

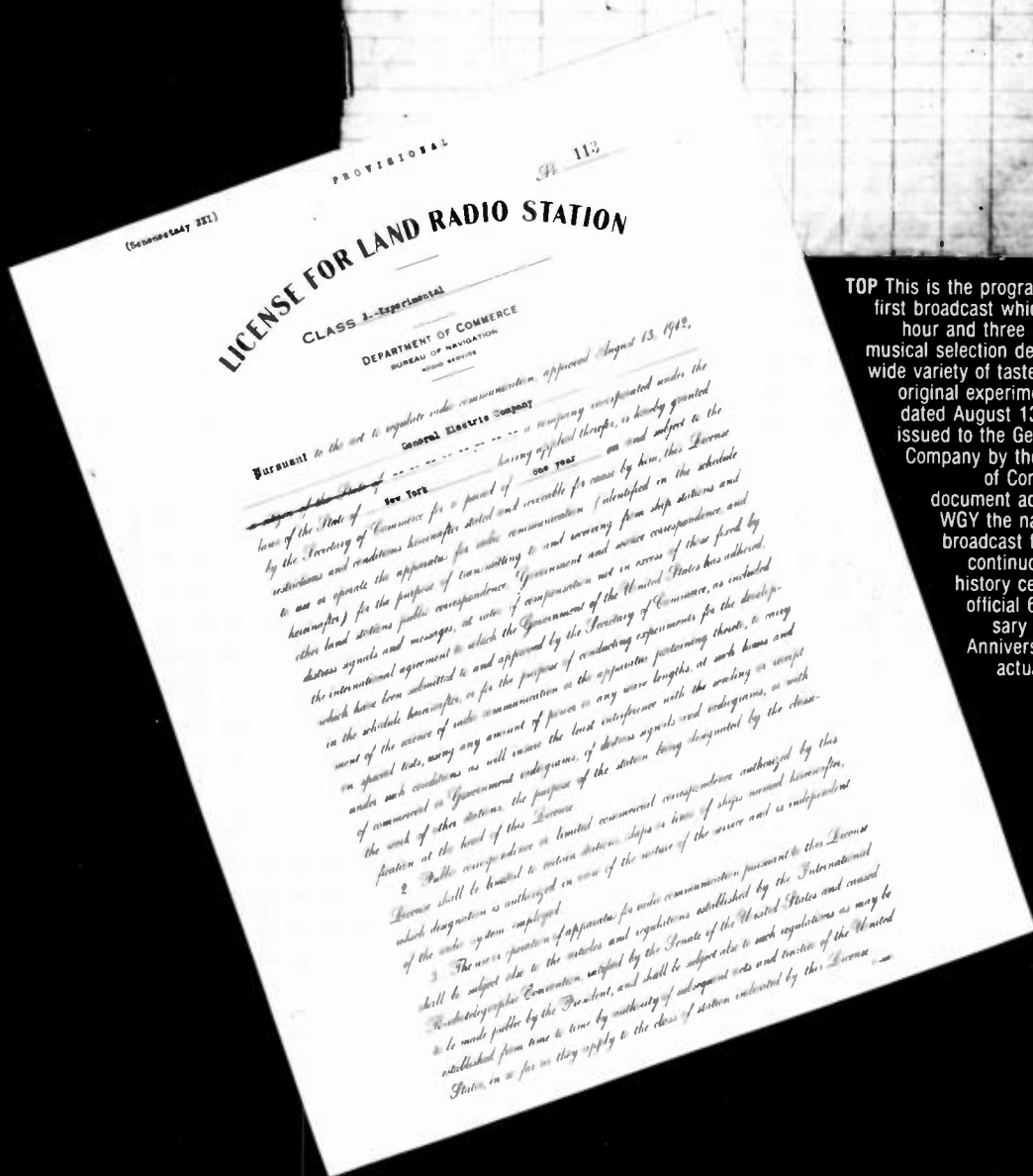


# WGY'S FIRST HOUR

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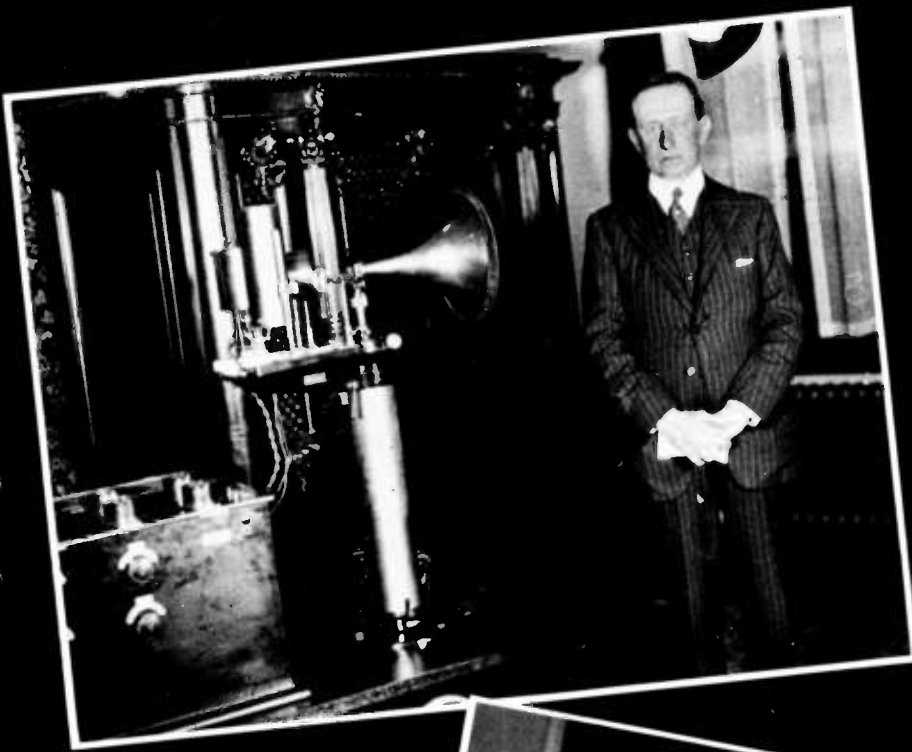
W.G.Y. 2/20/22. 1.5K.10.

PM  
 7:47 Announcement WGY  
 7:48 Lylofton Record  
 7:51 Announcement of Program  
 7:52 Violin Solo Edvard Ried Romance  
 7:59 Announcement "Carry Me Back" Shannon Four  
 8:05 Shannon Four "Rosary"  
 8:09 "The Shepherd Boy" Viola Solo Earl Ried  
 8:13 W.G.Y. Scotch Songs Mrs. Brewell "My Lullaby"  
 8:18 "Comin' Thru the Rye"  
 8:23 Shannon Four "Arnie Samis"  
 8:29 "Spanish Music" Earl Ried  
 8:35 Shannon Four "Little Tommy went a-fishing"  
 8:39 "Song of India" Violin Solo Ed Ried  
 8:43 "Ond Nana" Edvard Ried WGY  
 8:50 Signeng. Off.



TOP This is the program log for the first broadcast which lasted one hour and three minutes. The musical selection demonstrates a wide variety of taste. LEFT The original experimental license, dated August 13, 1912, was issued to the General Electric Company by the Department of Commerce. This document actually makes WGY the nation's oldest broadcast facility with a continuous operating history celebrating the official 65th Anniversary and the 75th Anniversary from the actual beginning.

# THE CREATORS



TOP A visit to the WGY studios by Guglielmo Marconi, the father of telegraphy. By 1917 the Marconi Company of America was sending signals to ships at sea by utilizing a 50 kilowatt transmitter, then the world's largest, from their facility in New Brunswick, New Jersey. The Alexanderson alternator that powered the transmitter was the creation of Ernst F.W. Alexanderson, **RIGHT**, who later made significant contributions to the development of radio at WGY. **CENTER** Charles P. Steinmetz, one of the creative geniuses in the early development of WGY. **BOTTOM** WGY's first home, Building 36 in the General Electric complex. Martin P. Rice, the station's first manager, is flanked by Kolin Hager, the head of studio and programs along with the originating staff members.







**TOP** WGY aired the first drama especially adapted for radio, "The Wolf" by Eugene Walter in August 1922. The weekly dramatic presentations by the WGY Players was a regular part of life for area listeners. To avoid "mike fright" microphones were often hidden. In this picture the microphone is disguised as a floor lamp. **RIGHT** Included in WGY's early guests were these world travelers who spoke of their adventures. The man on the right is Sir Hubert Wilkins, arctic explorer. **CENTER** The world's first radio remote broadcast; the 1922 coverage of the Yale-Harvard football game from New Haven, Connecticut on WGY. **BOTTOM** This South American delegation stands in front of the WGY studios. The station's short wave experiments involved experiments that covered the world including a dog and cat fight with the cat in Schenectady and the dog in Australia.



# THE MANY PERSONALITIES OF WGY



**TOP** The WGY string orchestra and soloist demonstrate early broadcast styles. **LEFT** Featured performers in the '30's were Jerry Coyle and Annette McCullough also known as the Blue Velvet voice. **BOTTOM** The WGY Orchestra as it broadcast from the State Theatre in Schenectady.





Singers and actors created a great variety of programs for listeners' pleasure. Note the everyday items employed to create the required sound effects for these dramatizations.



# WGY'S IMPORTANCE GROWS



ABOVE New York Governor, Alfred E. Smith, delivered his inauguration speech over the WGY airwaves as did his successor Thomas E. Dewey TOP. LEFT Amelia Earhart graced the WGY airwaves before departing for her attempted flight around the world. LEFT Franklin D. Roosevelt addressed WGY listeners as New York's Governor in a manner similar to his presidential "Fireside Chats". BOTTOM Admiral C. Nimitz reaches a war time audience and ships at sea via WGY's airwaves.







**TOP** WGY's mobile news vehicle covers the return of World War II soldiers in 1945. **LEFT** The construction crew for the new transmitting tower in 1938. At 625 feet, the tower was half the height of the Empire State Building and the tallest in the country. **CENTER** 1938, WGY's new studio building. **BOTTOM, LEFT** In 1938 WGY invited area dignitaries to visit the new facilities in front of the GE plant on Washington Avenue. **BOTTOM** Visitors and orchestra in "Little Radio City" in the late '30's.



The National Broadcasting Company  
and  
The General Electric Company  
Cordially invite you to attend a preview inspection  
of the

New WGY Studio Building

Saturday Morning, July the Ninth, from Nine to Twelve O'clock  
Schenectady, New York

Admission by this  
card only

Building will be open to the general public at 12 o'clock noon

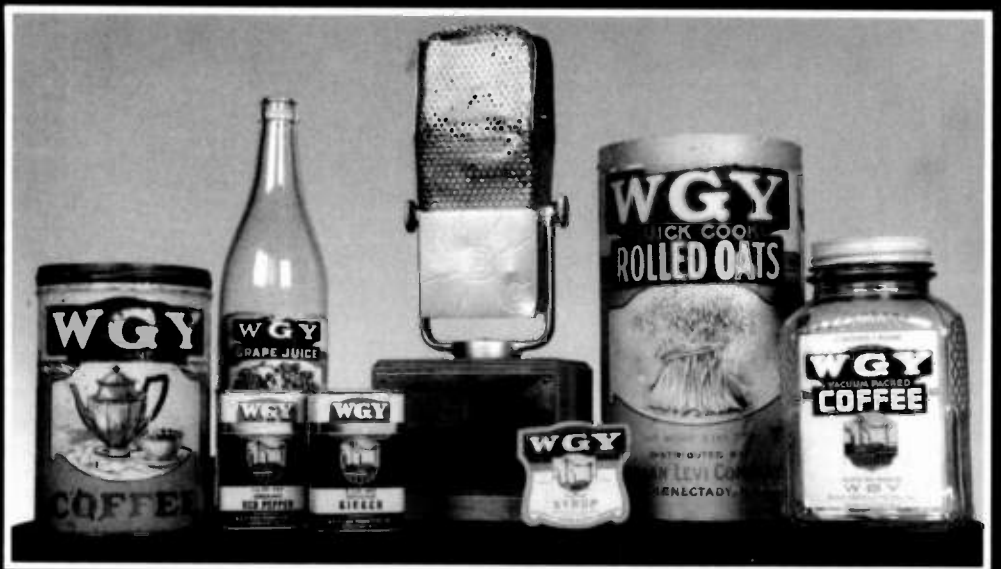
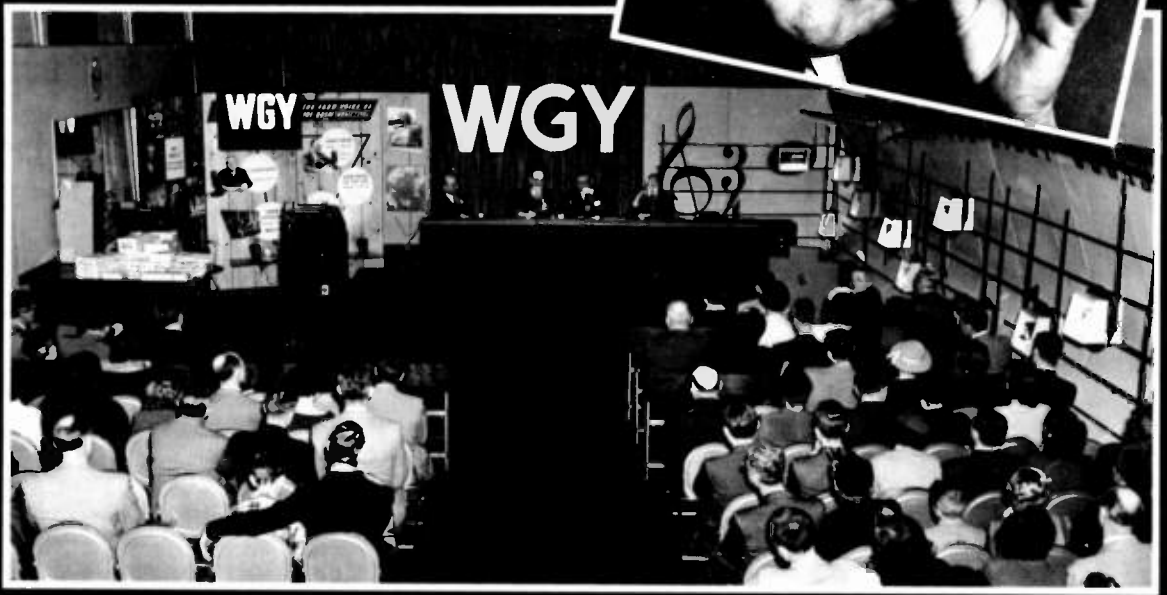
Kolin Hager  
Station WGY



# CULTIVATING RECOGNITION



**TOP** David and Martha, "Breakfast With Brooks." Martha Brooks holds the distinction of hosting the longest running woman's talk show on radio. **RIGHT** Charles John Stevenson, WGY's early morning Chanticleer for over 19 years, began his career at the station in 1925 and maintained his popularity for 40 years, hosting the Farm Paper of the Air. **CENTER** The Farm Forum continues its long history in 1952 from Studio A. **BOTTOM** A sampling of the WGY line of food products. Levi Wholesale Grocers distributed these items in WGY Food Stores.



# WGY FIRSTS

First station in New York State.

First coverage from outside the studios as Gov. Nathan Miller spoke on WGY from Union College, two miles from the studios on February 23, 1922.

First presentation of a radio drama in August of 1922 as the WGY Players presented "The Wolf" by Eugene Walter.

First World Series coverage as WGY joined with WJZ in New York in October, 1922 to carry the game announced by Graham McNamee.

First remote broadcast: Yale-Harvard Game, 1922.

First use of the condenser microphone.

First international dog and cat fight broadcast with the dog in Australia and the cat in WGY's studios in Schenectady.

WGY broadcast first two-way communication with England.

First transworld transmission via short-wave to the Netherlands and then to Java; to Australia and back to Schenectady.

First radio station to solve a major criminal case: the 1923 kidnapping of Ernst F.W. Alexanderson's six year old son. Alexanderson used WGY's airwaves to plead for his son's safe return. The broadcast was heard by Bert Jarvis of Teresa, New York, near the Thousand Islands, over 150 miles from the station. The child's description fit that of a boy brought by a man and woman to the summer cottages where Jarvis was caretaker. Police were called and Verner Alexanderson was soon returned to his parents. "Radio Broadcast" magazine carried the headline "Radio Repays Its Genius".

First network affiliation as WGY in 1925, WTIC, WFBL, WLOC, WHAM, WTAM linked together to broadcast drama and specials.

First broadcast at 50,000 watts of power in 1925. At various times WGY also transmitted at 100,000 and as much as 200,000 watts with reports of reception from as far away as New Zealand.

First NBC affiliate in 1926, along with WTAG, WTIC, WEAJ, WOC, WTAM, WJAR, WRC and WCSH.

First station (and perhaps only one) to have food products and stores featuring WGY Products all over the Northeast. Levi Wholesale Grocers had a line and distribution for WGY Food Stores. Products included coffee, tea, oatmeal, spices, etc.

WGY owes a great debt to those people and events upon which its foundation has been built. At 65 WGY continues the tradition of leadership. The award-winning news department, well-known personalities and popular blend of the best music of the past three decades keeps us in tune with the area listeners as they tune to 81 WGY.