



Columbia's Class FM

Columbia FM Incorporated

June 26, 1988

TO: Mr. Carl W. Dabenstein
re: reception of K-102

Thanks for your letter of June 16. This letter will serve as our official confirmation of reception on that morning at the times stated. You were of course listening to our morning program which as you correctly noted was caused by a post-dawn temperature inversion. What is interesting is reception in an automobile with KY-102 two channels away, a station in Springfield, Mo. at 101.5 and another class A facility about 100 miles south of you on the co-channel.

Curiously, I just stepped away this morning from a remarkable sporadic E opening into New Mexico, Texas and old Mexico that netted strong reception of dozens of stations. I have tuned the FM dials now for almost 30 years from various locations and in the 20+ years I've been here have heard close to 2400 stations from 49 states, seven Canadian provinces and four countries. We nostalgically recall the ~~station~~^{SITUATION} here 20 years ago when there were no local stations and a 3 hour sporadic E session could yield up to 200 or so stations from a dozen states up and down the east coast. One can hear some amazing things such as 10-watt stations 1000 miles or more away or be in the car driving the legal limit and tuning in all the Miami stations for example.

Yet curiously also, your letter is only the second reception report in more than 5 years of operation and a tie for distance with one from the St. Louis area. Perhaps we should offer a prize to the most distant listener or a dx enthusiast who tries for us during an opening.

The station went on the air 2/23/83 as a totally new start up. We found and petitioned for the channel in 1979 and fought various battles over the next four years to go on the air. It is a 3 kW facility which consists of two sites, an intown 3300 sq ft studio-office complex including four studios and all CD playback [1st in this state]. This is tied with a transmission site on the east side of town with a 950mHz STL. The two-bay CP antenna is about 300 ft above average terrain, side-mounted on a leased tower. The 5kW transmitter is cut back to 3500+ W and about 500 W is lost in the 1-5/8 in. line. Due to the side-mounting, there is some pattern distortion because the mast has a 4' face. The signal to the east is rotten but I've picked ~~up~~ up a number of times