

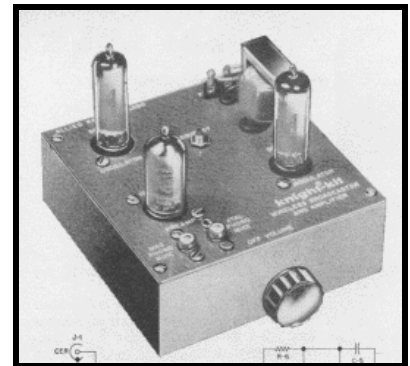
# WFS – The Beginnings of Monmouth College Radio Station

Compiled by Lee Schaeffer 65' for the WFS/WMC Reunion - June 2005

In our youth, we are exposed to so many new experiences that we never realize the historical significance of what we have done. The memoirs of these events are therefore written through the haze of time. Thus is the history of the campus radio station at Monmouth College. Hopefully many minds can recreate a chronology of the events of the early days of WFS “The Voice of the Fighting Scots.”

**Don Roegge 63’:** In 1960-61, I worked with the new speech professor and a couple of guys from my class, **Dave Acheson** and **Jim Seago** on a "proof of concept" idea for WFS. The concept was to locate a small radio transmitter in each dormitory and connect them to the studio with telephone wire. Once we proved that the little oscillators would work, we ordered a couple of inexpensive turntables, a couple of microphones and the rest is history. We knew that if there was interest from our tiny jury-rigged system, that money would somehow become available to build a station with a real transmitter and a license. “But first we had to sow the seed. And that's what WFS did. I think it has succeeded.”

The station began using Knight-Kit [Wireless Broadcasters #83Y706](#) kits from Allied Radio Corporation in Chicago. These three tube oscillators were quite popular at the time. The power output of 1/10 Watt met the FCC regulations for unlicensed broadcasting if used with an antenna less than 10' in length. Telephone lines were run through the underground steam tunnels and up to the attics of each dormitory and some of the fraternity houses. Don remembers slithering through the heat tunnels stringing the telephone wire to the various dorms. “Boy, it was good thing we didn't have claustrophobia!”



**Jim Seago 63’:** I recall making the Knight Kit Wireless Broadcaster systems and especially crawling along the tunnels to string the wire to the girl's dorm and also to the boy's dorm. I did not do all the “tunnel crawling”, but did enough to make a lasting impression. It was hot and I always wondered if they were going to encounter a copperhead snake. I know I got into trouble for providing some not so politically correct commentaries on the school's policies and administration (perhaps early Dilbert days.)

These low powered transmitters worked but provided the technical staff with hours of frustration. For starters, they were “hot chassis” which meant that you could be killed working on them! It was also dangerous to connect them to the studio via the phone lines. And, there were “hum” problems because each one was plugged into a different electrical circuit.

The first WFS studio was on the upper floor of Wallace Hall in a small room on the northeast corner. The room was in existence before the construction of the radio station with a glass window, primarily used for speech purposes. It was then adapted for radio station use. An electrical power line and the phone line to the dorms were run to the basement through the cold air return duct.

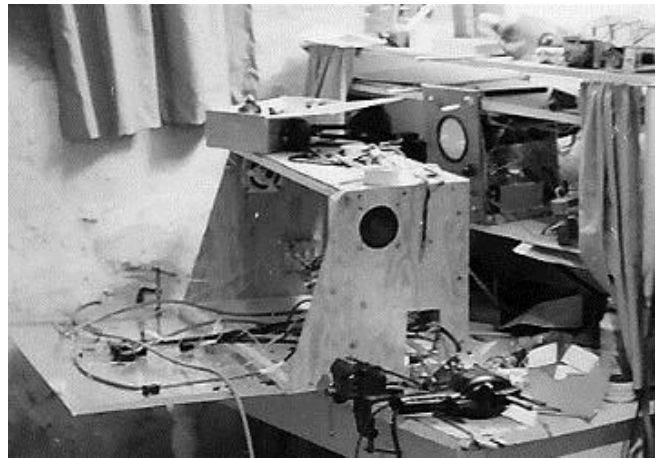


Foreground - Dave Acheson  
Wallace Hall Studio

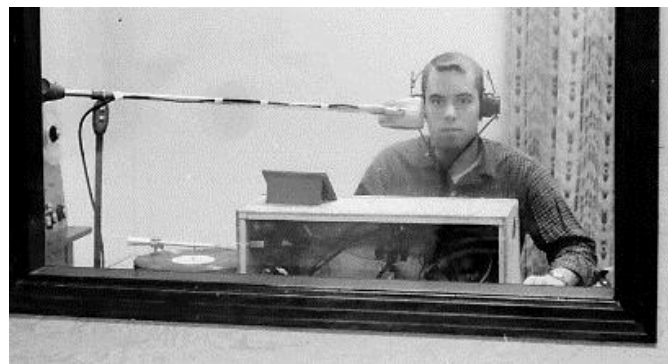
Once the transmitters were operational the question became, "Is anyone listening?" Don recalls having hooked things up in a dorm one Saturday, then beating it back to station area to check whether things were working. The staff had a number of discussions, some apparently with the microphone "open" and we not knowing for sure if anything was being transmitted. Fortunately, no major gaffes were transmitted. He did an informal sign off for the day then said something to the effect of, "That's enough of this. Let's go get a steak!" referring to the steaks that SAGA (Food Service) usually served on Saturday nights. One of the girls in one of the dorms let him know at dinner that they had heard his comment about getting a steak. Unfortunately, Don transferred out at Christmas time to start a semester at the University of Illinois.

**Lee Schaeffer '65'** began working for the station in the fall of 1961 as a freshman. The radio station was the natural place to hang out for a physics major with a special interest in electronics. His interest in radio began in high school when he built his own transmitter and transmitted illegally to test its performance. He designed a transformer based distribution system for the WFS phone lines that isolated the hot chassis and solved the hum problems. While at home during the Christmas break, he built a simple passive mixing console. This mixer was just several potentiometers that fed the PA amp but it made the station look somewhat respectable and easier to operate.

Lee's interests were more on the technical side but he did do the 6:00 PM newscast. We had no Teletype nor could we have afforded the wire service fees. After dinner, he would ride his bicycle downtown to WRAM, the local AM radio station. Their last news report was at 5:00 PM so they allowed us to pick up all the wire service Teletype printouts that were piling up on the floor. Lee would peddle back to Wallace Hall, run to the top floor, tear off the interesting stories and try to sight read them while still out of breath!



**Board under construction in Lee's basement lab.  
Christmas 1961**



**Dave Acheson 1961-62 Station Manager  
Using home-made board in the Wallace Hall Studio**

The staff quickly learned from listener's feedback that the limited power of the Knight oscillators could not cover the entire building. The easiest solution (often used by other colleges) was to run the antenna the length of the attic. This set a precedent for flaunting the FCC rules.

This simple solution created a new set of problems. It was soon discovered that the signal from one dorm was now reaching the adjacent building. With the Knight oscillators all transmitting on the same frequency, this produced interference consisting of whistles and strange sounds. Thus, WFS acquired its well-deserved reputation for "Weird Funny Sounds." The transmitters' frequencies were not crystal controlled and therefore very unstable. As the average temperature changed in the fall and spring, the oscillators would drift off frequency making the interference even worse. This required frequent trips the attics of the girl's dormitories much to the chagrin of Dean Liedman.

A solution was to use a different frequency in each dormitory. This created a whole new set of problems. With Monmouth being located in the center of the country, there were few open frequencies where radio stations from the coasts were not heard at night. Operating on the same frequency of even a weak station produced even more Weird Funny Sounds. Listeners had difficulty remembering the frequency in their dorm. Attempts at a professional sounding station break were comical as the announcer would recite; "This is WFS Monmouth, Illinois operating at 645, 720, 840, 960, 1015 and 1245 kHz."

The radio station was given a new home in the new student union that opened after the 1963 spring break. The building architects had met with members of the student staff and together designed a small but functional studio facility in the basement. To go along with the new studio facilities, the student staff decided that this was a good time to eliminate the local building oscillators and apply to the FCC for an official low power educational license.

**Edward Stuckey 64'** spearheaded this quest. He was an Amateur ("ham") Radio operator from the St. Louis area and knew all the right contacts. One of the first things he learned was that the FCC "Engineer in Charge" of the Chicago area did not endorse the concept of low power educational broadcasting and refused to act on any applications that were submitted. The only alternative was to operate an "underground" transmitter with enough power to cover the campus but low enough so the FCC would not catch us before we graduated. We also needed to find a clear frequency that would not suffer from other stations skipping in at night.

As Lee remembers the story, Ed talked to the chief engineer at WGN, the clear channel powerhouse in Chicago. The chief engineer came up with a novel solution. At sundown (in Chicago), WGN switched from a circular transmission pattern to a north/south directional pattern. This allowed it to be heard in most of Illinois except the far western area around Monmouth. We were far enough away so the "ground wave" did not reach us and too close for any nighttime "skip" as well. So the engineer proposed we operate on WGN's 720 kHz frequency! The WGN engineer said that he would take care of any interference problems that might be reported. However, a custom crystal for WGN's frequency would be quite expensive so Ed recalls choosing 1000 kHz for WFS because there were no broadcast stations nearby on 1000 kHz and a WW-II Surplus 1000 kHz "frequency standard" crystal could be purchased for a few dollars.

WGN was the flagship station for the Chicago Cubs. The die-hard Cubs fans in Monmouth used long wire antennas and sensitive receivers to pull in the games. They most certainly would have complained to WGN or the FCC if we interfered with their reception of the games. We found that by using a quality FM receiver and a large antenna on the roof we could pick up WGN FM's signal loud and clear. So, whenever there was a Cubs game that ran after sundown, we could rebroadcast the WGN-FM feed. We did this even though we eventually did not operate on WGN's frequency which made the "townies" happy to have us on the air.

Now all that was needed was a transmitter and antenna. Ed was a master at electronic design and construction and his electronic construction projects looked like works of art. (He had previously built several high power audio amplifiers that were used to prove that intense sound levels would make corn grow faster). Ed designed and built a 50-Watt crystal controlled transmitter with the intention of operating it at only 5 Watts (probably less than 100 Milliwatts of "effective radiated power"). At that power level, it would run ice cold and last forever. The transmitter was installed in one of the standard electronic equipment "racks" in the storeroom off the control room. The two racks contained the power supply for the audio board, the FM receiver, phone patch, monitor amplifier and the Crown tape deck. General Telephone had donated the racks and a lot of other interesting equipment.



**Frank Komatar - Denny Corbell**  
Two sections of the "Beer Can  
Vertical" under construction.

The antenna design was critical since we wanted only a local "ground wave." A "sky wave" skipping across the country interfering with other stations would no doubt incur the wrath of the FCC. For a host of technical reasons, this required a vertical antenna with a rather large diameter rather than a thin rod or a wire. To meet this requirement, we raided the garbage can at a local tavern and constructed a "beer can vertical" antenna. Steel beer cans were soldered together (and tastefully painted) to produce a light weight but sturdy antenna about 20' long and supported by guy wires on the roof of the Student Union. The result was a strong signal on campus but not heard outside the city limits.

**Denny Corbell:** I helped you and Ed build the transmitter and antennas and put the station together during the 63-64 year, but did not come back to Monmouth, but went to SIU Electronics program the next year. It was a lot of fun and we really had a good time getting it going. I know I never graduated from there, but it is really neat the way MC treats a student as though I did and have kept me up to date and in contact with the school all these years.

There were never any reports of interference before we graduated. Our faculty advisors were kept in the dark about the illegalities of our operation. The philosophy was that it would be easier to apologize than to ask permission. Hopefully the statute of limitations on running an underground radio station has expired.

Before the station began to broadcast from its new facilities; someone in the Speech Department obtained a 1938 second hand [RCA 76-B2](#) broadcast mixing console for \$800 from a radio station that had suffered a fire in their studio. It took some cleaning and replacement of vacuum tubes to get it up and running. Despite our diligent cleaning, the first comment made by people entering the control room for the first time was "What's burning?"

The new equipment did not end the **Weird Funny Sounds** heard over the air. The building architect had located the equipment room for the campus PBX phone system next in the radio studio's facility. This was in the days when phone switching equipment consisted of mechanical "stepping relays" that made a loud clanking noise with every turn of a campus phone dial. The door to the equipment room was directly across from the control room door. The relays could be heard chattering away in the background if you forgot to close the door when you were on the air. If the relay contacts became dirty or pitted, the electrical arcing would cause electrical interference in the station's equipment. The local technician for General Telephone finally tired of repeated service calls and taught us how to clean the contacts ourselves.



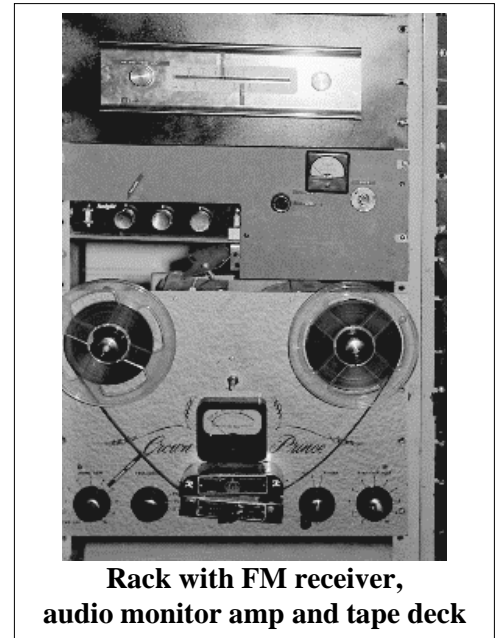
After vacating the studio space in Wallace Hall, we were asked to remove the Romex power cable that had been installed in the air return duct. One of the station members went to the basement, traced the cable to the antique fuse box, removed the fuse and called up the air duct cut the wire. There would be no need to chronicle what transpired if he had defused the correct wire. We placed the remains of the diagonal cutters in a satin lined box and awarded it periodically to the person who made the latest technical screw up around the station.



With most of the technical problems solved, we had to have an excuse for the weird sounds that were still occasional emitted. Our budget was so low that turntable needles and records were often used well past their prime. So, the standard excuse evolved that we initiated freshman staff members by having them rework the records with ice picks to produce our unique sound.

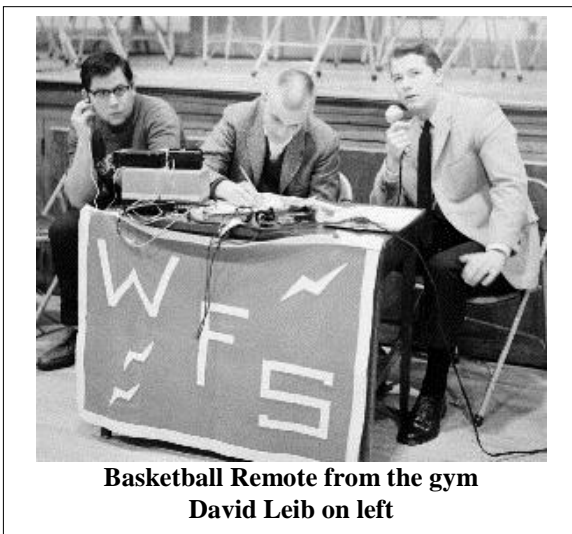
One of the stations early recording devices was an old portable record cutter. It used aluminum disks coated with soft plastic. It could make a reasonable recording if you were lucky and had a good cutting needle. The machine was the size of a small suitcase. Lee Schaeffer, rather than discarding it as junk, he lugged it back to Pittsburgh where it is still gathering dust in his basement museum of radio and television production equipment.

The stations primary recording device was an old [Crown Prince tape deck](#). This broadcast quality recorder used 11" reels and was housed in one of the equipment racks. It weighed a ton but we took it out of the studio for special events. We used it in the chapel at Christmas time to record "The Messiah." After the performance, we fast-forwarded the remaining tape onto the take up reel. Later when we had re-installed the recorder back at the station, we rewound the tape. About half way through, with the reels spinning at the speed of light, the hub assembly on one of the tape reels came apart! The reel bounced around for quite some time before coming to rest with a mass of tape festooned around the room. It took us several hours to re-spool the tape to save the performance, the expensive reel of tape and our reputations.



**Rack with FM receiver,  
audio monitor amp and tape deck**

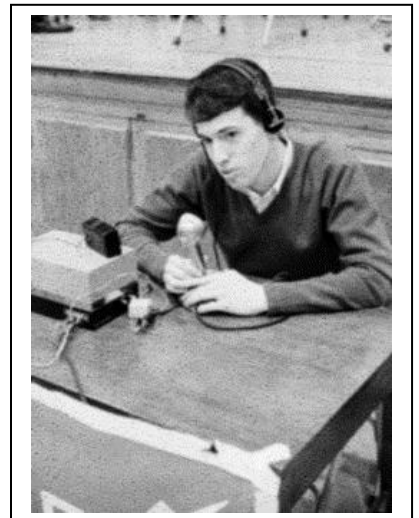
In the dark ages before electronic special effects, Frank Komatar 65' and Doug Wigton recorded a unique Halloween program. We dragged the Crown recorder over to the large rain water cistern under the back yard of their boarding house. The square concrete room produced a wonderfully spooky reverberation.



**Basketball Remote from the gym  
David Leib on left**

expensive proposition because it involved a long distance toll call. The college paid for the calls but there were frequent interruptions because the MC phone system would periodically cut off our connection.

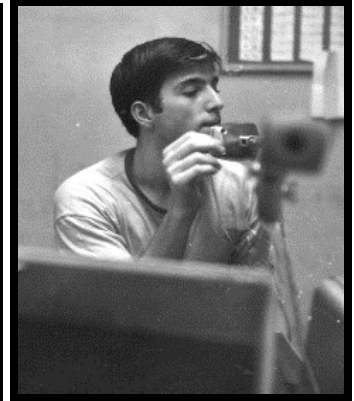
Live basketball broadcasts generated our largest audiences. We began with broadcasts from the MC gymnasium with a jury-rigged setup. The crew strung a wire from the audio mixer to the telephone in the gym office. They unscrewed the cap over the mouthpiece, removed the transmitter and connected the wire with alligator clips. Back at the studio, we connected the telephone earpiece to the mixer board in the same manner. It dawned on us that this same setup could just as easily be used to broadcast road games. Back then, this was a very



When the phone connection was lost, the announcers would have to run to the phone, hang it up and wait for the studio engineer to call them back. This was not a simple process because the studio engineer had to apologize to the listeners, put on a record and contacts the MC operator to place a long distance call with the phone company's operator. The MC phone system was set up so that dialing "9" for an outside line and then "0" for town operator switched the call back to the MC operator. This was done to prevent students from charging long distance calls to the college.

Lee Schaeffer found a solution while in charge of "the desk" at Fulton Hall in 62-63. He overheard a freshman student place a long distance call without using the MC operator. Casual conversation revealed that the student's home phone had a "crank" so he had never dialed a long distance call. He looked up the directions in the phone book which said "To place a long distance call, dial the operator." He did just that and dialed "O-P-E-R-A-T-O-R" (rather than zero). It worked! On the MC phone system, if you dialed 9 and then a non-existent town exchange, such as "OPE", the call transferred to a local phone company operator. This method bypassed the system blocking operator-assisted calls from the college. General Telephone never figured out how to fix the problem and we were honorable enough to keep the technique a secret!

We had fun with the phones during the construction of the new student union. The bell on the construction site's phone activated a loud Klaxon horn on a pole by the girl's dorm. One day we stopped in the construction shack and jotted down the phone number. At 2AM we dialed the number and watched the dorm light up! It took a few days for them to install a switch to disconnect the horn at the end of the day but every now and then, they forgot to turn it off.



Perhaps one cardinal rule of broadcasting that we never learned was "If DJs pick their own records, no one will listen!" Most of the DJs had a lot more fun than their listening audience but they learned a lot and had a great deal of fun in the process.

**Robb Ruyle 65':** Don Paulson and I hosted a program once a week called "An Enchanted Evening on Broadway," In which we programmed Don's collection of Broadway musicals, occasionally interspersed with some of my very early country/old time/string band stuff. Quite the contrast. Who cared if anyone was listening; we had a good time. Barbie Sigalove and (the late) Ann Hill had the time slot following us, I think. At least we were in the studio at the same time a lot.



**Don Paulson - Robb Ruyle**

I got back into radio in the early-to-mid 1980's as a volunteer DJ at our local public radio station, KVNF, in Paonia, CO. The bluegrass show I started is still on the air. I help underwrite it, but am otherwise not active with the station.

**Don Paulson 65':** I was just a DJ doing my own thing. Robb Ruyle and I had a show on Sunday nights in our senior year. Robb was my engineer and I played a Broadway musical each Sunday (I think I had a collection of about 30 original Broadway casts). I described the story between songs and Robb ran the equipment. It was a lot of fun. I have enclosed a picture from one of those Sunday nights of Robb, Barb Sigalove Ann Hall and me. They brought us a cake to celebrate our show being on the air for one month.



**Barb Sigalove - Don Paulson - Robb Ruyle - Ann Hill**  
Record library in background.



**David Leib at RCA board**

**David Leib 68':** For sure, the station was in the basement of the Union in September of 1964, because that's where it was the night I volunteered and met Lee Schaeffer, soldering connections in the old RCA board

I was "remote engineer" for that basketball game pictured above. One more picture for my kids to be embarrassed by. I cannot recall the play-by-play announcer. I do recall being told that one of our best play by play announcers, quite possibly this one, whose name I cannot recall, went to Armed Forces Radio and died in a car accident the following year.

The RCA board was replaced in 1967 or 68. I graduated in 68 and I know I used it during my senior year. As I recall, it was placed in the outer of the two studios, while the RCA board remained where it was. Pete Leverenz, my friend from High School and Monmouth, was WFS Chief Engineer during this period and might know more. I started at Monmouth in 1964. Pete came the following year. One of our first projects was to build carrier current transmitters based on the schematic used at the station at the University of Illinois. Pete got the schematic, I helped with the layout, and they were built in our basements over a summer. When we got back, they were installed in dorms and in the new fraternity complex at the northwest end of the campus. We were sort of legal. It turns out that there was enough leakage that we could be picked up on good receivers a few miles away. We remained on AM, to the best of my knowledge until my graduation in 1968. I believe the move to legal FM was shortly thereafter.

**David J. Kingsley 67':** As I understand it, the old RCA was salvaged from a station that had a fire. With funding from the speech department, in 1968 we purchased a Gates "Yard", so named because it was 3 feet long. The Gates representative made his presentation, then "wined and dined us" at Melings Motel for a fabulous steak dinner. I had never heard of such a thing...imagine taking US out to dinner!

**Sam Corallo 75':** Dave Oliwa was in charge of WMCR 1974-1975 and this was the year that the station in the student center was remodeled and a new board was installed. I helped with the remodel as did Rob Potter and Jon Dahl and several others.

In the 62-63 these seniors were listed WFS as an activity in the Yearbook:

**Eugene Dawson, David Peterson, Ronald Ikan, Norman Hodges, James Seago, and Donald Roegge**  
The record collection grew enough that **Janet (Larson) Newton** was the librarian.

Seniors in 63-64:

**David Acheson, Phillip Hay, Alan Marti, William Morgan, Edward Stuckey and Richard Smith**  
Steve Ellis was the station manager when the studio moved to the student union.



### 1965 Yearbook Picture

Row 3: Robert Peden 68', Don Paulson, Richard Warren, Jack Phelan, Bob Beyer. \*\*'

Row 2: Barbara Sigalove, Rob Groves 65/75', David. Kingsley 67', Robb Ruyle, Mary Rast 66'

Row1: Lee Schaeffer 65', Mary Mosely 76', Jane Eidt 66', Frank Komatar 65'

Frank Komatar and Lee Schaeffer were the co-managers station managers.



**John Wong 65' - Spiros Antonides**  
**Wallace Hall Studio 1961**

These are a few of the students who started the traditions of Monmouth campus radio. Few went into broadcasting but being behind a microphone and learning how to communicate are valuable lessons in any field.

We need others to continue this history after 1965. How did WFS evolve into WMCR and a closer association with the Speech Department? It is interesting to note that WMCR has come full circle and has returned to a "wired" distribution system with its studio back in Wallace Hall. As of 2005, it was back in a small office in the Student Union.





### **1961-62 Yearbook Photo**

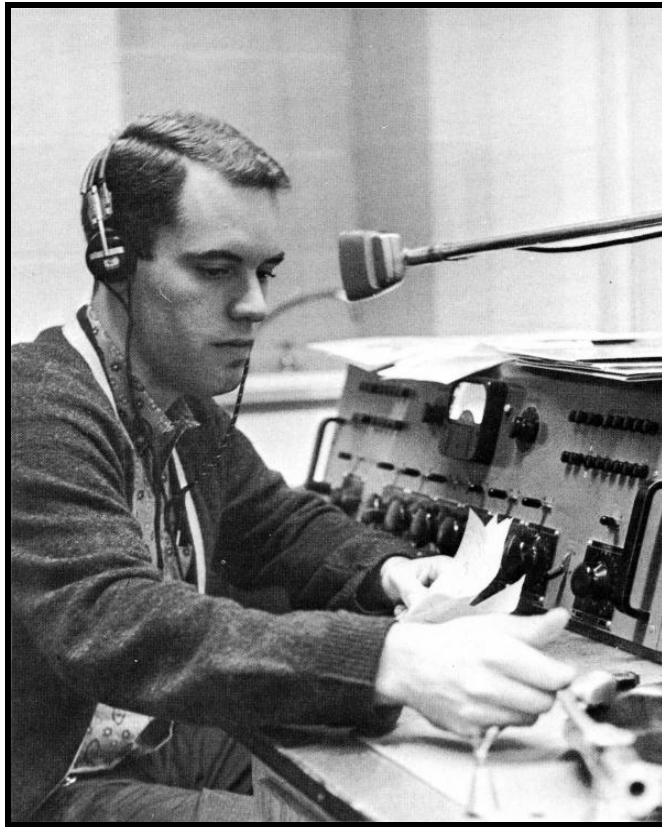
Row 1: Thomas Dailey, Gerry Morgan, Charles Blair, Douglas Wigton, Richard Smith, David Petersen, Norman Hodges, James Rainford, Terry Montgomery.

Row 2: Spiros Antoniadis, John Wong, Judith Sluka, Janet Larson, Keiko Matsumoto, Judith McCulloch, Juanita Teal, Donald Roegge.

Row 3: David Shaver, Alan Marti, Lee Schaeffer, Philip Hey, Ronald Ikan, Eugene Dawson, Richard White, James Seago, David Acheson.



**Edward Stuckey - Denny Corbell - Dave Acheson - Lee Schaeffer  
Setting up the Wallace Hall studio in 1963**



**Dave Acheson at the microphone in the new studio**



**Staff: Dave Anderson, Lee Schaeffer, Mary Rast, Ed Stuckey, Sherry Gist, Denny Corbell.**

“WFS moved to its new headquarters to the Union in March 1963, and expects to be on the air by early April. It will be open circuit instead of closed, and should be picked up by many more listeners than before.”

## **2015 A Real Station**

In 2015 the college has been selected by the Federal Communications Commission, over a great many competing non-profit organizations, for a license to operate a low-power FM station on campus. The Monmouth College radio station would then adopt the call letters **WPFS** (for Proud Fighting Scots). This type of broadcasting is ideal for our college allowing us to focus on its immediate audiences; students, faculty and the surrounding community.

At a relatively low cost, we could include: athletics, music, art, theatre, and drama, as well as public affairs programming developed by students and faculty. The initial funding for the FCC application was supplied by alumni who valued their experiences with Monmouth radio. Now the FCC has indicated that the license will be fully approved if the Monmouth station is operating by July 24, 2015.

The only remaining obstacle to the establishment of WPFS is the acquisition of the equipment needed to transmit public alert messages from the Emergency Alert Broadcast System. The cost of this equipment and installation is \$10,000. It is our goal to have several alums come together with gifts of \$2,500 to make this a reality.

## **MC Radio Station Will Begin Full Time Broadcasting Mid-Semester: Needs Staff**

**October 13, 1961**

For many years a small core of students, faculty and administration personnel have been engaged in establishing a radio station here on the college campus. Little real progress was made, however, until early this year when those interested in the station began to explore the possibility of a closed circuit station or wired wireless.

After studying several closed circuit stations, particularly those at MacMurray College and the University of Illinois, concrete plans were drawn up for a similar station on this campus. In brief, the plan was to run a signal to each of the five dormitories through telephone lines. At the dormitories, the wired signal would be transformed into standard radio waves which could be picked up on any standard receiving set. Under the leadership of Don Rogge, technical work began on the station this summer.

As the women's dormitories already have the necessary telephone lines, they will be the first to receive a broadcast signal. McMichael, being the nearest, has been selected for early experimentation. Last Saturday evening, experimental broadcasting was begun.

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### **McMike First Receiver**

Thanks to the enthusiasm and co-operation of McMichael women, the experimenters made much important progress in transmitting a clear signal. Even more important was student reaction to the station. Some women sent records to the studio to be played, others telephoned in requests and much needed information on the quality of reception. Many others volunteered their services to the station as secretaries and announcers.

Although the broadcast was only experimental and to only one of five dormitories, it proved conclusively that (1) the present method of broadcasting is a feasible one, and (2) many students not only want a college station, but wish to actively participate in its operation.

### **Personnel Needed**

Because of this enthusiasm and co-operation, plans for completion of the station have been intensified. It is hoped that the station will be broadcasting to both Grier and Winbigler at the end of this week, and instructions have been given to the General Telephone Company to begin installation of telephone lines to the men's dormitories immediately.

**By mid-semester, students should receive notice that the radio staff is being formed. Any student interested in participating in the station is encouraged to do so. With no major setbacks, full time programming should begin sometime during this first semester.**

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**Friday, October 12, 1962**

## **Acheson Completes WFS Schedule, To Broadcast 6 Hours**

Dave Acheson, the station manager of WFS, the Monmouth College radio station, completed the scheduling of programs for the new season of broadcasting. Beginning each evening at six o'clock with news, there follows six hours of music and campus highlights.



The radio station has been instituted as a public service to the students and as the fastest and most direct method of bringing news to the students. Dave will set aside time for organizations that wish to communicate to the students during the week. Announcements of meetings and other activities will be made if submitted to the station.

With rock and roll only being broadcast on Friday, the radio station is trying to educate the students in the realm of classical, jazz, and popular music. During the basketball season all games will be broadcast. Also the results of all swimming and wrestling events will be announced as soon as received.

This past summer the fraternity houses were connected to the line which had previously lead only to the men's and women's residence halls. WFS is a closed circuit system which can only be received in those buildings in which an oscillator has been placed. Barring any further difficulties. Dave has announced that the oscillators (transmitters) will be placed in the fraternity houses early next week.

There are still positions to be filled on the WFS staff as: stenographers, engineers, public relations personnel and others. Those who wish to apply should submit their names to Dave Acheson.

### Progam Schedule for October 1962

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Sunday
5:00	News	News	News	News	News	
5:15	DINNER MUSIC — DINING HALL					
6:15	Music	"Jazz Format" Wally Cordin	Music	Music	Music	
6:30	"M" Club Gene Dawson	Same	Same	6:45 Sports Dick Smith	"Top Three" Owen Gaede	"Jazz 204" Ron Ikan
7:00	"Easy Going" Frank Erion	"Sundown" Steve Altman	"Easy Going" Frank Erion	"Music About Town" Bill Steele	"Pogo Time" Charlie Blair	Same
8:00	"Musical, Etc. T. Dailey	Classical Dave Acheson	"Music At Random" Dave Acheson	"Cloud Nine" Owen Gaede	Rock & Roll Lewis	Owen Gaede
9:00	"Music At Random" Dave Acheson	"Waxing Hot" Al Marti	"Just About With Beabout"		Rock & Roll Owen Gaede	Same
10:00	Variety McLeod	McLeod	Same	Mary Reid Show		

## Oracle Clipping Preserved by Denny Corbell

October 18, 1963

### **WFS Not Likely to Make Sounds Much Before Christmas, Mgrs. Say**

*"Don't hold your breath."* This is the advice given to those who are anxiously awaiting the first intelligible sounds from any of the five places on the dial associated with WFS.

WFS is the campus radio station which had been operating successfully from Wallace Hall up until last Christmas. At this time, all the equipment was transferred to the beautiful new student union. This move was well received until it was found as the room was barely large enough for electrical equipment.

This is far from WFS's last problem. A new control board was purchased and found a white elephant.

The oscillators in the attics of all the dorms were adjusted in such a way that it was difficult to pick up any of the five frequencies WFS rides in Fulton, while McMichael's radios could be heard downtown. The men working on WFS can't get up to fix the oscillators in the girls' dorms except on Saturday morning.

At this time outside interference or static from other stations is at a minimum so the good reception of all channels makes accurate adjustment impossible.

The oscillator in Graham is buried in a remote corner of the attic so it takes half an hour of hard labor to get to it. To make matters worse, no one who has worked for WFS wants to handle the responsibility associated with the management of it.

The station, which once played music to study by, broadcast out-of-town games and rebroadcast F M programs, this tem temporarily in hibernation.

There are able students waiting to go to work preparing equipment to go on the air. First, though, the necessary repairs for the radio room must be made. This won't be considered until the present work at McMichael is completed. It could be weeks or months before that station known for "Weird Funny Sounds" is sending out any sounds at all

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### **Setting Up Studio in Union Basement**

By Steve Ellis

For the students now working seriously on the reviving of Monmouth College's radio station, WFS, the beginning of second term has been established as their goal for completion of the exhaustive set-up preparations being made.

The station is open to any freshman having an electronic background and a desire for radio work. Those freshmen interested are urged to contact Denny Corbell in Graham Hall as soon as possible.

At the present time, the station is being handled by several students who are putting a good deal of time and effort into its preparation. Some are working to improve the oscillator system winch will enable all dorms and houses receiving the station to receive it with greater clarity, while others are working on the designing and drafting of the studio itself in conjunction with Dr. Fernandez's radio course.

The control board, which was purchased by the station for \$800 last January, will have an important part to play in the station's operations, as it was purchased with the future in mind and includes many devices that were impossible to incorporate in the previous set-up and will now be used in the station's improved set-up.

Dr. Fernandez is the faculty advisor to the radio station and is active in managing the establishment of the operations in the Student Center. On completion of the set-up, the students who are now involved will take over the station with Dr. Fernandez remaining as advisor. The staff of announcers will be chosen in either December or January.

Both Dr. Liedman and Dr. Fernandez feel that Monmouth will soon have a station with a future. They both have expressed the opinions that if it were felt that the station' did not have a useful future, this much money and effort would not have been put into it

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**WFS to Begin Broadcasting Tuesday**  
**The staff also hopes to broad cast sports events this spring, if possible.**

**Steve Ellis To Be Manager of MC Radio Facility**

The Monmouth Oracle "The voice of the clan" Monmouth, Illinois, Friday, April 10, 1964

WFS, returned to the air this week with experimental broadcasts beginning Tuesday evening.

Station manager Steve Ellis said Tuesday that both Tuesday and Wednesday evenings would be merely experimental, enabling the station staff to' familiarize themselves with the workings of the station

WFS, broadcasting at 1000 KC, will program four nights, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday evenings for 5 hours, from 6:30 p.m. to midnight. 4-1/2 of these hours will originate from the studio in the first floor of the Student Center. After 10 p.m., WFS will rebroadcast WHBF-FM Rock Island.

Ellis said that for the time being WFS will carry mostly recorded music, until the staff becomes more familiar with the facilities. Then the station will branch out into interview and special programs. For example, an interview has been taped with the visiting chemist last week.

The new WFS is set up completely different than the old station. Presently the station is truly "on the air," because it broadcasts from a transmitter located in the Student Center. The old station depended on small oscillators located in each of the dorms and fraternity houses, an undependable sys tem as it turned out. It is planned that WFS will have a range slightly beyond the Teke house to the west and slightly beyond" the French House to the east. WFS is hampered by rigid FCC rules with regard to range.

A typical evening's programming has dinner music from 6:30 to 7 p.m., local and world news from 7-7:20, music from movies and Broadway shows from 7:20-8, classical music from 8-9, and popular music from 9-10. Ellis said that five-minute news briefs might be spotted in between the shows as needed.

Ellis said that as the WFS staff becomes more experienced, they will branch out into more elaborate activities. It is hoped that later this year a show will originate from the Union Snack Bar, with Owen Gaede interviewing students.

WFS was originally founded two years ago in a studio on third floor, Wallace Hall. It was a going concern for about one year until it floundered during second term last year. When Dr. Thomas Fernaridez arrived here this year he began work to revive the dead enterprise and it has taken two terms to set up the station as it originally should have been organized and to actually get on the air.



**Owen Gaede at WRAM Monmouth's local AM station**

## **Oracle clippings preserved by David Kingsley**

**Thursday, January 12, 1967**

### **Loud Noise From WFS**

**by LARRY GURIOLI**

David Kingsley, general manager of radio station WFS, announced to the Oracle this week that WFS has completed its expansion program which it announced last year. "We now reach all the major campus buildings," stated Kingsley, "and our listening audience is potentially a thousand people in number." The second term finds changes in management on the WFS staff. Taking over the job of assistant general manager and program director is Don Feldman, a freshman who formerly held the job of program director only. Taking over as advertising director is John Celentano, a sophomore TKE who has announced a broad plan of advertising packages. A final position change disclosed by WFS is that of head record librarian which Donna DeFries, a freshman, will fill. She will be in charge of WFS's 650 albums and 1,200 45 R.P.M. supply. "Because the records are all catalogued, requests can be easily handled," states Miss DeFries.

WFS will present a more balanced program schedule this term, however, the most time will be given to rock & roll. Feldman says "this term we will have six hours of classical music per week, four hours of folk music, four hours of Broadway tunes, and the rest of the time will be divided between rock & roll, mood music, news, sports and special events."

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### **Publications Board Discusses WFS Status With Kingsley**

**by BARBARA ANNIS**

A special meeting of the Publications Board was held on November 17 at 4:00 to discuss reorganizing the Publications Board under the title Communications Board to include the college radio station WFS under its jurisdiction. The Student Senate has asked the Publications Board to make a recommendation as to what should be done before the Senate takes action on the proposed change.

The main problem concerns the proportion of Speech department funds and the proportion of student funds which are allocated to the radio station, thereby confusing whether WFS should be under the control of the Speech department or of a student board. As it now stands, WFS is under the control of the head of the Speech department, who appoints the manager of the station. The manager and his executive council choose the rest of the staff and make most of the decisions.

Another point in favor of the change is that having all communications media represented on the same board would enable them to work more effectively together. At the present time, there is friction between the Oracle and WFS over advertising and news presentation. In the past the

Publications Board has successfully mediated a dispute between the Oracle and the Ravelings over photography for the two publications.

As explained by Len Porter, the change was being proposed in order to protect the station manager and the head of the Speech department from possible future conflicts. "As it is set up now, Dr. Fernandez is the ultimate head of the student radio station, with the power of hiring and firing the staff; thus the wishes of Dr. Fernandez theoretically control the radio station. We feel that the student radio station should be under the control of a student board."



Presenting reasons why WFS should not be under the jurisdiction of a Communications Board, David Kingsley stated that WFS is a branch of the Speech department and control of it cannot be changed except by the Board of Directors of Monmouth College.

Dick Brown, president of Publications Board, spoke in favor of the change. According to Dick, student funds as well as speech department funds are now allocated for the radio station, but students are not in control of the radio station as they are in other student communications media. Dr. Fernandez, head of the Speech department, chooses the manager of the station and the manager's salary comes through Dr. Fernandez. "A communications board to mediate disputes has not been found necessary at Augustana College," said Kingsley. They have a separate Radio Control Board with at-large student representatives to control the student radio station. He felt that competition between the Oracle and WFS was healthy and that they be "separate and divorced."

In addition to Publications Board members, station manager David Kingsley and three members of the WFS executive council, Bruce Blomgren, Pete Leverenz, and Don Feldman, were present to discuss the issue.

Mr. John Fox, instructor of English, made a motion that a fact-finding committee be appointed to determine the proportion of student funds and Speech department funds used for the radio station and the extent of academic association the station has with the Speech department. The motion was passed and Nancy Weber, Caroline Marvin, and Ken Cruickshank were appointed to the committee.

It was decided by the board to get the facts of the issue through the committee and to pass them on to the Student Senate for action.

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### **The Oracle Vol.. 69, No. 3 Monmouth College, 61462 October 8, 1965**

## **WFS To Begin Broadcasting Sunday At 7**

An improved W F S will begin a full programming schedule this coming Sunday, October 10, at 7 p.m.. The 1000 kc station will be setting its emphasis on service to the students with new programing features.

Improvements are slated for almost every aspect of -the station's operations. Restoration of the physical equipment will result in a clearer signal. Studio acoustics are being improved and the record library is being expanded. For the first time in the station's history, all broadcasting time slots will be filled by WFS announcers. The greatest programing advancement will be in the news field, according to David Kingsley, WFS Station Manager, The new News Department will feature a ten minute report on world news and campus events at 7:00, five minutes of social news at 7:30 and general news, both campus and world, every hour on the hour there after In addition, WFS hopes to air a series of editorials, with a phone opinion show for interested persons to give their responses, both pro and con. Another major feature will be at 9:50 each week-day evening, when Judy Burmeister's daily interviews with campus personalities and visiting lecturers heard on station WRAM will be broadcast over WFS.

Plans are under way to convert the station to carrier current broadcasting by the end of the first term. This would mean that the WFS signal would be carried through the electrical systems of all the campus residence buildings, so that the building's wiring system would act as a transmitter to all the radios in the structure.

Suggestions to improve the station's broadcasting have been made by Mr. Jim Mudd, Station Manager of WRAM (Local Monmouth station)

Other W F S . . Management positions are held by Gene, Haug, Program Director; Bruce Blomgren, News Director; Pete Leverenex, Head Engineer, and Rusty Steele, Publicity. Secretary for W F S is Mary Millhauser, The faculty advisor for the station is Dr. T. L. Fernandez.

## Vol. 69 Number 10 December 3, 1965

It was announced this week by WFS Station Manager David J. Kingsley, and Program Director Gene Hang, that due to the large number of applicants for the limited number of positions available as announcers; and due to the better quality necessary now that WFS has such a large listening audience, each announcer will have to pass an audition before being permitted to go on the air.

Students who have not announced on WFS before will be trained during the first week of the second term, and then will be given auditions. The announcers will be judged on several points, some of which have not yet been decided. Among those that have been considered: voice quality; technique; style of announcing; not necessarily in order of importance.

In addition to available positions as announcers, there are openings on the News Staff, Engineering Staff, and Library Staff.

If you would like to join Monmouth College's fast growing Radio Station WFS, please fill in the application-. Both Men and Women students are needed. After filling out the application just drop it in the campus mail. You will be contacted shortly.

### Application Form for a Position With WFS

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
Department: \_\_\_\_\_  
(one or more)  
Announcer \_\_\_\_\_  
News Staff \_\_\_\_\_  
Library \_\_\_\_\_  
Year (Circle one) 1 2 3 4 Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
Previous radio work? Yes\_\_\_ No \_\_\_  
Type of music you would prefer to play (Check one more) :  
Rock and Roll \_\_\_ Popular (Dinner Music) \_\_\_ Classical \_\_\_ Other \_\_\_\_\_

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**VOL. 70, No. 12      Monmouth College, Monmouth, Illinois 61462      JANUARY 19, 1967**

WFS radio will provide live coverage of the Knox-Monmouth basketball game at Knox on January 21. Sportscasters Bruce Blomgren and Ken Smith will be at the scene to deliver a play-by-play account of the game's action. Coverage will begin at 7:15 and will feature half-time interviews with both the Monmouth and Knox coaches.

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## WFS to Conclude Broadcast Year

With plans already made for next year, Radio Station WFS has announced it will conclude broadcasting for this year on the night of June 3, at 1:00 a.m.

"WFS has had one of the most successful years in its history," said David J. Kingsley, General Manager. "In addition to completing our carrier current system this year, we published the first two issues of our 'WFS Program Guide'."

Kingsley then cited some of the special coverage provided by WFS which will be continued next year. Among the features he mentioned were coverage of all home Monmouth football, basketball, and baseball games, coverage of Fighting Scot games at Knox, and broadcasting of Student Senate meetings. Some of the special services WFS provided this year were up-to-the-minute tornado information reports, and a replay of the Scots Sing and the Cleland Hall Dedication. WFS also carried the Monmouth-Knox debate live, and is establishing a tape library to keep a permanent record of these and other similar events.

WFS will return to the air on September 16, at the start of Orientation Week, and will furnish an information service for incoming students. This new service will enable students to call WFS and get the answer to questions they may have by listening to the radio, thus providing a central information pool and relieving the load on the college operator.

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**Monmouth College, Monmouth, Illinois 61462    JANUARY 19, 1967**

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Thursday, April 4, 1968 THE MONMOUTH ORACLE

**WFS Announces Improvements**

David J. Kingsley, General Manager of Radio Station WFS, has announced the acquisition by WFS of its new Gates control board. The new board which will be placed in operation during the next few weeks, replaces the present console built in 1938. "The installation of the new board," stated Peter Leverenz, the Chief Engineer at WFS, "should improve the quality of transmission."

Purchase of the new board by WFS was facilitated by a grant of two hundred dollars from the Student Senate. Robert Carter, a freshman from Palantine, Illinois, has been named the WFS News Director. Carter will replace Ed Greene, who will be devoting more time to the improvement of the programme of WFS. Kingsley also noted that WFS would broadcast live all home Monmouth College baseball games. All baseball broadcasts will begin at 12:00 Noon.

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**WMCR Alumni List**

**1965**

B. Beyer  
J. Eidt  
R. Groves  
F. Komatau ?  
M. Moseley  
D. Paulson  
B. Peden  
J. Phelan  
P. Rast R  
Rayle  
Lee Schaefer  
Barb Sigalove  
R. Warren

**1966**

Peter Leverenz  
Dave Tieband  
Lew Vandemark

**1967**

David Kingsley, Mgr.

**1968**

Marcia Brink  
Phil Cohen  
Jan Cox  
Leeta Erdman  
Don Feldman  
Pat Frantino  
Allan Hale  
Eugene Haug  
Sue Hopper  
R. Jacobsen  
Peter Leverenz  
Rose Biedenstein Leverenz  
Dave Lieb  
Lee McGaan, Mgr.  
Liz Phillips  
Don Schramm B.  
Thompson  
Lew Vanmark

MONMOUTH COLLEGE  
TO: Mr. David J. Kingsley  
Plantation, FL

February 15, 1993

Dear David,

I am writing to ask for your assistance in completing a project I have been working on recently. Since its founding in 1961 the Monmouth College Radio Station, WFS/WMCR, has operated variously as part of the Speech and Theatre Department, under the auspices of student government, as part of the Communication Board, sometimes with an active adviser, other times operating almost autonomously in the hands of its student managers. In 1986 the station returned to the academic program and is now a part of the Department of Speech Communication and Theatre Arts. One consequence of this history is that records have been poorly kept or lost (in Student Center floods!). Thus, we have had no accurate list of WFS/WMCR Alumni. However, over the last couple of months using old issues of the Oracle and the Ravelings, some letters from alumni, a student written history of the station and the (often fuzzy) recollections of people here at the college we have constructed a preliminary alumni list. Attached to this letter is the portion of that list which covers the period you were here.

The assistance I need from you is in correcting and supplementing this list. I hope you will be able to take a few minutes of your time to look over the list and provide me with more information. Are there additional names of staff you can add to any of the years you were here? Do you remember the jobs or titles held by any of the alums on the list? Were any of the people listed active in more (or fewer) years than shown? By any chance do you know how to contact any of those individuals whose addresses are unknown?

If you can help me with any of this information, just write your responses on the list itself and use the enclosed envelop to return it to me. I am hopeful that, with your help, we will be able finally to create a complete and accurate WFS/WMCR Alumni list. When we do I'll be sure to send you a copy. Feel free to share any additional memories or thoughts about your relationship with Monmouth College Radio too. I'd love to hear from you. Naturally, if you are going to be in the vicinity of Monmouth I'd like to have the chance to show you around the station and introduce you to some of the current student staff. Just let me know.

Thank you very much for your assistance.

Lee Megan '69, Associate Professor and WMCR Adviser  
Department of Speech Communication and Theatre Arts

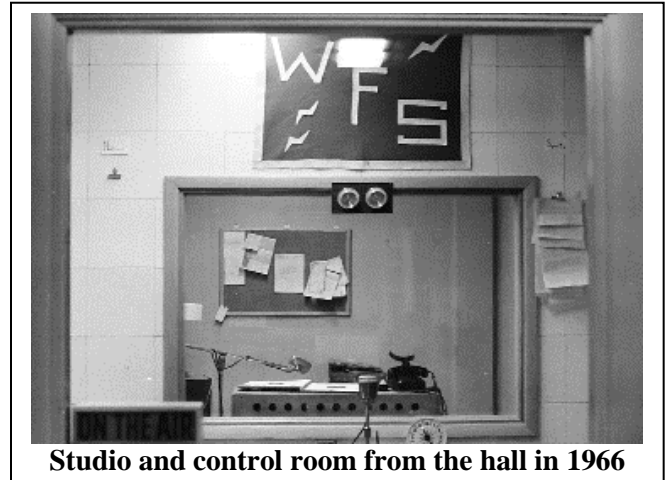


**Original Wallace Hall Studio in 1961**



**About the Author:** Lee Schaeffer's talents were primarily in the technical operations of the station but he needed a quiet place to study and play his personal record collection. Since no one else wanted the late night shift, he produced a forerunner of a late night PBS classical music program. On a good night, he was lucky to have an audience of three. The theme music was later adopted for use by "Masterpiece Theater."

After graduation, he began in teaching physics at Churchill Area High School (Later became Woodland Hills High School.) near Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. He returned to visit MC at Easter in 1966 with a low power FM transmitter and connected it to the FM antenna on the roof of the student union. That evening he and the current staff made a demonstration broadcast that proved that FM produced a superior signal that solidly covered the campus without any weird funny sounds. At the same time, he demonstrated a homemade vidicon television camera. This was probably the first TV camera on campus and was quite a novelty at the time.



Studio and control room from the hall in 1966

Physics was fun but from his experiences at WFS, he realized that broadcasting was even more fun. John Warsaw 66' was attending law school as Syracuse University and talked him into their masters program in Instructional Communications. This led to a thirty-two year career teaching radio and television production. He is active in the Pittsburgh Antique Radio Society and is a board Member of the National Museum of Broadcasting trying to preserve the technical history of the early days of radio and television.

Not known as a writer, the only compliment he ever received in Mrs. Cleland's freshman English class was "Is this your own work?" He only survived by paying top dollar to those willing to proof read and type his papers.

**Please e-mail additions and corrections to [Lee@schaeffersite.com](mailto:Lee@schaeffersite.com)**

Ask for a copy of my CD with all the WFS pictures, documents and hundreds of Raveling and Oracle pictures scanned from his negative collection as staff photographer.