 or 4 and played strings later in school (I was coerced into trying viola and cello for about a year each, which only succeeded in screwing up my fiddle playing ability).

Regarding UM band recordings, the last one I'm aware of was *Halftime Classics*, conducted by George Cavender, (UM School of Music SM0008) which I helped engineer in 1978. I don't know if you can find these outside Ann Arbor like the Vanguard records. This is a pretty lousy recording (even if I did work on it) done in Hill Auditorium on a two-track with too many mikes and a weird stage arrangement. I think most of the Vanguard disks were done in Carnegie Hall with a

single Neumann SM2 stereo mike (so legend has it, anyway). The only other "recent" recording that remotely resembles this kind of stuff is the 1979 *The Brass Menagerie*, U of M Tuba and Euphonium Ensemble, conducted by Abe Torchinsky (UM School of Music SM0011). To the best of my knowledge, there have been none more recent than that by either the marching band or similar ensembles, but they have been doing a lot of recording that hasn't been released.

Most of the later UM disks were mixed by Evans Mirageas (*das Wunderkind* of the time) who left here for WFMT and now works for Ozawa at the BSO. He did a little work for Bernstein and Horowitz (concert recordings, etc.) as well. If you look him up, please say hi! for me.

Thanks for the poop on WOMR. I built the student station here (WCBN-FM) which is more of a community station than anything else, despite being licensed to the U. They're still using the home-brew air console which I designed and built in 1972.

Assuming the *lambda* on your letterhead does not signify *wavelength*, you may find the enclosed Glipper letter and questionnaire of interest. If I have misinterpreted this Greek symbol, please forgive me, and pass on to other Provincetown folk who might benefit.

Thanks for your report and thoughtful note and good listening!

73,



Jim Paffenbarger, WA1ABU/8
Senior Engineer
WUOM/WVGR