

Bailey Ave.
Babylon, N.Y.
Feb. 3, 1936.

Mr. Frank E. Robbins
Assistant to the President
University of Michigan
Ann Arbor, Michigan

Dear Mr. Robbins:

I am afraid that I can not be much help to you regarding the history of Station WCBC. The broadcasting activity was started after I left the University. I can tell you a little about the apparatus that was probably used at first.

In the fall of 1927 several of the students in the R.O.T.C. Signal Corps and the Electrical Engineering department built a continuous wave radio telegraph station. This station was to be used chiefly for two things, code practice for the Signal Corps people, and communication with the Hobb's expedition to Greenland. The construction of the transmitter was a sort of collective matter in that the United States Army granted \$100.00 that was used for miscellaneous parts, the General Electric Company gave us the 250 watt vacuum tube used as the main power amplifier, and the Electrical Engineering department donated the room and the high voltage motor-generators used for power.

With this equipment communication was maintained directly with the Greenland expedition. Amateurs in all continents but Asia were contacted. One of the most interesting contacts was one with South Africa in which messages were exchanged concerning the observatory down there in which the University was interested. I do not remember the name of the place. All of this work was done on short waves by telegraph. The call used was 8AXZ.

I understand that sometime in 1928 or 1929 this equipment was rebuilt and subsequently was used in some of the first broadcasts, though I have no personal knowledge of this as I went to Detroit in early 1928.

I believe Mr. L. N. Holland of the Electrical Engineering department might help you out though I expect that you have already been in touch with him.

Sincerely yours,

(Signed) Robert R. Swain

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