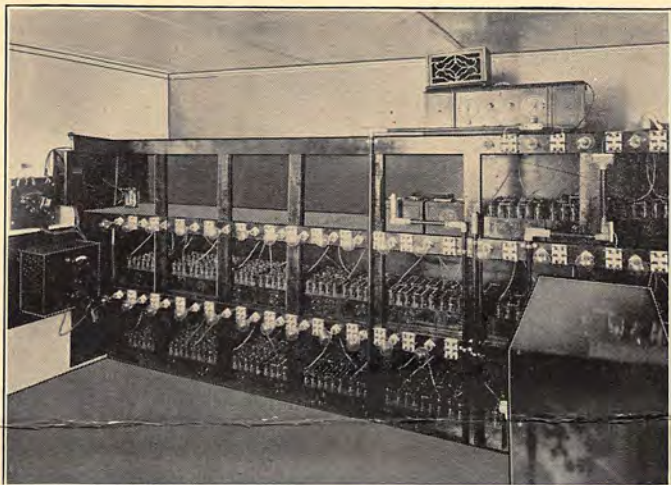


FACTS ABOUT RADIO STATION WJBL



There are no moving parts in the operating room of Radio Station WJBL. The Willard batteries shown above furnish all the power. The battery installation includes 1250 glass jars or "cells", each of which delivers 2 of the 2500 volts required.

Interesting Facts

—Station WJBL was assembled in Decatur by two Decatur men, Mark L. Spies and Herbert Rickards. Mr. Rickards is now the station announcer, and Mr. Spies is the station operator.

—The steel towers, from which the aerial is suspended, are among the first things noticed by visitors to Decatur. They rise 96 feet above the roof of the Gushard building and 192 feet above the level of the street.

—More than a mile of enamel covered copper wire was used in the aerial and in the net work of wires which spread out over the building to fashion the "counter-poise" or ground.

—The station broadcasts on a wave length of 270 meters, or 1111 kilocycles, and its nominal range is one thousand miles, but reports of clear reception have been received from radio listeners living more than fifteen hundred miles away.

On Air Three Nights Each Week

—At present, station WJBL broadcasts three nights each week

—Monday, Wednesday and Saturday, from 9:30 until 11:00 o'clock. The programs, which are varied in character, usually include many musical numbers, popular and classical, instrumental and vocal, played or sung by popular artists and organizations of Decatur and its vicinity. Special requests are always welcomed, and complied with if possible.

Tune in on the Millikin

"Hour of Music" Every Wednesday Night

—One of the most interesting and enjoyable weekly features of Station WJBL is the Millikin "Hour of Music" broadcast every Wednesday night from 9:30 to 11:00, with vocalists and instrumentalists from the James Millikin University Conservatory of Music in diversified programs that prove entertaining to all listeners who like popular and classic music.

STATION WJBL IS OWNED AND OPERATED BY
WILLIAM GUSHARD COMPANY
"DECATUR'S GREATEST STORE"



This view, taken from the southeast, pictures the seven-story Gushard building at Water and William Streets, with the twin towers or "masts" of steel from which the aerial wires of Radio Station WJBL are suspended. They rise 96 feet above the building and 192 feet above the street. The five-strand aerial swings in the air between them.

FROM STUDIO TO LOUD SPEAKER, VIA
RADIO STATION WJBL
OWNED AND OPERATED BY
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The Studio, Radio Station WJBL, with announcer Rickards at the control desk and Earl Voyles at the Baldwin grand piano. Two microphones are used, one for announcements, the other for programs. The picture shows the draperies and the ceiling canopy which make the room sound-proof.

From Studio to Loud Speaker

AN extremely busy place when the station is "on the air", is the studio of WJBL, high up on the top floor of the Gushard building. To reach it one must go through a reception room, fitted with chairs, a desk, and several telephones, which seem to be in constant use receiving requests for popular numbers. From this room one may look through a long window of plate glass, thick and almost entirely sound proof, into the studio proper.

A thick grey carpet covers the studio floor, the walls are covered by heavy draperies of blue velvet, and a canopy of heavy cloth hides the ceiling. The room is reverberation proof and acoustically "dead". A grand piano occupies one end of the room; at the other end is the announcer's desk and microphone and the microphone control switch. The program microphone stands upon a mahogany pedestal which may be moved to any desired point.

Now let us suppose that the station is "on the air", with the announcer at his desk and Earl Voyles at the piano, and follow the sound from the moment it is made until it reaches the aerial and goes out into the ether.

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This interesting picture shows part of the WJBL operating room on top of the Gushard building, with the station in operation. Operator Mark L. Spies is shown "listening in" with a pair of head-phones. The sensitive controller set with its several dials is in front of the operator.

The Novel Journey of a Sound

THE station operator has opened the station, and the announcer, having announced the station, the player, and the first number, shuts off his own microphone, switches the power to the program microphone, signals to the pianist, and the sound of music suddenly fills the studio.

The sensitive microphone catches every sound, and conveys it, through solid copper wire placed in special conduits, to the speech amplifier, in the operating room on the roof, which magnifies it 100,000 times before sending it on to the power amplifier, where it is further increased to 250,000 times its original volume. It then goes through the four 250 watt tubes of the powerful transmitter to the aerial wires high above the ground, there to start on its mysterious journey through the air in "waves" of a length determined by the power of the sending station, which must always broadcast on the exact wave length allotted by the government radio bureau.

Once "on the air", the sound which started in the studio travels with the speed of light, to be caught and reproduced by the receiving sets of listeners far and near.

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