

1450 WILM
NEWSRADIO

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Tuesday -- February 20th, 2001

Mr. Kermit Geary -- DX Listening Post
1266 Riverview Drive
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Greetings from The First State!

Thanks very much for making the effort to hear 1450 WILM NEWSRADIO, even if you weren't successful. You're probably correct: The "skip" of our signal may have entirely bypassed your area in Pennsylvania.

So far, we've verified about 25 reception reports, about two-and-a-half times the number we normally receive for a DX test. I don't attribute this necessarily to superior propagation, but to better advanced publicity. With ample time, we got mentions in the various DX club publications; the cover of the February 2001 POPULAR COMMUNICATIONS magazine; and on-air mentions on various international shortwave broadcasters.

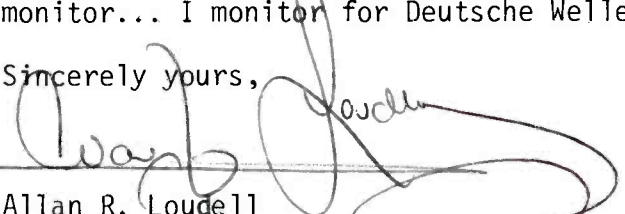
Confirmable reports came from an arc extending from southern Ontario to New Brunswick; the New England states; the Middle-Atlantic states; the Southeastern states; and the Midwest, plus one tentatively confirmed report from Manitoba. But, so far, nothing from outside the U.S. or Canada, as opposed to a few years ago, when we received a confirmable report from Jamaica.

As far as my DX'ing exploits, I got started in 1966 at the age of eleven, with the usual pause for college. I have done much more on shortwave than medium-wave standard broadcast, probably because, growing up in the Chicago area, so many A.M. channels were occupied! My favorite SW Q.S.L.'s include Argentine Antarctica; El Salvador and Belize (when they had shortwave stations); Lesotho, Ethiopia, and Eritrea; and in Asia... the former Portuguese Goa; Tibet; Manchuria; and Inner Mongolia! So far, North Korea, Qatar, Tunisia, Myanmar, and Grenada have quelled all attempts to get a Q.S.L. (although I have indirect Embassy verifications for Tunisia and Myanmar).

Best A.M. Q.S.L.'s for me include a number of Caribbean stations on fractional frequencies, both from Delaware and Florida. (In fact, I can't believe how much easier it is to DX in Florida... not just Caribbean and Latin signals, but signals from the Middle-East and Africa, even on a portable radio!). I suppose I consider myself fortunate to have gotten a few local Cuban Q.S.L.'s in recent years, such as CMHW Santa Clara, and CMFA Camagüey, Central Brasil. Considering the years I put in trying to land a Q.S.L. from Saint Pierre et Miquelon, I should count that too! This year, it took me several certified letters and phone-calls to land a Q.S.L. from The Voice of The Navajo Nation, KTNN Window Rock, AZ (Pardon me if I like to count that as separate from Arizona, and also that I "cheated" by DX'ing in the Southwestern U.S. this past summer).

Probably the biggest hindrance to my DX'ing -- however -- ironically is this job, since I put in such long hours. I get up at 3:20 a.m., get to work by 5 a.m.; and, hmmm... I'm still ~~here~~ typing this letter at 7 p.m.! (Like you, I'm a shortwave monitor... I monitor for Deutsche Welle.)

Sincerely yours,


Allan R. Loudell