

Radio New York Worldwide – WNYW

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This verifies your report of: 16 Nov 1968

ON: 17.840

TIME: 1738 GMT

INTERNATIONAL STATION WNYW
485 Madison Avenue
New York, N. Y. 10022, U.S.A.



WNYW

- A Presentation by Lou Josephs(c)
- Updated and Edited September 2005

The 20s: First Shortwave station in the USA

- 1927 First US Shortwave License issued Oct. 15th, 1927, by the FCC to founder Walter Lemmon and Experimenter Publishing of New York on 9.7 Mcs, 500 watts. Callsign W2XAL.
- 1928 Sale to Aviation Radio.
- 1929 Lemmon regains license and moves station to Boston with callsign W1XAL, Worldwide Broadcasting Corporation.

The 30s: The Walter Lemmon Years

- 1936 Hatherley Beach near Scituate, Mass. acquired for use as new site.
- Upgrade to 20 kW.
- New unit added: W1XAR.
- September 1939 FCC assigns regular call letters and WRUL "World Radio University-Listeners" is born.
- Studios in Boston at the Harvard Club on Commonwealth Avenue.
- Programs are educational in nature.

World War II.

- WRUL broadcasts as "Radio Boston" in Norwegian from Sept 29th, 1940 with "Gunnar Martin" (Nygaard) as speaker.
- On 9th of November 1942 all US Shortwave broadcasting including WRUL taken over by the Government in lease arrangement. First mainly OWI, then VOA programs.
- Mr. Nygaard becomes Norwegian editor for OWI in New York.

The Cold War Years.

- 1946 Walter Lemmon demands State Department return his stations or permit him to use a portion of time.
- 1947 Smidt-Mundt act. WRUL allowed to program 25% with VOA broadcasts the rest of the day.
- 1953 WBOS in Hull, Mass(near WBZ) released by VOA and closed. Spare parts sold to WRUL.

1954: Back to Private Broadcasting

- By 1954 US Gov' t lease ends and WRUL has full control over facility. Still a non-commercial station with sponsorship owned by Worldwide Broadcasting Foundation, 1 East 57th Street, New York, 22, N.Y.
- Slogans "Voice of Freedom" and "Truth is the strongest weapon".

Radio Boston

- Norwegian programs on WRUL "Radio Boston" on 9675, 11780 and 15280/15350 kcs from 2000-2045 every Tuesday.
- Programs are "Bringing Christ to the Nations" and "New York Calling Norway".
- Speaker Johan Fillinger.

The Early 60s: Ownership and Studio Changes

- 1960 Sale of station to Metromedia. who owned radio stations in major markets in the US, such as WNEW 11-30. Also owned the remains of the Dumont TV Network. Move of studios to 4 West 58 St New York 19, N.Y.
- 1960 Contribution to Propaganda effort towards Cuba.
- 1961 Peabody Award: Contribution to International Understanding for Coverage of U.N. General Assembly Proceedings.
- 1962 Sale of station to Bonneville International Corporation.(The Mormons broadcasting arm.) Station carried live conferences from Salt Lake City.

From WRUL to WNYW

- 1964 "On the air from the fair." (Expo '64)
- 1965 English broadcast hours 1200-0000 UTC. Spanish 1100-1215, 1300-1445, 2200-0400. Creole 1100-1130.
- June 1st, 1966. Change of call letters to WNYW. Chatsworth (In the Jersey Barrens), NJ proposed as new transmitter site. Land later sold.
- Apr. 9th, 1967 The original transmitter site at Scituate is torched. Transmitters are burnt to a crisp. Arson suspected but not proven. The only thing left is the building. Fire destroys all WW2 equipment, relocation to point-to-point station in Brentwood, Long Island.
- Summer and September, 1967 Gates trucks new transmitters into Mass. Site. First two and then all 5 transmitters back on the air from Hatherley Beach.
- The Arch L. Madsen era. This GM co-created the Drake SW-4A.

WNYW 1968

- Transmitter capacity restored at Scituate: 2*100 kW, 3*50kW and 1*20 kW standby. 1*100 kW and 1*50 kW beams to Europe. 1*100 kW to Latin America, 1*50 kW to Mexico, and 1*50 kW to Africa. Frequency changes take 10-15 minutes.
- Expansion of English Programs to Caribbean 2200-0000 UTC.
- In April Les Marshak replaces Steve Grayson as host of Dxing Worldwide. Stays until hired back by WABC.
- Taped/Live show Music From New York debuts hosted by Marshak.
- In November WNYW changes news affiliate: From ABC Information to CBS News.
- 1st Computer Show on radio with Bert Kleinman.
- Pirate Radio-Dead Issue written by Irwin Belofsky, narrated by Morgan Skinner. Airs in Dxing Worldwide time slots and other times during the weekend.
- Caribbean Weather Watch starts, report is taped at 16 and 2200 UTC.

Towards the end of WNYW: 1969-1973

- Easter 1969. No power at transmitting site. WNYW off for 2 days.
- July 1969. Man lands on moon. Coverage via CBS Radio. Spanish language Interamerican broadcasting does live TV from WNYW with coverage as can't get accreditation at KSC. WNYW missed the first space walk, station was off the air.
- Broadcast hours 1600-0000 UTC.
- 0000-0245 Bi-Lingual service starts in Summer of 69.
- Worldwide Phone-in with Bert Kleinman and Les Marshak 2000-2100 UTC. Kleinman left WNYW after the phone in to become PD of WPLJ-FM in New York.
- 1970 Station is run on tape from from Scituate. Bonneville starts syndication service. BPS tapes give WNYW a way to save costs of direct phone line from New York. Voice grade circuit used for stock market news and as a way to hear the station in the offices. Station offered for sale to US Government for 1 dollar.
- Oct.20th, 1973 Station sold to Family Radio of Oakland, Calif. Call change to WYFR.

WNYW Programming

- WRFM 105.1 air talent was also WNYW's talent. It worked like this: Joe Roberts did morning drive on the FM, then taped 1 hour for WNYW at 1600(11 am EST)sign on. Ken Lamb did afternoon drive on WRFM and followed Joe on the SW. Les Marshak did 10-3 on FM, and then 1 hour on WNYW. 5-7 pm on WNYW was Larry Yount who did 7-12 midnight on WRFM.
- Weekends: Bob Weston, Roy Whitfield, then Jim Aylward.

WNYW Format

- Called "Chicken Rock" at the time, today resembles light AC.
- Heavy on Sergio Mendes, Enoch Light and the Free Design. Few Singles, mainly LP cuts. Most popular show Worldwide Hit Parade pre-ceded Kasey Casem AT40, counting down the hits. Every Thursday Billboard would give Les Marshak the top 20 of the Hot 1-00 from the issue that went to press on Friday and hit the newsstands Monday.

WNYW Jingles and Promos

- Robert Hall productions did the News intro, Caribbean weather watch, and ramps to the top of the hour.
- The Robert Hall stuff is mainly brass. Bert Kleinman as PD commissioned it.
- Mike Marion, production director created the loop tape with the interval signal. It's 15 minutes long, than it's dubbed, and spliced so it could last half an hour. Larry Yount is the voice. Started in New York at 1530, so it would fit with CBS news at 1600 UTC.
- Worldwide Hit Parade Theme was Bandstand from NAB Radio promotional discs.
- Most other jingles came from instrumental albums, with voice overs.

DXing Worldwide

- Electronic Backgrounds and theme came from Perrey and Kingsley. Track 4 Swans Splashdown is the theme from DXing Worldwide. Content was 90 percent recycled from Sweden Calling Dxers 2 weeks later. Nasa press releases also used.
- Roy Patrick, Herman Jager provided dx tips from Europe. Bob Balsler provided offshore radio news.

Some of the Competition on MW in Europe

- After the demise of most UK offshore stations two RadioCarolines(1169/1187 kcs) live until March 3rd, 1968.
- Radio Veronica 1562 kcs.
- RNI, starting on 1611 kcs has a turbulent life from January 1970.
- Radio Luxembourg 1439 kcs new format from April 1968.
- BBC Radio One 1214 kcs.
- Radio Sweden Saturday show 1178 kcs.

Some of the Competition on SW

- Radio Sweden Saturday show. Sweden Calling Dxers, later Media Scan.
- BBC World Radio Club.
- Radio Nederland Happy Station. His and Hers. Dx Jukebox later Media Network.
- RNI, starting the first SW offshore service mostly on 49 m from January 1970.

WNYW air personalities: Where are they today?

- Les Marshak: Voiceovers in NYC.
- Ken Lamb: Most afternoons on ABC TV Voiceovers.
- Mitch Lebe: WBBR 11-3-0 Afternoon Drive.
- Bert Kleinman ran Radio Maximum in Moscow.
- Roy Whitfield: Voiceovers on WPIX Ch 11 in NYC. Now deceased.

The WNYW Newsroom

- Identical to the WRFM Newsroom.
- Newscasters: Elwood Thompson did news on WNYW until 2, followed by Murray Roberts.
- Dave Henderson and Dick London at weekends.
- The news on the SW ran at the half hour and could then be edited.
- Quincy Howe worked for ABC, before going the commentary route. His Commentaries were taped once a week until they ended in 1970. After WNYW he was involved with PBS in New York (ch 13). He died 1976.

WNYW Technical Details

- Transmitters were Gates.(Now Harris)
- There is talk of a deal with Continental Transmitters, but Gates replaced the transmitters after the fire.
- Processing with tube type automax and volumax.Phone lines were equalized for mono,speech and voice.
- ATT Long Lines was the phone company.

WNYW Air Studio

- Only one, a Collins 212-m Board with two Gates turntables. 3 Cart Machines.
- Shared production with WRFM Stereo 105.1.
- WRFM had a a Gates Stereo board with Neuman Mics and Gateway 80 Stereo console for remotes.
- I later used the same board at WRMF in Titusville Florida. I used the Gateway 80 as a production console. These boards were everywhere in the early 70's radio station.
- Spanish Production was a duplicate Collins 212-m console.

485 Madison Avenue

- 485 Madison Avenue, 3rd floor
- CBS original tenant
- Later shared floor with other tenants.
- "Mad" was on the 13th floor.
- Moved in the 90s to Avenue of the Americas as Jammin' Oldies.

Scituate: The end

- 1977 WYFR starts broadcasting from removed transmitter at new site in Okechoobee, Fla.
- Nov.16th, 1979 Scituate signs off for the last time at 2052 UTC.
- Today not a trace is left at Hatherley Beach.

Thank you for listening!

- If you have any questions, just email me at
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