

CELEBRATING 25 YEARS
A HISTORY OF WGMC
90.1 and 105.1 FM



researched by Mim Cohn
printed December 17, 1999

*Mim Cohn began this project
in early 1998 by confronting one very oversized scrapbook, several photo
albums and scrapbooks and lots of newspaper clippings in boxes and files.
We imagined
the task of organizing bits of history to be a short task.
Not so!*

*Fortunately, we found some years of WGMC history to be more organized
than other years. Thanks to Marilyn Schultz, publicity director for WGMC
back in the early years, for organizing so well.*

*Although the History of WGMC contains some missing pieces, what we do
know is that, like all things, the station changed over the years and
through it all was sustained by groups of dedicated people.*

*WGMC history is made possible, in part, to all these people who had a
vision, found a way, tried ideas, survived change, and ultimately gave their
time, talent and financial support.
To you, we say, thanks!*

*Charyll E. Monk
WGMC Underwriting and
Development Manager*

The broadcasting license for
WGMC 90.1/105.1 FM
currently is held by
Greece Central School District
Board of Education
Joseph Doran, President
Karen Hoffman, Vice President
William Grason, Jr. Fred Koeng
Richard Hood Robert Mueller
Lisa Swartz Gerald Phelan
Paul Wawrzyniak

Steven L. Watts
Superintendent of Schools

WGMC is under the supervision of
Greece Community Education
Charlotte Wilson, Director Community Education
Amy Peritsky, Community Education Coordinator

WGMC Staff
Eric Gruner, Operations Manager / Program and Music Director
Charyll Monk, Underwriting and Development Manager
Joëlle VanBuren, Production Director
Gary Nacca, PSA Coordinator / Traffic Manager

WGMC 90.1/105.1 FM
P.O. Box 300 * North Greece, New York * 14515
telephone (716) 621-9233
fax (716) 621-8692
e-mail wgmc@greeceny.com
<http://wgmc.greeceny.org>

Some of the many people associated with WGMC over the past 25 years.
We apologize if your name is missing.

Stuart Adams
Manfred Albrecht
Virginia Allen
Mehnet Arican
Mustafa Aslancil
Audra Abruzzese
Peter Bartell
Ray Baumler
George Bean
Elaine Beetow
Patrician Bertram
Joseph Best
Louis Betstadt
Dan Bindert
Todd Blide
Tom Bohan
Carol Bohan
Roger Boily
Richard Boy
Jim Brady
Richard Burt, Jr.
Dick Burt
Jim Captain
Derek Case
Mike Caito
John Capozzi
Nadine Catlin
Randy Cepu
Fran Chierico
Andy Chinnici
Mim Cohn
Tom Conderman
Paul Conley

Paul Clark
John Craig
Allen Cuseo
John Craig
Bernie Davis
Eddie DeCastro
Lee deKramer
Ralph Dettman
Mike DiMartino
Phil Dodd
Andrew Dowd
B. Drummon Ryan
Helen Emens
Ogun Erkenkalkan
Jack Ertle
Kim FinzerBellavia
Al Frascatore
Tom Frisk
Denise Gaines
Kathy Garrison
Bob Golden
Sharon Grossman
Edward Graff
Diedra Groth
Eric Gruner
Julie Hall
Paul Hayhurst
Maureen Hedberg
Andy Heinze
Erik Hental
Burt Hinline
Chris Hobson
Dave Hodge

Allan Holmes
Bob Holtz
Allen Hopkins
David Hopkins
Jessie James
Geroge Jaynes
Anthony Jackson
Jamie Johnson
Janet Johnson
Keith Johnson
Robin Johnson
Chris Kalen
Lee Kauffman
Jim Kelly
Augie King
Viv King
Raimund Kirstein
Bill Klein
Cassandra Kolock
Kurt Kowalski
Mike Kozakiewicz
Beth Krueger
Steven Lang
Bill Landon
Greg Lefebre
Mark Lepel
Ellen LaLonde
Dawn Lambiase
Denise Lazor
Bruce Levitt
William Lindsay
Bob Linqvist
Tony Liotta

Madeline Littrell
Hunter Low
Derick Lucas
Bob Lucieer
Ellen Lydon
Eugenio Marlin
Amy Martens
Randy Martens
Edwin Martinez
Narciso Martinez
Domingo Martinez, Jr.
Bob Maurice
Lynn McDonald
Ted McGraw
Dan McGuire
Joyce Medwin
Al Meilutis
Chet Mehta
Jim Meyers
William Middleton
Fred Miller
Charyll Monk
David Monk
Randy Moredock
Dave Moskal
Suha Mumcuoglu
Courtney Murphy
Gary Nacca
Jean Nash
Steven Nash
Marie Nightengale
Sid O'Connor

Bob Oaks
Jim Odell
Julie Oehlbeck
Gary Omphroy
Brian Oyer
Paul Pakusch
Jim Parish
Nancy Parks
Amy Peritsky
Tom Pethic
Marilyn Pfahl
Donald Porterfield
Virginia Probst
Mary Puff
Abe Ray
Terrie Ray
Al Rehn
Mike Reinartz
Donald Riley
Luis Rivera
Laurylann Romeo
Duane Rupert
Lee Rust
Mike Ryan
Rich Ryan
Norma Sarvey
Rip Savage
Ray Serafin
Bill Schwartz
Sharon Schnable
Dorthea Schommer
Thomas Schommer

Marilyn Schultz
Bill Schwartz
Mike Serowik
Francoise Shahin
Laurie Smith
Dick Speis
Douglas Spencer
James Spencer
Ann Spurling
Dave Starr
Gloria Stassan
Hubert Stein
Jackie Stein
Ron Stein
Gloria Strassan
Ruth Tancrede
Michael Tarkulich
Jeanne Thomann
Zack Toczynski
Scott Utley
Joëlle VanBuren
Carl Verneti
Mike Ward
Anthony Wechsler
Ilene Weiss
Nancy Whelk
Angie Williams
Charlotte Wilson
Dave Youngman
Bob Zimmerman
Ron Zimarino

HISTORY of WGMC

Researched and written
by Mim Cohn

Made possible in part through the efforts of
Nadine Catlin Charyll Monk

Manfred Albrecht Gary Nacca
 Amy Peritsky
Jeanne Thomann Tom Schommer

December 17, 1999

From 1970- July 1971 A group of adults and students in Greece, New York form a study group to discuss the idea of a community radio station. Their mission is to use radio as a vehicle to involve the community in the schools. The group receives funding for \$3,385, including a grant of \$1,900 from New York State Education Department *Project Redesign*, a program to help redesign education for the future.

The Greece Central School District Board of Education creates a Corporation for Public Broadcasting for the Town of Greece. This establishes a radio station that serves as a communication tool for the community as well as an enhancement to the high school curriculum.

Hunter Low, Tony Liotta, Lou Betstadt and others head up the planning for WGRC by forming the Community Broadcasting Council, a subdivision of the Community Redesign Council. Low becomes chairman of Council.

The Council decides students, community volunteers and professionals will staff the radio station. In a short time, more than 300 students representing four high schools and 37 adults sign up to work at the station.

September 1971 Greece Central School Board approves the creation of a 10-watt FM radio station subject to FCC approval.

March 1972 WGRC scheduled to go on the air September 5, 1972, broadcasting from Greece Athena High School.

Note: The GR-- presumably an abbreviation of Greece-- was changed to M later to avoid confusion with a Buffalo station that requested permission for the same call letters.

November 1973 The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) assigns WGMC call letters. WGRC assigned to another station in Buffalo.

November 1, 1973 With a 45-year old turntable and a 55-year old control board donated by WROC, a commercial radio station, WGMC begins broadcasting weekdays from 2:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. Format includes rock music and "softer sounds" for adults. Louis Betstadt serves as broadcasting instructor and

station manager and Michael Tarkulich serves as chief engineer.

June 1974
WGMC off the air for summer school vacation. Plans are in the works to go stereo and increase station wattage.

September 1974 Greece Supervisor Donald Riley chats with town employees on "These People are Working for You."

September 1974 WGMC now broadcasting music in stereo but unable to transmit in stereo until equipment is updated.

October 1974 WGMC begins broadcasting live Greece Central School District Board of Education meetings.

October 1974 "Irish Party House" debuts on WGMC with Edward "Ted" McGraw presenting Irish music, history and present day events in Ireland.

November 1974
1st Anniversary
WGMC celebrates at Long Ridge Mall with program and display of student-operated radio station.

April 1975 WGMC begins summer broadcasting and looking for additional staff, particularly in the sports department.

September 1975 WGMC receives official commendation from President's Council on Fitness and Sports for "significant and

outstanding contributions toward furthering the work of the Council.”

September 1975 Ron Stein’s “Friday Night of Gold” brings original rock ‘n’ roll music from the ‘50s and early ‘60s to WGMC on Friday nights for three hours. His personal collection includes over 7,500 45s and albums.

October 1975 WGMC carries highlights of the New York State School Board annual convention held in Rochester, under a pool arrangement with WXXI-FM and student stations from West Irondequoit and Rush-Henrietta.

October 1975 WGMC trains volunteers interested in joining the station. Training includes taping of all locally produced radio programs and recording public service announcements, station promotions and identifications.

October 1975 WGMC begins exclusive broadcasts of Junior Hockey with Buffalo Blades vs. Rochester Monarchs.

November 1975 *2nd Anniversary*
WGMC plans to increase power from 10 monaural watts to 1260 watts in stereo. The station seeks to raise \$30,000 through the sale of entertainment and merchandise discount-coupon books.

November 1975 WGMC inaugurates a live show on Saturdays from Long Ridge Mall that includes music, quiz shows, story telling for tots and how-to demonstrations.

November 1975 Louis Betstadt, WGMC general manager, attends the annual fall meeting of the New York State Speech Association and participates as a panel member on broadcast education programs.

November 1975 Richard M. Burt, 14, WGMC staff member and son of Mr. and Mrs. Richard Burt, dies in a tragic accident. Richard Burt, Sr. is a local television news anchor.

November 1975 WGMC airs “Not for Children Only” three times a day on Tuesdays. Sponsored by Greece Continuing Education, the program discusses community or educational topics of interest. Myron White, President of the Greece Performing Arts Society, is one of the featured guests.

December 1975 Country Talent Agency promotes WGMC programs and DJs in its national publicity.

January 1976 FCC denies WGMC permission to increase the power from 10 to 1260 watts stereo because of an agreement between Canada and U.S. that prevents the interference of signals. A college in Hamilton, Ontario, Canada, also uses the 90.1 frequency with a power output of 100,000 watts. General Manager Louis Betstadt seeks assistance from the Honorable Barber Conable.

January 1976 WGMC begins broadcasting Greece Central high school basketball games.

February 1976 WGMC broadcasts “Viewpoint” hosted by Augie King. The issue will be “National Education Association, or New York State United Teachers - which organization will represent New York state teachers?”

February 1976 *WGMC Transmitter*, the station newsletter, makes its debut and informs students and staff of station activities.

March 1976 WGMC volunteer staff receive certificates of commendation at the Town of Greece annual Safety Awards Banquet.

March 1976 WGMC Jamboree, a benefit concert starring various country music stars, is held at Olympia Auditorium.

April 1976 WGMC requests funding for a secretary. Greece School Board denies request.

April 1976 Two college students from downstate New York, Malcolm Lowry and Caren Coccaro, enhance their education by interning at WGMC.

April 1976 WGMC adds programming to complete a full week of broadcasting, including:

- “Books for Busy People” -- serializes novels
- “These People are Working for You” with Supervisor Don Riley highlighting Town personnel
- “People Business” -- programs and personalities connected with the YMCA
- “From Satchmo to Miles and Beyond” with Pete Bartell

- “2001” acquaints young people with various organizations
- “Stories for the Very Young” with Uncle Al Cuseo
- “Irish Party House” with Ted McGraw
- “Brazil 75” -- the people, customs and music of Brazil
- “Viewpoint” -- a discussion of education issues
- “Perspectives in Counseling” provides information on school and career counseling
- “Creative Women” explores women’s issues
- “Front Row Center” reviews the latest movies and TV shows
- “Friday Night Rock Music”

April 1976 “Not for Children Only,” with Community Education Director Bob Holtz, expands topics to include discussions on English as a Second Language and senior citizen activities.

May 1976 WGMC holds a recognition banquet to honor students involved at the station. Participants include Superintendent David B. Robinson, WGMC Broadcasting Director Lou Betstadt, Greece Town Supervisor Donald Riley and featured guest Dick Burt.

May 1976 Candidates for the Greece Central School Board outline their positions on a broadcast sponsored by the Greece branch of The League of Women Voters and the Community Education Advisory Council.

May 1976 Greece Cadets present a check to WGMC and encourage other

organizations and businesses to support the station’s fund drive.

June 1976 A new application is submitted to FCC to increase the power from 10 to 2,000 watts. The fund drive continues to raise funds for the \$30,000 needed to purchase a new antenna and other equipment for the power boost. The Greece Community Broadcasting Council assists with fundraising.

July 1976 With school in summer recess, WGMC operates weekdays from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. and on Saturday from 11:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

July 1976 Judy Price, community service chairman for the Greece Welcome Wagon, presents a contribution to the WGMC fund drive. WGMC provided live coverage of the Welcome Wagon’s Country Fair in April.

July 1976 Louis Betstadt, WGMC general manager, is unanimously voted Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Monroe Educational Radio Association. MERA was created to provide a forum for high school radio stations in Monroe County and an outlet for students participating in activities and workshops.

August 1976 Helen Emens, librarian at Paddy Hill Branch, reads children stories on the Saturday show.

August 1976 The WGMC administrative staff passes the exam for FCC 3rd

Class Radio Telephone Permit Broadcast Endorsement

September 1976 Bob Oaks hosts “Not For Children Only.”

September 1976 A new fundraiser begins: a Skate-A-Thon at USA Roller Skating Rink. More skate nights scheduled for the third Thursday of every month.

Tom Schommer vividly recalls 25 years later that “they were not prepared for the large turn out at this first event. Over a thousand grammar and high school students attended. Subsequent skating parties helped to raise substantial funds for WGMC.

September 1976 Elaine Beetow produces “Creative Women,” a 15-minute interview program on consumerism and health. The program focuses on women who start projects in their home and develop them into a business.

October 1976 Another new fundraiser: A “Folk Jamboree” starring WGMC DJs Al Rehn and Nancy Parks and featuring Mitzie Collins, former music director at Colgate Rochester/Bexley Hall/Crozier Divinity School and host of “Sounds Like Fun” on WXXI.

October 1976 Chet Mehta features a half-hour of Indian Music on Friday evenings. Classical music, swing bands and “Brazil 75” also bring diversity to the station, in addition to the non-music programs.

November 1976 **3rd Anniversary**
The station serves the community in two ways: (1) as a training ground for students and

volunteers and (2) as a way to showcase the diversity of Greece life. More than 250 students and adults are now involved in the operation that reaches 30,000 homes, operating Monday through Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 10:30 p.m. and on Saturday from 11:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

November 1976 Louis Betstadt makes a presentation at the National Association for Educational Broadcasters. WGMC will be the site of the Monroe Education Radio Association's first meeting for 1976-1977.

November 1976 WGMC participates as one of the radio stations broadcasting school snow closings.

November 1976 Another WGMC fundraiser: Greece Community Broadcast Council presents a Folk Concert.

December 1976 WGMC begins live broadcasts of Monroe Educational Radio Association (MERA) from Longridge Mall with participating stations WBDT Brockport, WIRQ Irondequoit, and WRHR Rush Henrietta.

December 1976 Greece Continuing Education offers "Tuning in WGMC," an opportunity to learn the inner workings of a radio stations.

January 1977 Hubert Stein of Brighton donates 65 rock 'n' roll and soul LPs to the station.

January 1977 For the third time, WGMC attempts to obtain authorization from

the FCC to increase power. The situation with the college in Hamilton, Ontario (Canada) remains the same. Louis Betstadt, general manager, attempts to disprove the FCC's interference concern.

To date, \$10,000 has been raised towards the \$30,000 goal to boost both the antenna and the station's wattage (from 10 to 2050 watts) and to purchase additional equipment.

January 1977 Ron Stein, host of "Friday Night of Gold," teaches a course for Greece Continuing Education on rock 'n' roll history, tracing the genre from the late 1940s to the present.

January 1977 Nancy Greska, assistant professor of speech at Dutchess Community College in downstate New York, spends a month at WGMC learning how a radio station operates. While here she promotes volunteerism at the station for both students and adult residents.

February 1977 Paul Pakusch, Arcadia High School sophomore, hosts two shows on WGMC. During the week as the "Boogie Monster" Paul plays top forty rock, progressive rock and folk. Then on Saturdays he drops the moniker and co-hosts "The Week In Review," a weekly news show with Cardinal Mooney sophomore Erik Hendal. Erik is an audio technician engineer and has his own weekday program "Musicale."

February 1977 Al Frascatore, Arcadia High School landscape design and horticultural

teacher, broadcasts "Green Spot" on Fridays with tips on indoor plants and outdoor gardening.

March 1977 Students in the Greece Olympia Radio Club learn more about radio broadcasting during special sessions at WGMC.

March 1977 A panel of representatives from the Greece Board of Education and Teachers Association answer questions regarding the teachers' contract during a live broadcast.

March 1977 Rich Ryan joins the staff with "A Little Music in the Night" featuring progressive rock, folk and a touch of jazz, all with similar titles, lyrics, beginnings or endings.

March 1977 "Glories Holland," a program with Dutch music, traditional and modern recipes, special guests and up-to-the-minute travel information, debuts with Gloria Stassan.

April 1977 "The Jazz Brothers," Chuck and Gap Mangione, are featured guests with Ralph Dettman for five consecutive Mondays. Dettman delves into some interesting facts about the brothers, conducts live interviews, and plays music from the Grammy award-winning brothers' albums.

April 1977 A Country Music Benefit Concert for WGMC at Greece Olympia High School starring the "Crown Prince of Western Swing" Hank Thompson and the

“Barons of Country Music” Dick Curless and Tim Welch.

April 1977 WGMC staff members Todd Blide, John Craig, Ellen Lydon and Richard Ryan, sponsored by the Greece Community Broadcast Council, attend the Intercollegiate Broadcasting Systems annual convention in Washington, D.C. Workshops include legal issues, broadcast journalism, determining public needs, new production techniques and employment guidance for students. The Honorable Barber Conable addresses the controversial FCC proposal that seeks to eradicate small educational stations around the country.

May 1977 A program on People’s Cable Television Channel 19 called “Greece on the Air” features WGMC.

May 1977 Greece Community Broadcasting Council holds annual awards banquet. WGMC participants receive merit awards and commendations. New directors are appointed for the 1977-78 term.

June 1977 Five WGMC members pass the FCC test for operator’s certification. Patricia Bertram, Thomas Conderman and Donald Porterfield receive Third Class RadioTelephone Operation with Broadcasting Endorsement. Edward Graff and Anthony Wechsler receive the Third Class RadioTelephone permit.

June 1977 Society of Broadcast Engineers recognizes

WGMC Chief Engineer Michael Tarkulich as a senior broadcast engineer.

June 1977 The third application to the FCC to increase wattage is returned because the Commission changed application forms. The new application, due in two weeks, must include ascertainment of community problems and how the station will address these issues.

August 1977 “Story Time” for children continues on WGMC during the summer with Greece Public Library interns.

August 1977 WGMC staff members Joseph Best and Tony Wechsler pass the Third Class RadioTelephone License with Broadcasting Endorsement. They host “Bench Talk” and “Rock Spell” respectively.

August 1977 Fall programming launches with “Sonic Rainbow Rock Fest” featuring rock, jazz, blues and disco and a sampling of comedy, along with a give-a-way every half-hour.

August 1977 WGMC devotes weekend memorial special to Elvis Presley on “Friday Night of Gold.”

September 1977 WGMC receives part of the Town of Greece funds for the Comprehensive Employment Training Act (CETA) to conduct an audience research project.

November 1977 4th Anniversary

November 1977 WGMC broadcasts live junior hockey games for the third year.

November 1977 The Journal of College Radio uses WGMC Program Guide as an example of a proper format.

January 1978 Cardinal Mooney senior Ann Spurling earns sports spot on WGMC, giving the play-by-play action for high school basketball games.

March 1978 Louis Betstadt, general manager, reflects on how the station has changed in four years. Students comprise 72% (or 130 volunteers) and adults make up the remaining 28% (or 50 volunteers.) A major accomplishment is the rewiring of the technical plant to provide full stereo.

March 1978 Paul Pakusch and Tony Wechsler host two new shows: “Memories of Elvis” and “Another Beatles Special.”

March 1978 WGMC broadcasts live from Cardinal Mooney High School with segments presented by students and faculty including Brother Albert Harrigan, Jack Hetzler of the Men’s Guild, and Michael Schwan. A similar show from Olympia High School includes an assembly as part of the broadcast along with drama, music and interviews from many departments.

May 1978 “Not for Children Only” previews summer programs offered through

Continuing Education Division of the Greece Central School District.

May 1978 Many WGMC staff and DJs receive awards at the annual Community Broadcasters Council Awards:

- Marilyn Pfahl: Broadcaster of the Year
- Viv King: 5,000 volunteer hours since 1973
- Paul Pakusch and Erik Hendl: Newscasters of the Year for "Week in Review"
- Pete Bartel: Announcer of the Year for his longtime jazz show--"Satchmo to Miles"
- Todd Blide: Engineer of the Year
- Ann Spurling: Sportscaster of the Year
- Richard Boy: Combo Person of the Year (combination engineer and announcer)
- Gloria Stassan: for the series "Glorie's Holland"
- Merit awards to musicians for weekly performances:
 - Nancy Parks for "Songfest"
 - Al Rehn for his folk music show
 - Ted McGraw for "Irish Party House"
- Staff members announced for the 1978 season:
 - Andy Chinnici, music director
 - Eric Hendl, public affairs
 - Paul Pukusch, news director
 - Steve Nash, sports
 - Denise Lazor, interim program director
 - Robin Johnson, continuity director, assisted by Mary Puff and Jamie Johnson
 - Don Porterfield, intern chief engineer

Margaret Graham-Smith, host of WHEC-TV's "Noon at Ten" is guest speaker.

May 1978 WGMC broadcasts live school district budget election results.

July 1978 Greece Central School District approves the appointment of volunteers from the community to serve on the Greece Community Broadcasting Council. Re-appointed for the school year: Patricia Bertram, Louis Betstadt, Janet Johnson, William Lindsay, Sharon Schnable, Dorothea Schommer, Thomas Schommer, Douglas Spencer, James Spencer, Michael Tarkulich and Nancy Whelk. Retiring members: Todd Blide, Jean Nash and Virginia Probst.

August 1978 Bruce Levitt joins the staff with his program "And That's Jazz," featuring the big band sound of the '40s.

August 1978 Jackie Stein appointed program director. Her husband Ron volunteers as host of "Friday Night of Gold."

September 1978 Duane Rupert, assistant director of Continuing Education, discusses latest program happenings on "Not for Children Only."

October 1978 Louis Betstadt, supervisor of broadcasting, communications and performing arts for the Greece Central Schools, is elected chairman of the Monroe Educational Radio Association (MERA). This organization is open to educational broadcasters whose purpose is to share achievements, problems and concerns.

November 1978 5th Anniversary

WGMC celebrates with a cake decorated in tiny records and a broadcast tower. More than 125 volunteers of all ages, experiences and backgrounds deliver a blend of music and public affairs programming. The station is still working on increasing its power to bring WGMC to all of Monroe County.

December 1978 Special Christmas programming features stories and concerts from various Greece Central Schools and the Salvation Army.

January 1979 Erik Hendl and Paul Pakusch, seniors at Cardinal Mooney and Greece Arcadia respectively, along with Bill Schwartz, an employee of the School District, present "A Year in Review," a look at 1978 Town of Greece news.

January 1979 WGMC continues broadcasting Rochester Monarchs hockey games.

January 1979 *Freetime* magazine highlights WGMC in "The Other Side of FM Radio."

January 1979 Todd Blide covers Congressman Barber Conable's address to the Greece Chamber of Commerce.

February 28, 1979/Released March 9, 1979
The Federal Communications Commission orders that request for waiver be granted and application to increase power is accepted for filing.

"Congressman Barber Conable, our champion with the FCC," says Louis Betstadt, general manager, upon the approval of power increase to 2050 watts. The station plans to add new programming to meet community needs. *Note: The filing process for this wattage increase began in 1974.*

April 1979 WGMC broadcasts the annual Greece Music Festival featuring the District's elementary orchestra, chorus, and bands

April 1979 Fran Chierico hosts a new series, "Comedy Classics." Assisted by engineer Mark Puff, this series features comedy performers from the twentieth century -- from W.C. Fields to Bob Hope, including the performers' personal histories and segments of their famous work.

May 1979 Greece Supervisor Donald Riley presents Louis Betstadt, WGMC station manager, with a certificate of appreciation at the 4th annual Community Broadcasting Council awards banquet. Staff recognized for the past year include:

- Lynn McDonald, public service announcement coordinator
- aurie Smith, continuity director
- Andy Chinnici, music director
- Paul Pakusch, news director
- Jackie Stein, programming director
- Steve Nash, sports director
- Todd Blide, public affairs director

An award is also given to United Skates of America for fundraising support to the station.

May 1979 "Not for Children Only" once again previews summer enrichment programs of the Continuing Education Division of Greece Central School District.

May 1979 As more organizations hold disco dances, WGMC provides experience for volunteer announcers for this type of music.

May 1979 Andy Chinnici, music director, interviews members of the group Klaatu.

May 1979 Athena Radio Club holds first annual Radio Day by interviewing teachers and administrators and reporting on various school activities.

May 1979 WGMC student and adult volunteers complete renovations including updating equipment, improving studio design, and soundproofing.

June 1979 WGMC DJs provide music for Disco Night, the culmination of activities for the school year, sponsored by Greece Continuing Education.

August 1979 Duane Rupert, assistant director of Continuing Education, continues hosting "Not For Children Only." Programs include "Fall Program Preview," "Catering for Non-Professionals" and "Living Creatively."

October 1979 WGMC tapes Town of Greece candidate views for future broadcast.

November 1979 6th Anniversary

1980 Thomas Schommer, treasurer of the School Board and President of the Greece Chamber of Commerce, establishes Greece Community Broadcasting, Inc. (GCB) to manage the funding of WGMC for the next seven years. GCB members will be appointed by the School District and will manage funding. The GCB replaces the Community Broadcasting Council.

January 1980 WGMC skating parties, originally coordinated by the Greece Community Broadcasting Council, raise \$10,129 to date. A donation of \$10,000 goes toward the purchase of a new transmitter, new antenna and tower structure to accommodate the recently increased power.

February 1980 WGMC broadcasts Section V high school basketball games live from the War Memorial.

March 10, 1980 WGMC is off the air for several weeks while engineers installed the transmitter and equipment and erect the broadcasting tower to increase power to 2050 watts.

March 30, 1980 The day is finally here! WGMC broadcasting at 2050 watts. It will take a few weeks to work the bugs out of the new system.

April 1980 Marilyn Schultz becomes new public relations director. Marilyn also serves as first vice president of the

Community Education Advisory Council and brings many years of journalism and radio experience to WGMC.

April 1980 Nancy Parks wins first prize in a talent contest at Red Creek and a chance to conduct her own radio show on WGMC. This leads to her show, "The Nancy Parks Pickin' Party."

April 1980 WGMC holds poster contest for a new logo. Bill Klein and Fran Chierico of the WGMC publicity and promotional committee join with Louis Betstadt and Thomas Schommer and submit their choices to a firm that formulates the final design.

April 21, 1980 - first broadcast day of new high-powered signal. The station expands programming with Senior Citizens Hour and programs by the Greece Chamber of Commerce, Monroe County 4-H clubs, Assemblyman Roger Robach, and the Greece volunteer fire department and ambulance corps.

Evenings from 6:30 p.m. to 1:00 a.m. programming is entirely music:

- Monday jazz
- Tuesday current Top 40 hits
- Wednesday live folk music
- Thursday progressive rock
- Friday golden oldies from the '50s and '60s
- Saturday classical
- Sunday alternative rock. Local sports, elections and other community events also covered.

May 1980 At the annual awards banquet, an appreciation award is given to Louis

Betstadt, general manager, on behalf of Town Supervisor Donald Riley and "all the people connected with the radio station." Richard Funke, WHEC-TV sports director, is guest speaker.

June 1980 Jim Meyer, School Board president, hosts a weekly 15-minute show called "Straight Talk On Schools" to discuss special education, competency testing, hiring and evaluation procedures for district teachers, and the budget.

September 1980 WGMC broadcasts the Community Education Advisory Council meeting.

September 1980 "Straight Talk on Schools" features Greece Olympia guidance counselor Ron Zimarino and math teacher Ruth Tancrede, discussing their involvement in the Rochester Area Career Education Council internship program.

October 1980 WGMC continues broadcasting all the home games of the Rochester Junior American hockey team.

October 1980 *Greece Central Education News*, a District-community newsletter, highlights WGMC programming.

October 1980 WGMC broadcasts "Candidates Debate" sponsored by the Greece Chamber of Commerce and monitored by the League of Women Voters.

November 1980 7th Anniversary

November 1980 Eddie DeCastro presents WGMC General Manager Louis Betstadt with a plaque from the Portuguese-American Community. DeCastro's show, "A Touch of Portugal," features the music and history of Portugal.

November 1980 The Community Education Advisory Council brings its forum to WGMC with wide and diverse subjects of interest to the community. Hosts present subjects that range from teenage drug abuse to understanding state government and education legislation.

November 1980 Bob Lucieer, new WGMC continuity director, coordinates public service announcements (PSAs) for broadcast on the *Town Crier* and maintains program logs and prerecorded programs. Lucieer also hosts "Friday Flashbacks."

December 1980 Bob Lindquist becomes the new station manager, replacing Louis Betstadt who takes over as general manager.

December 1980 Continuing Education instructors present a program on upcoming courses, including "Law for the Layman," "Human Sexuality," and "Financial Planning."

January 1981 WGMC adds Greece/Batavia and Bishop Kearney/Cardinal Mooney basketball games to sports broadcasts.

February 1981 Ralph "Rafaelzinho" Dettman continues to host Brazil '77 with Brazilian music from the popular *bossa nova* to classical and folk.

February 1981 "4H And A Half" expands its format.

February 1981 Two local educators, Bob Maurice (Greece) and Jessie James (Spencerport) present "Thinking Out Loud," a series on psychological and religious insights that relate to human nature.

February 1981 A chorus of 36 Greece Central School District teachers records four songs on tape for broadcast on WGMC.

February 1981 Since growing from 10 watts to 2050 watts and reaching all over Monroe County, WGMC changes direction and its image. While still keeping the Greece community as a base, WGMC seeks to appeal to a wider audience by becoming more contemporary and widening program appeal.

Weekdays on WGMC the accent is contemporary jazz and popular music, spiced with specials, including consumer news and timely listener information on subjects ranging from education to voter tips. Saturdays focus on half a day of folk music. In the evening, it's nostalgia with "Reflections of the '60s" and "This Ain't No Disco." Sunday features specials "Thinking Out Loud," "Blue Suede Show" and "Clues to the Classics."

March 1981 Andy Chinnici, WGMC music director, interviews Jeff Tyzik, locally known composer, arranger and musician. Tyzik is steadily building a music career working with Chuck Mangione, Doc Severinsen, Maynard Ferguson and others.

March 1981 With the increase in power and range throughout the area, station managers announce the call letters WGMC stands for "Greece and Monroe County."

March 1981 Ted McGraw's "Irish Party House" celebrates St. Patrick's day in a special way. Instead of the traditional Irish songs, McGraw plays American Irish favorites from the 1920s and 1940s.

March 1981 WGMC broadcasts Greece Central "News-In-Brief" with Madeleine Littrell, community-school relations coordinator. The show includes information on special school events.

March 1981 WGMC features an interview with Gap Mangione whose music reflects the new musical focus and the slogan "jazz on the rocks." The station format is 40 percent jazz and contemporary music.

Other changes include the addition of *Mutual Radio Network* and programs featuring do-it-yourself advice and tidbits on science and sports, replacing programs on horticulture, Scandinavia and the United Nations.

Operations Manager Bob Lindquist reports a 50 percent increase in calls requesting more jazz.

He said the programming will tip more toward jazz, "depending on what the community wants."

March 1981 Andy Chinnici, WGMC music director, conducts a live interview with Jeff Tyzik. They discuss Tyzik's "big bad band image" and Tyzik's personal philosophy in recording his jazz album "Prophecy."

April 2, 1981 Polka Bandstand Show hits the airwaves with host and producer Ray Serafin.

April 1981 WGMC Sports Director John Capozzi increases coverage with Mark Barclay's "Benchtalk," a 45-minute program on Sundays. WGMC DJs travel to Tonawanda to cover the Amerks in the Canadian/American Challenge Cup Tournament.

April 1981 As of this date, 40 skating party fundraisers have successfully provided funds for new equipment to insure the quality of programming.

April 1981 Greece School Board member George Schumaker suggests the District eliminate from the proposed school budget \$95,000 funding for WGMC with the possibility of restoring funding next year.

WGMC General Manager Louis Betstadt is concerned the station could lose its broadcasting license. Bill Landon, host of the Wednesday senior citizen program on WGMC, along with volunteers, go to a Board meeting and request that they do not withdraw funding.

April 1981 The Greece Central School District Board decides to limit support for WGMC in the upcoming budget vote. WGMC staff accelerates planning to achieve self-supporting status.

April 1981 "Music from Eastman Theatre," an hour-long series of classical musical performances (and occasional jazz) by students and faculty from the Eastman School of Music comes to WGMC every Sunday evening.

May 1981 Greece Community Broadcasting Council holds the annual Awards Banquet with guest speaker Jerry Carr, general manager and program director of WUHF-TV Channel 31.

Awards go to

- Jack Ertle and Brian Oyer tie for first place for best radio show
- Jacquilyn Stein, program director
- Robert Lucieer, continuity director
- John Capozzi, sports director
- Marilyn Schulz, publicity director
- Burt Himeline, news director
- Andy Chinnici, music director

May 1981 WGMC and D&M Productions present a concert at Olympia High School called *Southern Rock Night* showcasing local talent South-Wind.

May 1981 Letters to the editor in the *Greece Post* comment on the school budget that includes "frills" like the radio station budget of \$95,000.

June 1981 The Greece Continuing Education Youth Enrichment program offers a radio production course at the WGMC studio. The course includes technical engineering, production work, script writing and on-the-air performance.

June 1981 The Greece School Board eliminates \$250,000 from the 1981-82 budget as a result of the overwhelming defeat of budget by district voters. This cuts WGMC funding by \$20,000 (allocating \$75,000). WGMC accelerates plans to achieve self-supporting status and hopes to raise funds at the Greece July 4th celebration.

June 1981 WGMC produces a special two-part tribute to singers Jan and Dean, with Bob Lucieer. Both artists help Lucieer with the radio script giving him an in-person "inside story."

July 1981 "Jazz is the Only Real American Music," an article in the *Greece Post* by Marilyn Schultz, begins with a quote from Henry Kass, a longtime jazz listener and record collector: "I don't think jazz will ever really make a big comeback. Jazz really killed itself because there is nothing left to relate to. The musicians felt they had to innovate, but ran out of innovation, starting to play something that you couldn't follow. You had to be either a trained musician or come from a cultured background to follow their music."

July 1981 WGMC provides live remote coverage of the US Open Drum and Bugle Corps Competition from Marion, Ohio.

September 1981 The first WGMC radio sponsored roller fun party at the USA Skating Rink begins a fund raising campaign for the station. The skating parties continue throughout the school year on the third Tuesday of every month.

September 1981 The Greece School Board adopts a proposal from Greece Community Broadcasting (GCB) to reduce the WGMC budget and a plan for the station to become self-sufficient by July 1984.

September 1981 The Superbowl of Ireland comes to Monroe County for the first time via satellite and WGMC airs the All-Ireland Football Final.

October 1981 WGMC broadcasts six hours of macabre featuring the greatest radio plays of all time on "Tales of Imagination and Terror." The station also goes to Long Ridge Mall to broadcast all the Halloween happenings with the Greece Recreation Department.

October 1981 Bob Linguist, WGMC operations manager, wins Town of Greece promotional slogan contest with his entry "Greece! Living Great"

October 1981 WGMC tapes candidates and reviews propositions and amendments for its Pre-Election Special.

October 1981 With the formation of the Community Broadcasting Council (GCB), an advisory group, the station announces plans for self-sufficiency. On-air time is offered to religious, ethnic or special interest groups in return for a check to cover costs of operation during that time. "We want the people of Greece to support WGMC because they believe in it, not because they feel sorry for us," says, Bob Lindquist, operations manager.

The station seeks funding from community businesses and the private sector to underwrite programs. A sign is posted on the station door.

November 1981 WGMC celebrates *8th Anniversary*.

November 1981 WGMC airs a new one-hour live talk show each weekday evening called "Greece Speaks".

November 1981 *StarDate*, the nationally syndicated show from University of Texas Austin McDonald Observatory, debuts on WGMC.

March 1982 *Ritmos Latinos* – Latin Rhythms- a program in Spanish featuring music, news and public service information premiers on WGMC. Domingo Martinez, Jr. is host and producer.

June 22, 1982 Greece Central School District Board of Education approves and recognizes a legal relationship between District

and the Greece Community Broadcasting, Inc. (GCB), a newly formed educational non-profit corporation chartered by the Board of Regents.

July 1, 1982 Greece Community Broadcasting replaces the Community Broadcasting Council and takes over operations and funding of WGMC. Tom Schommer becomes business manager.

August 1982 Newly elected to the 54th District, Senator John Perry appears on WGMC "Greece Speaks."

September 1982 WGMC Folk Music shows take second place in Best of Rochester poll for *City Newspaper*. In the Best Radio Station category, WGMC jazz and adult contemporary format "...is becoming increasingly popular."

November 1982 WGMC celebrates *9th Anniversary*. WGMC employs one full-time staff person, nine part-time employees and 100 volunteers and is one of the most powerful non-commercial FM stations in the country, including college and university stations – that are not members of the Corporation for Public Broadcasting (CPB).

Not being a member of CPB denies WGMC access to ratings and government funding. Revenues must come from donations, grants and special fund-raising events.

Station demographics indicate 18 percent of all 25- to 34 year-olds and 21 percent of all 35-

44- year olds in Greece and surrounding areas listen to WGMC.

July 1983 Greece Broadcasting Council, Inc. (GCB) receives non profit status and is granted a 501 (c) 3.

November 1983 WGMC celebrates *10th Anniversary*. Eric Gruner becomes WGMC music director.

November 1984 WGMC celebrates *11th Anniversary*.

June 1985 Carl Verneti becomes WGMC station manager, replacing Bob Linquist. Verneti keeps the music format and introduces three new public service programs featuring messages from area politicians: Supervisor Donald Riley, Senator Ralph Quattrocchi and Senator Alphonse D'Amato.

July 1985 Allen Holmes becomes chief engineer as a contract employee of WGMC.

July 1985 WGMC was off the air twice this month due to transmitter malfunction. Poor weather, caused by Hurricane Bob, delayed the receipt of a much-needed part from Florida.

August 1985 Edward "Ted" McGraw, producer and host of Saturdays "Irish Party House," receives the United Irish Society of Rochester's *Irish-American of the Year Award* for outstanding contributions to the promotion of Irish Culture.

- September 1985** New shows this fall:
- "Sport Talk" with Jim Kelly
 - "801 Blues Tuesdays" with host Howlin' Tom and Memphis Jim
 - "Friday Night Oldies" with Denise Linden
 - "Sunday Night Goldies" with Paul Pakusch
 - "The Leading Edge of Jazz" hosted by Mike Serowik
 - "Artistry in Jazz" with Tom Pethic

October 1985 Two candidates for Monroe County Clerk debate campaign financing on WGMC.

November 1985 WGMC celebrates *12th Anniversary*

December 1985 WGMC receives FCC Notice of Apparent Liability carrying a fine of \$2,500 for "paid promotional announcements on behalf of for-profit entity" during two Rochester Red Wing baseball games on August 23, 1984. Thomas Schommer, president of Greece Community Broadcasting, and Carl Verneti, WGMC station manager, work with the FCC to correct these announcements and request a rescinding or reduction of the fine. No decision has been made as of this time.

February 1986 "Greece Speaks," an opportunity for area residents to voice their opinions, returns to WGMC.

February 1986 *Cabo Frio*, a local jazz group, visits WGMC to discuss and play cuts from their new album.

September 1986 WGMC holds State Senate debates between Greece Town Supervisor Donald J. Riley and incumbent Ralph Quattrociocchi.

November 1986 WGMC celebrates *13th Anniversary*
Program format essentially jazz with specialty and ethnic programs, broadcasts of Amerks Hockey games and Greece Central School Board meetings.

September 1987 WGMC staff includes Tom Schommer, general manager and business manager; Carl Verneti, station manager and marketing director; Eric Gruner, program director; Ray Kirstein, production director; Allen Holmes, chief engineer; and Virginia Allen, secretary.

November 1987 WGMC celebrates *14th Anniversary*

February 1988 Greece Central School District, the license holder for WGMC, contacts Tom Schommer, president of Greece Community Broadcasting, Inc. with plans to take over the operations of the station.

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April 3, 1988 WGMC comes under the direct management and operations of Continuing Education Division of the Greece Central School District. Dr. Duane Rupert, director, oversees all staff. The position of station manager is eliminated. Tom Schommer continues on an interim basis as WGMC general manager and business manager. Lee Rust

retained as broadcast operations consultant. Plans also include hiring a person to secure program underwriting.

Greece Community Broadcasting continues to manage approximately \$80,000 for funding capital improvements and major equipment costs. GCB Board of Directors includes Brady Drummon Ryan, president; Sharon Schnable, vice president; George Jaynes, treasurer; and Kathy Garrison, secretary.

June 30, 1988 Lee Rust retained as WGMC Operations Manager, overseeing day-to-day functions and training of DJs. The station operates 19 hours a day, seven days a week with paid and volunteer DJs. Carl Verneti becomes underwriting manager to secure business donations for program sponsorships.

November 1988 WGMC celebrates *15th Anniversary*.
WGMC is now part of Greece Community Education and maintains a self-supporting status, continuing on membership pledges and business underwriting. The station operates 19 hours a day with part-time and volunteer disc jockeys.

Thomas Schommer credits Lee Rust for the refinement of the station's musical format.

December 1988 Reviving the old radio drama, WGMC airs *Milford-Haven*, a program on environmental concerns, created and hosted by Mara Purl. This drama is in the test-marketing phase and WGMC is one of three stations nationwide to broadcast the program.

There is a strong possibility the dramas will evolve into a movie or daytime soap opera.

July 1989 Charyll Monk and Ilene Weiss join WGMC and job share as operations assistants.

November 1989 WGMC celebrates **16th Anniversary.** Kim Finzer Bellavia becomes underwriting manager at WGMC. Carl Vernetti leaves to spend more time at his public relations agency.

November 1990 **17th Anniversary** New station newsletter, *Inside WGMC*, kicks off first on-air Membership Campaign.

WGMC program format continues with contemporary and traditional jazz, popular and New Age music, Greece School Board meetings, Rochester Americans Hockey games, *Mutual News*, *Your Business*, and *Star Date*. Weekend programming of ethnic and special shows includes Polka Bandstand Show, Irish Party House, FolkTown, Bluegrass Show, Dainos Aidas (Lithuanian), Latino Rhythmos (Latin Rhythms) and Turkish Hour.

January 1991 WGMC raises over \$7,000 from more than 400 listeners and exceeds the \$5,000 campaign goal. Kim Finzer Bellavia, campaign coordinator, is pleased with the success of first on-air fundraiser.

May 1991 Charyll Monk becomes underwriting manager at WGMC. Kim Finzer Bellavia moves to Public Information in the District.

August 1991 WGMC moves broadcasting studios from Athena High School to Apollo Middle School. (The new studio was formerly the nuns' kitchen when the building housed Cardinal Mooney High School.) Greece Community Broadcasting provides funds for moving and purchasing additional equipment. The new location allows the station to be closer to Greece Community Education.

September 1991 Open House at new location.

November 1991 WGMC celebrates **18th Anniversary.** The station turns to listeners for financial support during the **second** Annual Membership Campaign.

November 1991 Annual meeting of WGMC and Greece Community Broadcasting includes Lee Rust, Operations Manager.

November 1991 Friends of WGMC, the newly established volunteer organization, invites people interested in maintaining the success of WGMC to participate in fundraising projects, promotions, and long-range planning.

January 1992 WGMC presents the first **Meet the Artist** benefit concert live in the Greece Apollo Community Room with Rochester jazz pianist and recording artist John Nyerges. Joining Nyerges are Ron France on bass, John Viavattine on sax and Mark Viavattine on drums. The concerts are an opportunity to experience live jazz in a smoke-free, alcohol-free venue. Members of WGMC receive ticket

discounts. The second half of the concert is broadcast live on WGMC.

February 1992 Eric Gruner moves into the afternoon drive time slot and "Jazz Slices." Dan Bindert is the new voice behind the microphone from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

March 14, 1992 Ted McGraw, host and producer of "Irish Party House," is honored as Grand Marshall of the annual St. Patrick's Parade in Rochester, NY.

March 24, 1992 **Meet the Artist** benefit concert features **Uncommon Ground** with Joe Viscardi on drums, Lou LaBello on guitar, Dave Pinto on bass and Marc Webster on keyboards.

April 28, 1992 **Meet the Artist** benefit concert features **Rich Thompson Quartet** with Thompson on drums, Bob Stata on bass, Mike Kaupa on trumpet and Russ Schmidt on keyboards.

May 19, 1992 **Meet the Artist** benefit concert features **Sonny Miles Smiles** with Miles on jazz B-3 organ, Dave Frackenpohl on guitar and Gerry Nasca on drums.

June 1992 **Meet the Artist** benefit concert features Windham Hill recording artist and New Age acoustic guitarist **Doug Smith.**

July 23, 1992 **Meet the Artist** benefit concert features **Jim Ferris Quartet** with Ferris on sax and flute, Barry Tee on piano, Jim Carroll on bass and Dave Cohen on drums.

August 20, 1992 **Meet the Artist** benefit concert features **Threshold** with Rochester guitarist Mel Henderson, bassist Grand Pre, drummer Emmett Lentilucci and keyboardist John Vreeland.

August 29, 1992 WGMC staff at Greece Summer Fest to promote the station.

October 1992 **WGMC Membership Campaign** looks to raise \$20,000 and offers a variety of gifts including subscriptions to *Inside WGMC*, tickets to Meet the Artist concerts, and CDs.

Operations Manager Lee Rust bids farewell to WGMC. Rust will focus his attention on his own start up of WJZR, a commercial radio station.

Eric Gruner takes the helm at WGMC as operations manager. Gruner also continues as program and music director.

October 22, 1992 **Meet the Artist** benefit concert features **Mike Melito Quartet** with Melito on drums, Mike DiMartino on coronet, Bob Sneider on guitar, Bob Stata on bass and vocalist Carolyn Lenhart.

November 1992 **19th Anniversary**

November 19, 1992 **Meet the Artist** benefit concert features the **52nd Street Jazz Sextet** with Sam Miller and Orlando Diaz on alto saxes, Andrew King III on tenor sax, Jim Nugent on keyboards, Ron Broyda on bass and Gene Varrenti on drums.

December 1992 Joëlle VanBuren joins the station as morning personality. She becomes one of only two women broadcasting during morning drive on Rochester radio.

January 1993 Charyll Monk, underwriting manager, expands responsibilities and becomes WGMC development manager, responsible for coordinating fund raising and marketing programs.

January 1993 WGMC announces most recent Membership Campaign gained almost 500 members (new and renewals) and pledges for \$17,200 towards the \$20,000 goal.

January 1993 M&T Bank donates \$1,000 to WGMC for an engineering/feasibility study that will evaluate relocating the station's transmitter.

January 1993 Eastman Kodak Company donates \$500 to WGMC to purchase a used back-up emergency transmitter for the station. The donation comes through the *Dollars for Doers* award program recognizing Kodak employee Ellen LaLonde for her service at WGMC as an evening volunteer music host.

January 21, 1993 **Meet the Artist** benefit concert features the tropical sounds of **AKASA** with Cecil Bartholomew, William Cady, Ralph DeBergalis and Elly Majors.

February 1993 Dr. Duane Rupert, director of Community Education, puts a face with the voice of WGMC personalities on Cable

Channel 12 and highlights past **Meet the-Artist** benefit concerts.

February 25, 1993 **Meet the Artist** benefit concert features female jazz vocalist **Charly**.

February 1993 WGMC celebrates **Black History Month** with a series of African American vignettes broadcast throughout the day during February. The Vignettes feature notable Black musicians who made a contribution to jazz. Gary Omphroy, Anthony Jackson, Denise Gaines, Jim Captian, Audra Abruzzese and Derrick Lucas research and write the vignettes.

March 21, 1993 **Meet the Artist** benefit concert features **Jazz Workshop** with Gian Carlo Cervonne on keyboards, Chris Northington on bass, Tony Hiler on drums, Marvin Williams and Tim Jennens on saxes and Janet Beaman on vocals.

April 1993 **Meet the Artist** benefit concert features the blues sounds of the **Coupe DeVilles** with vocalist Lex Byers, sax player Vince Finocchio, guitarist Tommy Bianchi, keyboardist John Cianciola, drummer George DeMott and bassist Chris DeFazio.

May 20, 1993 **Meet the Artist** benefit concert features **Vince Finocchio Quartet** with Finocchio on tenor sax, Dan Kodewise on guitar, Gerry Nasca on drums and George Sussum on bass.

June 24, 1993 **Meet the Artist** benefit concert features **Wind Machine** with Steve

Mesple, Joe Scott, Taylor Mesple, Ethan Mesple and Michael Olson.

July 1993 **Meet the Artist** benefit concert features the R&B music of Rochester's **Rockin' Roz and The Knights of Soul** with vocalist Rockin' Roz and Tony Beasley, Jimmy O'Neal, Danny Lopa, and Mike Plouffe.

August 19, 1993 **Meet the Artist** benefit concert features jazz vocalist **Joe Guarnere and Friends**.

September 1993 **Meet the Artist** benefit concert features Mesa recording artists **Willie and Lobo** with Willie Royal and Wolfgang "Lobo" Fink.

October 1993 **Annual Membership Campaign** seeks \$25,000 to help cover operating expenses. Other revenues will come from weekend Time Brokerage Agreements and program underwriting.

October 21, 1993 **Meet the Artist** benefit concert features **Steve Grills and the Roadmasters** featuring Steve Grills on guitar and vocals, Jay Jay Jackson on sax, Andrew Kurtz on bass and Bob Reardon on drums.

November 1993 **20th Anniversary** Eric Gruner and Charyll Monk manage operations and fund raising respectively. Gruner also updates weekly the music play list and reports to record companies; Monk publishes a quarterly newsletter for 3,500 listeners.

November 4, 1993 **Meet the Artist** benefit concert features **Rosewood** in a benefit concert for the Sunday Bluegrass Show with Perry Cleveland, Caren Cleveland and Daniel Palmer.

November 6, 1993 The Rutherford Family Show Band is featured at the annual "Irish Party House" benefit dance.

December 1993 Greece Post features holiday recipes from two WGMC music hosts: Gary Nacca, production director and host of "Friday Nite Classics," with his Fruit Classic recipe and Joëlle Van Buren, morning drive-time host, with a recipe for Caramel Popcorn Christmas Trees.

January 1994 **Annual Membership Campaign** raises \$22,182 from almost 500 listeners.

February 1994 WGMC celebrates **Black History Month** with *African American Jazz Vignettes*, each day featuring the music and stories of a selected jazz artist. Ken Wyatt, Dan Bindert, Mike Caito, Beth Krueger and Gary Nacca volunteer to research and write the vignettes that include Billie Holiday, Miles Davis, John Coltrane, Dexter Gordon, and more.

January 13, 1994 **Meet the Artist** benefit concert features folk guitarist and vocalist **Christopher Burley**.

February 17, 1994 **Meet the Artist** benefit concert features **Southside Horns** with Dave DeWitt on trombone and tuba, Jay Hagan on

trumpet and flugelhorn, Steve Copeland keyboards, Manuel Kauffman on electric bass, and Mark Schoen on drums.

March 10, 1994 **Meet the Artist** benefit concert features **Dan Schmitt and The Shadows** with Schmitt on guitar and vocals.

March 30, 1994 **Meet the Artist** benefit concert features New-Age guitarist **Michael Gulezian**.

"Sunday Bluegrass" welcomes **Blue Ridge Country Ramblers and Tom Finucane branch of Camhaltas Ceoltiori Eireann**.

"Folk Town" replaces the Golden Link Folk Fest on WGMC. The Golden Link Folk Society of Rochester withdrew funding and Folk Town needs business underwriting and listener support to stay on the air.

April 1994 Al Meilutis joins Ray Serafin as co-host of the Polka Bandstand Show.

April 28, 1994 **Meet the Artist** benefit concert features **Melvin Rogers Quintet** with trumpeter and vocalist Melvin Rogers, Russ Musseri on sax, and guitarist Dave Frackencpole.

May 19, 1994 **Meet the Artist** benefit concert features **The Dukes** with keyboardist, Ralph "Duke" Gillote, Rockie Pellegrinooon tenor and baritone sax, Jay Hagen on trumpet and flugelhorn, drummer Ron Alberts, Steve Lyons on guitar, and bassist Eric Moore.

June 2, 1994 **Meet the Artist** benefit concert for Folk Town program features Allen Power.

June 23, 1994 **Meet the Artist** benefit concert features **Mike Kaupa and Company**, with trumpeter Mike Kaupa, Steve Curry on drums, Dave Fraankenpole on guitar, Brian Benson on bass, and vocalist Sunitha Belino.

July 1994 **WGMC Listener Comment Line** inaugurated and is open 24-hours a day for listeners to call with comments about programming, music or special features. Callers may leave a name and phone number to get a response.

August 25, 1994 **Meet the Artist** benefit concert features **Abstract World Ensemble** with guitarist Craig Snyder, keyboardist Steve Copeland, bassist David Pinto and drummer Brian Schutte.

September 1994 WGMC loses contract to broadcast Rochester Americans Hockey games. This unexpected event causes management to be concerned. Charyll Monk, underwriting manager, plans to turn to jazz listeners for the \$10,000 in lost revenue during the upcoming membership campaign.

October 1994 **Greece Post** profiles Eric Gruner and recognizes his dedication to jazz programming for a public radio station, especially with "Jazz Slices," a program that features new jazz releases in their entirety every weekday from 6 to 7 p.m.

October 1994 Annual Membership Campaign seeks \$30,000.

October 20, 1994 **Meet the Artist** benefit concert features **Dave Rivello Ensemble** with conductor, composer and musical arranger Dave Rivello and the ensemble: Justin Flynn, Bill Straub, and Nancy Boone on reeds; Jay Hagan and Joel Mott on trumpets; Mike Kaupa on flugelhorn; David Gibson and Dave Springfield on trombones; Dave DeWitt on tuba; Russ Schmidt on piano; Cory Combs on bass; and Chris Gray on drums.

November 1994 **WGMC celebrates 21st Anniversary.**

November 1994 Marc Lepel, a ninth-grader at Olympia High School and volunteer at WGMC, is named Outstanding Volunteer Youth Fundraiser by the Genesee Valley Chapter of the National Society for Fundraising Executives. Lepel spent close to a year working on a special fundraiser for WGMC – a cookbook with recipes from staff, volunteers and local musicians.

November 10, 1994 **Meet the Artist** benefit concert features the folk music of **Creek Bend** in a benefit concert for the "Blue Grass Show."

January 1995 The October Membership Campaign receives pledges totaling \$30,353 from 703 listeners. More listeners renew their membership, or became members, during this campaign than in previous years.

January 1995 A reunion, organized by former volunteers Paul Pakusch and Todd Blide, is held at Barnard Party House for students and volunteers involved with the station during the 1970's.

February 1995 WGMC celebrates **Black History Month** with a series of African American vignettes broadcast throughout the day. The Vignettes feature notable Black musicians who made a contribution to jazz. A committee of DJs researches and writes the vignettes.

February 1995 WGMC introduces a free audio newsletter on cassette for visually impaired listeners. Demand will determine the continuation of this project.

May 28, 1995 **Meet the Artist** benefit concert features the **Vince Ercolamento Quartet** with Ercolamento on tenor sax, Dave Frackenpohl on guitar, Bobby Blandino on drums, and bassist Alek Brinkman.

June 15, 1995 **Meet the Artist** benefit concert features Rochester bluesman and guitarist **Joe Beard and The Blues Union** with Joe Beard on guitar and vocals, John Coles on guitar and vocals, Gian Carlo Cervone on piano, Ted Mosher on bass, Mark Conti on drums and John Debuc on harmonica.

April 1995 **National Volunteer Appreciation Month** WGMC salutes the many volunteers both *behind the microphone* and *behind the scenes* who make contributions to the station in two pages of newsletter.

Summer 1995 After 21 years, Edward "Ted" McGraw moves "Irish Party House" to 3WG 1460AM – a commercial radio station.

August 17, 1995 **Meet the Artist** benefit concert features **Janet Beaman Trio** featuring Ms. Beaman on jazz vocals, Dan Vitale on bass, Steve Kiner on drums and Gian Carlo Cervone on piano.

September 14, 1995 **Meet the Artist** benefit concert features tropical sounds of **Trinidad & Tobago Steelband** with Al St. John on high-tenor and double-tenor steeldrums, Richard Smith and John Joseph on double- second steelpans, Irvin Daniel on drums, Eric Moore on bass.

October 1995 Annual Membership Campaign seeks \$30,000. Two new items added to the gift list – a jazz lapel pin and a baseball cap with WGMC embroidered logo. Benefactors at the \$100 level and above will be offered concert tickets to various music and jazz concerts.

October 19, 1995 **Meet the Artist** benefit concert features **Blue Norther** with Brian Scherer on sax, flute and ewi, Brian Kendrick on drums and percussion, Matt Vacanti on electric and acoustic bass and Lyman Strong on keyboards.

November 1995 WGMC celebrates **22nd Anniversary**.

November 16, 1995 **Meet the Artist** benefit concert features the **Steve Green Trio**.

December 1995 WGMC Membership Campaign boasts 804 members with \$31,947 pledges. The Polka Bandstand contributes \$4,574 to the overall drive.

January 25, 1996 **Meet the Artist** benefit concert features **Blue Delta** with guitarists Gordon Munding and Bruce Jackson with Dick Bolt on fiddle.

February 25, 1996 **Meet the Artist** benefit concert features **The Brown Brothers** with Clarence Luther, James Brown, Clarence Ingram and Isaac Asbury.

February 1996 WGMC celebrates **Black History Month** with a series of African American vignettes broadcast throughout the day during the month of February. The Vignettes feature notable Black musicians who made a contribution to jazz. A committee of DJs researches and writes the vignettes.

March 21, 1996 **Meet the Artist** benefit concert features solo guitarist **Mike Smearowski**.

March 1996 **Borrowed Time** performs a benefit concert for the "Sunday Bluegrass Show" at McGinnity's Party Hall.

April 19, 1996 **Meet the Artist** benefit concert features **Roosevelt Dean and the Spellbinders** with Roosevelt Dean on guitar and vocals, Jose Alvarez on guitar, Mark Schoen on

drums, Rodney Zajac on tenor and baritone sax and vocals, Rob Robson on trumpet and David DeWitt on trombone, flute and vocals.

May 16, 1996 **Meet the Artist** benefit concert features a return performance of the **Vince Finocchio Quartet**, with Finocchio on tenor sax.

June 13, 1996 **Meet the Artist** benefit concert features **Steve Brown Duo**.

Summer 1996 After 53 concerts in the Greece Apollo Community Room, the **Meet the Artist** benefit concerts move to the Greece Athena Forum Room to offer a concert atmosphere.

August 1996 Ken Wyatt, a 3-year volunteer, leaves for Temple University in Philadelphia. Ken filled in for several jazz shifts, wrote reviews for the newsletter, researched and wrote many of the *Friday Featured Artist* biographies, and coordinated the WGMC *African American Vignettes* for Black History Month in 1994.

September 19, 1996 **Meet the Artist** benefit concert features **Al Biles and the GenJam computer**.

September 1996 Federal Communications Commission approves another frequency for WGMC – 105.1 FM. Eric Gruner, operations manager, is the force behind this improvement. The new frequency will provide better reception for the east side of Monroe County. WGMC plans to purchase and

install the equipment on a leased space on an existing tower.

October 1996 Annual Membership campaign seeks \$33,000.

November 1996 WGMC celebrates 23rd Anniversary.

November 14, 1996 **Meet the Artist Paradigm Shift** with Mel Henderson on guitar, Gerry Youngman on keyboards, Grand Pre on bass, Joe Opirari on drums with a special appearance from WGMC DJ Tom Pethic on sax.

November 1996 The new translator broadcasting the WGMC signal at 105.1 FM consists of two antennas located in the town of Perinton on Baker Hill behind Eastview Mall in Victor, New York.

Listeners in the eastern suburbs tell us they now hear WGMC "loud and clear." The only drawback is listeners beyond a 10-mile radius can hear WGMC on only 5 watts of power. An agreement between U.S. and Canada limits the height of our antenna, thus restricting our broadcast range.

Membership campaign reaches \$32,550 of the \$33,000 goal with support from 739 members.

January 23, 1997 **Meet the Artist** benefit concert features jazz guitarist and recording artist from NYC, **Mark Elf** and Rochester backup musicians Dan Vitale on bass and Mike Melito on drums.

February 1997 WGMC celebrates **Black History Month**. Nadine Catlin coordinates the station's celebration by researching and writing vignettes of notable African Americans who made contributions to jazz. Vignettes broadcast several times a day throughout the month.

February 20, 1997 **Meet the Artist** benefit concert features jazz trumpeter and Eastman School of Music graduate **Abram Wilson** with Jim McNamara on bass, Matthew Mitchell on piano and Billy Freiburg on drums.

March 20, 1997 **Meet the Artist** benefit concert features **Rey Scott and Company** with Scott on sax and flute, Greg Miller on guitar, Abdul R. Qadir on drums and Chris Northington on bass.

April 10, 1997 **Meet the Artist** benefit concert features **Kevin Lutke** with Lutke on guitar and Dennis Mitchelltree on sax, Dave Richards on bass and Pete McDonald on drums.

April 17, 1997 **Meet the Artist** benefit concert features **654 Trio**, a group of Eastman School of Music students: Jeannine Mongeon on violin, Marc Currie on guitar and José Núñez Regueiro on bass.

Spring 1997 WGMC membership reaches the West Coast when a web surfer from Laguna Niguel, California, hit our web site and mails a donation to support the station. He writes that he enjoyed receiving the Top 100 lists from 1995 and 1996, which he uses as a buying guide.

May 15, 1997 **Meet the Artist** features former Rochesterian and current Texas resident, jazz guitarist **Todd Vullo** with Rochester musicians Mark Manetta on guitar, Fred Stone on bass and Bobby Blandino on drums.

Summer 1997 WGMC begins broadcasting 24 hours a day with "Jazz Overnight" from 1:00 to 6:00 a.m. Music is on an automation system so no announcers are available to take phone calls or requests.

July 10, 1997 **Meet the Artist** benefit concert features **Heavy Metal Horns** with Henley Douglas on tenor and bari sax, John Vanderpool on tenor and alto sax and vocals, Garret "the Kid" Savluk on trumpet and vocals, Hikaru Tsukamoto on trombone, Hiro Hallada on bass, John Perkins on drums, Felix Rentschler on guitar and vocals, John Fraser on keyboards and trumpet and Craig Rawding on harp and lead vocals.

November 1997 24th Anniversary

October 1997 WGMC annual Membership Campaign seeks \$35,000. Management invites listeners to become members and attend an open house to meet on-air personalities, tour the station, enjoy refreshments and receive bonus Meet the Artist tickets.

September 1997 **Meet the Artist** benefit concert features the **Tone Poets**, from Toronto, Ontario, Canada with Stephanie McLean on vocals, Jake Langley on guitar, John Sadowy on

piano, John Fraboni on drums and Louis Simao on bass.

October 16, 1997 Meet the Artist benefit concert features **Joyce DiCamillo Trio** with Ms. DiCamillo playing piano and Rick Petrone on bass and Joe Corsello on drums.

November 13, 1997 Meet the Artist benefit concert features jazz vocalist **Gradie Stone** joined by Rochesterian musicians Matt King on piano, Pete MacDonald on drums and Fred Stone on bass.

December 1997 WGMC receives a \$1,000 grant from the Louis S. and Molly B. Wolk Foundation. Station plans to produce a Meet the Artist CD.

January 1998 Annual Membership Campaign surpasses \$35,000 goal and hits \$38,720 from 745 listeners.

February 1998 For the fifth consecutive year, WGMC celebrates *Black History Month* by broadcasting vignettes of notable African American who made a contribution to jazz. Tom Pethic, Nadine Catlin, Mike Ryan and Joëlle VanBuren research write and voice the vignettes.

January 11, 1998 Meet the Artist benefit concert features local artist **Bud DeTar and his Big Band** with leader De Tar; saxophonists Vic Plati, Nate Agnello, Vince Finocchio, Ralph Dickinson and Bill Hullfish; trumpeters Buddy Colaneri, Sandy Parlato, Dick Zona and Jim Neyhart; trombonists Floyd Hughes, Bill Dengler

and Harry Stanton; bassist John Curry; guitarist Jerry Johnson and drummer Bob Livingstone.

February 11, 1998 Meet the Artist benefit concert features vibraphonist **Charles Bubeck** from Washington, DC, joined by Rochester musicians, drummer Mike Melito and bassist Dan Vitale.

March 19, 1998 Meet the Artist benefit concert features **Janet Beaman Trio** with Ms. Beaman on vocals, Chris Northington on bass, Gian Carlo Cervone on piano and Rey Scott on sax.

April 16, 1998 Meet the Artist benefit concert features **Barry Tee Jazz Trio** with Tee on B-3 organ, Brian Terho on bass and Bobby Blandino on drums.

May 14, 1998 Meet the Artist benefit concert features a return performance from **AKASA** with Cecil Bartholomew on steeldrums, Eldred Majors on bass and vocals, Samuel Algarin on congas, Steve Imburgia on drums and Clyde Morgan on pandeiro, quica bell and shekere.

September 10, 1998 Meet the Artist benefit concert features guitarist **Mark Elf**.

October 1998 Membership Campaign seeks \$40,000 in listener support. Gifts include new design embroidered golf shirt, CDs, WGMC logo saxophone and guitar pins, Meet the Artist tickets, and other promotional items.

October 8, 1998 Meet the Artist benefit concert features pianist **Joyce DeCamillo** with Rick Petrone (l) on bass and Joe Corsello (r) on drums.

November 3, 1998 **25th Anniversary** Recent membership campaign hits \$41,400 and surpasses \$40,000 goal thanks to 808 listeners who became Members of WGMC.

November 5, 1998 Meet the Artist benefit concert features **Mike Melito Quartet** with Melito on drums, Jeff Campbell on bass, Paul Hoffman on piano and Grant Stewart on tenor sax.

December 3, 1998 Meet the Artist benefit concert features **Lynne Arriale**.

January 14, 1999 Meet the Artist benefit concert featuring **Bob Sneider** cancelled due to a Rochester snow storm.

February 11, 1999 Meet the Artist benefit concert features **Steve Koven Trio**.

March 4, 1999 Meet the Artist benefit concert featuring **Bob Sneider** cancelled due to a Rochester snow storm

April 8, 1999 Meet the Artist benefit concert features vocalist **Phil Freeman**.

April 29, 1999 Meet the Artist benefit concert features **Bob Sneider**, finally after two snow storms cancelled his performance.

May 12, 1999 **Meet the Artist** benefit
concert features trumpeter **Jeff Jarvis**.

June 3, 1999 **Meet the Artist** benefit
concert features saxophonist **Anton Schwartz**.

September 23, 1999 **Meet the Artist** benefit
concert features **Nostalgic Reunion**.

October 1999 **Annual Membership**
Campaign turns to listeners for \$50,000 support.

October 7, 1999 **Meet the Artist** benefit
concert welcomes back for the third time the
Joyce DiCamillo Trio.

November 11, 1999 **Meet the Artist** benefit
concert features **Bob Stata** and friends.

December 17, 1999 Recent membership
campaign falls a tad short of goal. 827 listeners
pledged \$47,385 in support for 2000. Campaign

coordinator Charyl Monk feels listeners will
come through by the end of the fiscal year.

Eric Gruner, operations manager, confidently
plans for future growth and improvement.

To be continued...