

Dear Bob and Art,

1/12/01

We were both delighted to hear that the bad guys who were trying to steal your license finally gave up. Your mention of the need to find transmitter and studio location reminded me of what I think I once suggested, getting a large old house in a suitable location, and that, in turn, reminded me of the time I almost had an AM'er back during the depression. It was located in such a large old house that an enterprising person had turned into a good place of business for two businesses.

It had been a mansion of some kind a little north of the center of the main business and governmental area of Wilmington, only three blocks north of city hall and the DuPont building. The first floor provided offices for the automobile club and the second or perhaps the second and third were taken up by WILM.

It happened that the night-duty man at the auto club was a friend, who spent Saturdays covering sports for the Sunday paper, a job I inherited when he went off to an out-of-state college. And WILM was built and owned by the older brother of a good high school friend. Brandt Boylan, the older brother, was a sort of nervous type and for today an electronics genius. His brother Dana was a good high school friend. Dana introduced me to Brandt because I was a ham. I came to spend a fair amount of time at that station and the other one, all of whose operators were also friends.

Because Brandt was a nervous type and because what he really wanted to do is tinker, one day he turned to me and told me that I could have the station for \$4,000. Oh was I excited! But where in the depression could a kid get \$4,000? I couldn't. The station got to be quite successful. Once when it was resold in the 1940s it brought a half million!

Later I almost became control-board announcer. I guess it is the same today—you run the board and you announce. The reason I didn't is because the chief announcer jinxed it, I guess because he was leary of my friendship with the Boylans. Maybe it was just because he was a little crazy, a central-European who played a wild gypsy fiddle.

But it led me to reminiscing when I got your good news. Hope all goes well from now on.

On programming, if it interests you and you are not aware of it, a number of FM stations around here use Parkway. I understand it is the packaged WQXR deal. I get it from time to time from WGTS, a low-power religious college station in Takoma Park, a Washington suburb. It comes in great here because I have a mast which puts the antenna 40 feet in the air. Can't hear it at all in the car or on portables. Being able to turn the antenna also makes a great difference. Most people around here never heard of it. When WMAL's FM was classical, it also used Parkway. But you probably know about it. I think it comes on tape.

Your mention of the weather is timely. Sunday the local wind-chill was a little lower than for the Cincinnati-San Diego game. It was minus 60. Even the Washington stations mentioned it in their weather reports, that low. The actual was zero and in places a little lower. But the wind took utility lines down, that much.

It seems that most of the country is having and is going to have a colder time of it for a while.

I'm going to have to get more wood. We've not used the oil burner at all so far!

Sounds like you had a real good holiday. Despite Lil's spraining an ankle four weeks ago we also did. She took to my wheelchair very well and thus was not any kind of captive. We went out for dinner with friends Xmas eve and to other friends for Xmas dinner, with the wheelchair and strong younger men to take it with her in it up and down stairs. Her mother was up a week ago, with a nephew we haven't seen for years. We took them to their first Chinese dinner and they loved it, especially 92-year-old mom.

You've got a great time ahead of you! Hope it goes only well. Wonderful way to begin a new year!

With our love,

1-7-82

Dear Folks:

This new year is really starting out with a resounding bang for us.

On December 4, the full FCC concurred unanimously with all other decisions and awarded us (again) the radio station we have so fervently sought for the past 5 years. The bad guys (the opposition) had 30 days in which to file for a re-hearing before the US court of appeals. Lo and behold, the 30 days passed with nary a sound! It all has ended with a whimper!

As of this date, we are now embarked on the task of trying to put it all together without bankrupting ourselves before we begin! Our lawyers are now working on call letters and formal receipt of the permit to construct to us (due any day now).

Here in Boulder City, we are making efforts to get a transmitter site pinned down as well as studio space. Next comes the equipment for it all.

All of the above indicates a great kind of busy at hand for Jodi and I and we love it! We've sure been waiting a long time for this moment.

Sorry to say we cannot give you a glowing weather report of temperate and sunny days hereabouts. This morning in fact it was only 21 degrees at 9AM! I felt like we were in Alaska! It's been that way for the past couple of weeks in fact and way out of character for this area. Daytime highs have been in the low to mid forties - general overnites in the low to mid 30's.

We had Ross home from school for the holidays and had my Mom join us as well from NY for a few weeks. So, we have had a holiday houseful.

Thanks for sending along that AP piece. It seemed like an honest effort. Glad also to hear that you are recuperating well, even to the point of dumping ties! I did that when I decided to grow the beard a few years back. Either we're intensely independent, highly creative wunderkinds - or - senile! I know which one I vote for.

Our best to you both,

*Art + Jodi*

