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Thursday -- December 19th, 2002

Mr. Kermit Geary's "DX Listening Post"  
1266 Riverview Drive  
Walnutport, Pennsylvania PA 18088

Greetings from The First State!

Thank you again for trying to receive this station during the transmission of a DX test.

This letter (along with our card) will confirm your reception of 1450 WILM NEWS-RADIO -- Delaware Broadcasting Company -- Sunday morning, December 15th, 2002, from 1:04 a.m. to 2:26:30 a.m., Eastern Standard Time, on our Federally assigned frequency of 1450 kiloHertz in the A.M., Standard Broadcast band. We were transmitting our listed output-power of 1,000 watts.

Your log of test items correlates with our log. On a "graveyard" frequency such as ours, it's understandable you couldn't necessarily copy the music and voice I.D.'s. But I would be curious: If you happened to record this DX test on tape, do you think you heard any bizarre sound-effects, such as a dog barking, a baby crying, the Bells of London, etc.? I was intrigued if any of these things would make it through the ether!

We remain locally-owned and fiercely independent. You're correct: In the age of massive corporate ownership and duopoly, it's tougher to net replies from many commercial radio stations in the U.S. or Canada. I find follow-up reports and phone calls are often necessary. It's sometimes imperative to try to identify a person at a particular station or broadcast-group who would be so inclined to respond to a reception report! But, of course, all this takes time and money.

But, I confess. I remain a "nut" for Q.S.L. verifications!

2002 was a busy year here. We ran all-news coverage of two elections, the Delaware Primary and the general election. For the 9/11 anniversary, we went wall-to-wall, without commercials; and dispatched reporters to New York City and Washington by the Pentagon.

A fundamental challenge for stations such as ours is recruitment. Fewer young people contemplating careers in communications or even journalism think of careers in radio these days. Almost always, they're drawn to television, the Internet, even newspapers, but hardly ever radio. I lecture on college campuses all the time to champion the cause of radio. For example, this fall, I lectured at Philadelphia's Temple University; Penn State University; and East Stroudsburg University, to name some institutions of higher learning in your state.

Reciprocal best wishes for the holiday season. I hope 2003 offers you a few nights or mornings of outstanding propagation, so you can chase-down some elusive signals!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Allan R. Loudell". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping flourish at the end.

Allan R. Loudell  
Program Manager

1450 WILM NEWSRADIO -- Delaware Broadcasting Co.

P.S. Yours was the third reception report to reach us by mail.

The others were from Newark, Delaware (really not DX; the guy just wanted the 80th anniversary card!) & Intervale, New Hampshire!