

**From:** Hiram <hfb2@aol.com>

**To:** hfb2 <hfb2@aol.com>

**Subject:** Fwd: Jack L. Copper Legacy must be displayed trying to buy a photograph Gene

**Date:** Sat, Mar 18, 2017 7:02 am

---



-----Original Message-----

From: legood <[legood@aol.com](mailto:legood@aol.com)>

To: iegood <[iegood@aol.com](mailto:iegood@aol.com)>; HFB2 <[HFB2@aol.com](mailto:HFB2@aol.com)>; hiramkb3 <[hiramkb3@hotmail.com](mailto:hiramkb3@hotmail.com)>; efbroyls <[efbroyls@yahoo.com](mailto:efbroyls@yahoo.com)>; thehardawaygroup1 <[thehardawaygroup1@gmail.com](mailto:thehardawaygroup1@gmail.com)>; outofnoway <[outofnoway@gmail.com](mailto:outofnoway@gmail.com)>; HBurl1229 <[HBurl1229@aol.com](mailto:HBurl1229@aol.com)>

Sent: Mon, May 27, 2013 11:18 am

Subject: Jack L. Copper Legacy must be displayed trying to buy a photograph Gene

## **ALWAYS REMEMBER NEVER FORGET**

Morgan Park was the home of the first African American radio Announcer in America Jack L. Cooper! He must be celebrated and we have no one who will assist us. to date, in getting the greatness of this man's feats on display for the people. I continue to seek a photograph and maybe someone will help me get it into a facility like Ada Park which is in Morgan Park for our people (children) to view. IF WE DON'T DO IT NO ONE ELSE WILL!

[The City of Chicago's Official Site](#)



## West Town State Bank Building



**Address:** 2400 W. Madison St.

**Year Built:** 1929 - 1930

**Architect:** Mundie & Jensen

**Date Designated a Chicago Landmark:** October 1, 2003

**Built to house a bank and rental offices, this unusual neighborhood mid-rise "skyscraper" is a distinctive visual landmark in the Near West Side community area. A**

smaller version of the soaring 1920s-era skyscrapers built in Chicago's Loop, it is finely detailed with both Art Deco- and Modern Classical-style ornament, including stylized eagles sculpted in limestone. Beginning in the 1930s, the building housed radio stations WSBC and WGES that broadcast pioneering African-American radio programs hosted by Jack L. Cooper and Al Benson.



## Jack L. Cooper

[www.radiohof.org/discjockey/JackLCooper.htm](http://www.radiohof.org/discjockey/JackLCooper.htm)

Image may be subject to copyright

Jack L. Cooper is considered to be the first African-American radio announcer in America. A veteran stage performer and columnist for the Chicago Defender, Cooper began his radio career in the 1920s as a comedian at WCAP/Washington DC and quickly determined that there was a sizable African-American population that was under-represented by this new medium.

In 1929, he returned to WSBC/Chicago and became the host, producer and announcer of The All-Negro Hour, a variety show devoted specifically to black performers that sought to avoid the perpetuation of negative racial stereotypes. Later, the show would incorporate news items for the African-American community. By 1937, Cooper was heard on WSBC five days a week,

with a variety of disc jockey programs that played an eclectic blend of black music, ranging from blues to jazz to gospel.

Cooper also utilized radio as a social force on behalf of the community. In 1938, he created Search For Missing Persons, a show designed to reunite listeners and those close to them with whom they had lost contact. In the 1940s, he began Listen Chicago, a program focusing on current events.

Cooper retired from radio in 1959. He died on January 12, 1970.

Jack L. Cooper was inducted into the Radio Hall of Fame in 2012.

## CHICAGO'S RADIO VOICE JACK L. COOPER

[www.aaregistry.org/historic\\_events/view/chicagos-radio-voice-j...](http://www.aaregistry.org/historic_events/view/chicagos-radio-voice-j...)

**African American Registry**

PO Box 19441

Minneapolis MN 55419

**Phone:** 612-822-6831

**Email:** [info@aaregistry.org](mailto:info@aaregistry.org)

**Jack L. Cooper**

Date:

Tue, 1888-09-18

**\*Jack Cooper was born on this date in 1888. He was an African American ventriloquist, vaudeville performer, and radio announcer.**

**From Memphis, TN Jack L. Cooper was one of ten children of William and Lavina Cooper. Cooper quit school in the 5th grade to help support his family. He held a number of jobs and was a semi-pro baseball player and boxer, winning more than 100 bouts. In 1905, Cooper found part of his calling on the vaudeville stage as a singer and dancer. Cooper was more than a performer, he wrote and produced skits and entire shows with his first wife Estelle (who was also a performer). He began his professional career as a writer for the Chicago Defender as a theater critic, but his love was in performing and he hoped to do that in the new medium of radio.**

**After breaking into radio at a white-owned station in Washington, D.C., Cooper returned to Chicago to make his mark. His groundbreaking show, "The All-Negro Hour," debuted on Chicago's airwaves on November 3, 1929. Over the subsequent thirty years, he became the city's first black sportscaster, newscaster, and radio executive. Cooper's enthusiasm for radio was matched by his commitment to African-American youth. A resident of the nearby Morgan Park neighborhood, Cooper actively supported community groups including the South Side Boy's Club and the Morgan Park Youth Association. He went on to own his own radio station.**

**In 1966, the Chicago Park District acquired 4.3 acres of land in the West Pullman neighborhood with the help of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. Jack Cooper died January 12, 1970. In 1975, the park district officially designated the site Cooper Park in his name.**

Reference:

[Radio Hall of Fame](#)[To Become a Disc Jockey](#)

## A Profile of Radio Personality Jack L. Cooper

By [Corey Deitz](#), About.com Guide

•



Jack L. Cooper, Pioneer Radio DeeJay

Screenshot: [www.otrcat.com](http://www.otrcat.com)



**Career:** Cooper began his radio career as a comedian on WCAP/Washington D.C.

He later moved to Chicago and debuted *The All Negro Hour* on WSBC, November 3, 1929. It was a weekly show at first but eventually was expanded to 10 hours-a-week.

The program aired until 1935. Cooper also broadcasted over WHFC, Chicago. Cooper stayed on the air in one form or another until 1961

**Claim To Fame:** Considered the first African-American disc-jockey and radio announcer.

Also, Cooper began playing records over the air with a home phonograph and historians argue whether he was the first "DJ" or whether Al Jarvis in California was. Many believe it was simultaneous.

It's the exceptions that make us what we are, not the rules.

Wednesday, September 29, 2010

## [The First Black Radio Announcer \(Part 2\)](#)

[tenwatts.blogspot.com/2010/09/first-black-radio-announcer-part...](http://tenwatts.blogspot.com/2010/09/first-black-radio-announcer-part...)

Image may be subject to copyright

[Arcane](#) Radio Trivia

Welcome to Part 2. Feel Free to review [Part One](#) if you need to. The answer seems black and white if you can forgive the idiom. The dates seem to be firm, but I'll get to the confusion in a second. Most historians name Jack L. Cooper as the first black American radio announcer. Cooper was called in one article "The God-Father of Black Radio." It's well deserved. His program, "The All Negro Hour", debuted November 3, 1929 on WSBC-AM in Chicago. This late 1929 start is where the debate begins. There is no firm start date on Joe Bostic. It's just dated usually to after his college graduation and assumed to be in early 1930. It's close to Cooper, but probably about six months after.



WSBC has the oldest call letters in all of Chicago. It's pretty sad that it's now relegated as a brokered ethnic station. This really could have been a heritage brand. W.S.B.C. stands for World Storage Battery Company. the station began broadcasting in 1925 from the hotel Crillon. It was founded by Joseph Silverstein. It began as an ethnic station with various slots playing Greek, Polish, Italian or other programming for first generation immigrant groups. Silverstein just wanted to sell batteries, race was irrelevant. It's why he hired Cooper. To a pure capitalist it was just another demographic. it sounds cynical now, but at the time it was a very liberal position. In 1930 racial discrimination was a civic duty.



In the 1930s it was located at 2400 W. Madison St. in Chicago with co-owned WGRB-AM and WCDB-AM. The All Negro Hour ran at 5:00 PM on Sunday nights. It ran once a week initially but expanded to a Weekday 2-hour program. The program aired until 1935. Over his career, Cooper also broadcast over WHFC-AM, WWAE-AM, WBEE-AM, and WAAF-AM all in Chicago. Cooper had previously done advertising and sales for the [Chicago Defender](#) newspaper, a daily that targeted African-American readership.

It's interesting to note that Cooper's first radio gig wasn't in Chicago. It's the Chicago gig that gets him the certified credit for first black radio announcer but he was on air before that. But that gig has a questionable date. Most sources cite a year between 1922 and 1925. but the station is always 640 WCAP-AM in Washington D.C. But that gig wasn't as successful as the Negro Hour. WCAP, like much of the nation at that time was segregated. He actually had to enter the station from a rear door. WCAP was a share-time with WRC-AM and was founded by the Chesapeake and Potomac Telephone Company. It only existed from about 1923 to July 1926. Occam's razor trims off the early 1922 date.. but the rest are still possible. (I favor the 1924 date.)

Cooper certainly didn't go straight for radio. He was born in 1888 in Memphis, TN.

He quit school in the 5th grade to support his family. Similar to Bostic, Cooper was big on sports. He boxed as a welterweight and played amateur baseball. He even spent some time in vaudeville as a song and dance man. It was that vaudeville material that got him on the air at WCAP doing comedy skits. It also was probably that experience that got him into the Chicago Defender initially as a theater critic.

In his mid sixties health problems led to a case of permanent blindness. He retired from radio in 1959. he died in January 1970 at the age of 81. In 1975, the Chicago Park District declared 4.3 acres of land in the West Pullman neighborhood as Cooper Park, named for the first black radio announcer: Jack L. Cooper.

Posted by [jose fritz](#) at [Wednesday, September 29, 2010](#)  

Labels: [black radio](#), [Jack Cooper](#), [WCAP](#), [WHFC](#), [WSBC](#)

### WSBC - Chicago

<b>12/1/2010</b>	1430kHz, 1410kHz, 1040kHz, 1290kHz, 1210kHz, 1240kHz	World Battery Co., Gene Dyer, Julius & Robert Miller, Louis Lee, Daniel Lee, Diamond Broadcasting, Newsweb Corp.
------------------	--	--

[nuseum/Chiradhist/1240.htm](#)

The radio craze created new business opportunities Chicago became a major manufacturing center for the new medium. Companies like Chicago Radio Laboratories (Zenith), All-American, Neutrowound, Stewart-Warner and others were manufacturing radios as fast as they could and part suppliers were trying to keep up as well One item early radios used were batteries...and heavy, specialized ones. Joseph Silverstein, owner of the World Storage Battery Company on Chicago's Automobile Row saw a great opportunity...both to sell batteries (which he was doing for car dealers) but also to inform and entertain possible clients. He applied for a license and in August, 1925, his station, WSBC, standing for his World's Storage Battery Company" came on the air for the first time. The new station debuted with 200 watts on 1430 kHz from Silverstein's showroom on Wabash & Roosevelt in Chicago. The transmitter was located nearby atop the Crillion (later the Great Southern) Hotel at 13th & Michigan.

The new station struggled to find a dial position and audience during its initial days. In early 1926, as dial hopping became a problem, WSBC would shift to 1410 kHz, increasing power to 1,000 watts, then by summer it was heard along with WMBI on 1040 kHz with upwards of 2,000 watts. At this time the station found a special niche...reaching out to the large ethnic enclaves that had greatly expanded the city. WSBC would be one of the first radio station's to specialize in foreign language programming...a format that would serve it, and its listeners

Great very well to the present day.

reet

SBC

30's.

d to the 1290 frequency with 500 watts; sharing time with WJKS from Gary, Indiana and n that operated briefly (on 1290 KHz) from Chicago before finding a home in Hammond, mat surely was a factor when the FRC allowed the station to keep its license but it was 100-watts and move to 1210 kHz and to share it with WEDC, owned by car dealer, Emil

le showroom and Clinton White's WCRW...also known as the "Gold Coast Station" from  
nt would remain, virtually unchanged, for the next 70 years.

aller signal, it was growing a bigger purpose. On November 3, 1929, the  
: Negro Hour" ...a show hosted by Jack L. Cooper. Cooper's radio career  
where blacks could perform as musicians on radio, but not speak.  
nicago, he met Joseph Silverstein who was looking to reach the large  
lience that lived in the nearby "Black Belt". Cooper would develop radio  
r black listeners, but in a dignified manner. He took great pride in his  
professional announcers of the era. In the 40's, he would pioneer black  
; again in a very polished manner. Cooper's programs would find homes  
ions. He is cited as an influence on the upcoming generation of black  
onalities who would lay the groundwork for Urban radio in the 50's.

Jack L. Cooper - black  
broadcast pioneer who  
began producing shows  
on WSBC in 1926. His  
program would continue  
on the station into the  
80s.

## OTHER TRIVIA

Another popular WSBC show was the "Jewish Radio Theater". Besides being Jewish, Silverstein's station was heard clearly in the Douglas Park area that had become a the city's major Jewish center. The area thrived with Yiddish theater and newspapers and WSBC would cater to this audience until the neighborhood changed and the Jewish community moved north in the 50's. For most of it's shared-time years, WSBC was heard from 6am-8:30am, 10am-11am, 2pm-3:30pm, 8pm-10pm and 11pm-Midnight. In 1933, the station was sold to Gene Dyer. He was brokering airtime at WSBC and other stations and decided to own instead. In addition to acquiring WSBC, Dyer had purchased WGES from Louis Guyon in 1930 and WCBD in Zion from the Christian Apostolic Church in 1932. WSBC moved to new studios and a more central transmitting location from Madison & Western. This allowed WSBC to put out a strong signal on the west and near south side, and now over the north and northwest sides. The station brokered air time for news and entertainment in many languages...Italian, Polish, Russian, German, Ukrainian, Bohemian as well as Cooper's programs. Throughout its history, WSBC would reflect the ethnic composition of the areas within the signal's prime coverage area...and the city's ethnic changes as well.

adison &  
ugh the 60s

ased to 250 watts. The NARBA shift in 1941 moved WSBC, along with WEDC  
ie anti-duopoly laws that were approved by the FCC in 1943 would force Dyer  
ions. He sold WGES to his brother, Dr. John Dyer and kept control of WCBD  
and changed call-letters to WAIT. Dyer would return the WCBD license to the  
who would resume Sunday only religious broadcasts on 820kHz in 1947. At  
to Julius Miller, the host of the station's Jewish theater. Miller took control in  
's ethnic character would continue. In 1948, the station launch WXRT, an FM

radios and transmitter in the Sheraton-Chicago Hotel on Michigan Avenue. This financial troubles and would go dark in 1951. In 1953, Miller bought WAIT from the appliance store owner, Louis Lee. Lee also would be committed in ethnic format. Any to FM in April, 1960 when WSBC-FM began operating at 93.1 MHz. The classical music with a Jazz show late at night. Unfortunately the music generating revenue (a big reason the original WXRT failed) and Lee began to broker as well. In 1964 WSBC was allowed to boost its signal to 1,000 watts and WXRT.

"Continental" Bob Lewandowski - hosted television shows on Channel 7 and 26 as well the long time morning host on WSBC.

The mid 60s represented a change in the ethnic composition of the neighborhoods WSBC served and this would bring in new programs, languages and voices. At this time, the station became the radio home of Bob Lewandowski, a very popular Polish entertainer and TV host. He'd be a central figure in Polish radio and television until his retirement in the late 80s. The station also began to air more Spanish programming as a Mexican community emerged around 26th and California and Puerto Ricans moved in around Humboldt Park.

The neighborhood around WSBC's Western and Madison studios had changed as well. In what was termed "White Flight", ethnic whites had moved out to neighborhoods in the far north and northwest parts of the city or to the suburbs. The city's black population grew rapidly following World War II and a new "western black belt" had evolved westward along Madison Avenue. As blacks moved further west, racial tensions increased. Those tensions exploded on April 4, 1968 when Dr. Martin Luther King was assassinated. Riots soon broke out in Chicago; the worst happening around the WSBC studios. The staff barricaded itself in the building and armed guards were called in. When calm was restored, buildings had burned and the WSBC quickly moved to temporary studios at North Avenue and Pulaski...then into a permanent home at 4949 West Belmont in 1970.

WSBC's home from 1970 through 1991

ine throughout the 60s. WGES was sold to McLendon Broadcasting in 1962 and then WHFC was acquired by Chess would focus exclusively on the black audience. Many of the displaced brokers would find a place on FM, including WXRT

ic voice became more important. All the station's 8 hours of airtime would sell out and remain that way into the 80s. Within the station's signal, the station's programming would reach out to these listeners. Mornings would feature noted DJ Chapa and afternoons featured Enrique Bellagamba...better known as "Mr. Nice". Black programming would move to the 1240 frequency, with the exception of Sunday church remotes. Other languages heard on WSBC were German, Italian, Greek, and many other tongues on WSBC and WXRT.

By 1971 his son Daniel became the station manager. In 1972, he began to do a time-share with WXRT. WXRT would become the station's full-time format in September, 1976. Many of the former programs on WSBC. The station enjoyed being one of the few night time signals in the city that served every ethnic neighborhood. New arrivals from India, Pakistan and Korea would find their way to WSBC in the 80s.

By the mid-1970s, WSBC was in competition from suburban AM stations. Many of these stations at the "low" end of the frequency spectrum were mainstream and local formats but the increased competition from FM would force many of them to seek other sources of revenue. Also the rise in format radio on FM would reduce the number of hours of ethnic programming. Thus throughout the 70s and 80s WSBC would face competition from stations that offered airtime at lower rates. Hispanic radio also began to come into its own. Full time programming on stations like WOJO, WTAQ and WIND would reduce the audience and revenues for WSBC's Mexican community. By the end of the 80s the station's Spanish programming would focus almost exclusively on the Mexican community.

WSBC's studios in the 90s  
at 4900 Belmont

WSBC's dominant role as the company's money maker would shift in favor of WXRT in the 80s. Lee's focus was mostly on the growing FM operation and chain of stations he would purchase. Station manager, Roy Bellavia, who had overseen the ethnic programming since 1963, maintained WSBC's operation despite many changes in brokers and radio in general. In 1991, Lee purchased the dormant 820 kHz license. Initially the station was to be called WXRJ...a Jazz oriented companion for WXRT, but Lee and WXRT General Manager Seth Mason chose a sports talk format instead...signing on "The Score", WSCR on January 2, 1992. WSBC's studios at 4949 Belmont were used for the new station...WSBC, and Roy, spent the next 6 months in a trailer in the parking lot until new WSBC studios were constructed across the street at 4900 W. Belmont. Since the November, 1928 time-sharing arrangement between WSBC, WEDC and WCRW remained while other time shares had faded away. At one time or another one of the three stations attempted to buy one another out...always with the offer being refused. WCRW's Clinton White died in the late 50's and his widow, Josephine took control. In the 80s Josephine would pass on and the station went to its long-time engineer, Ed Jacker. Jacker's daughter Lorraine Peterson would operate the station during its final years. WEDC was sold to Chicago Alderman and Congressman Roman Pucinski in 1967 so his mother could continue to do her morning Polish program that had been canceled on WGES in 1962. In 1995 Lee sold WXRT and WSCR to Westinghouse for \$77 million dollars...and with his new bounty would finally consolidate the 1240 frequency. In May, 1996, Lee purchased WCRW from the Peterson for \$625,000; taking over the station's hours on June 17, 1996. Next Lee bought WEDC for \$500,000 in May, 1997. At 10pm on June 13, 1997 WEDC signed off for the last time...WSBC now had full control of 1240.

oom - 1997

with full-time WSBC very long. In February, 1998, the station was sold to Fred Eychaner, owner of many that published many neighborhood and ethnic papers throughout Chicago (Chicago Reader) and WPWR-TV, Channel 50. In the early 80s, Eychaner owned WQVQ(AM) and transferred the license to operate his television operation. Newsweb, just like past owners, continued with its ethnic programming. WSBC was teamed with WCFJ, a dormant south side station, and moved in February, 1998. The south side station was intended to cover areas outside of Chicago and undergo an expensive transmitter renovation. WSBC's studios would move into the former WISN studios on Milwaukee and Bryn Mawr on the city's northwest side. A year later the station began to operate from its new studios located in their former studios three blocks from the new WSBC Milwaukee Avenue studios. The building had been modified to accommodate WSCR at the expense of WSBC's. Moving to the new location restored the station's signal to full strength after Newsweb took control of the station. The consolidated WSBC on 1240 would continue as an ethnic station in the city and continued to "sell-out" as more ethnic changes in the city led to new programs to the station. In 1998 it became the home of "Lesbigay Radio"; the city's first radio station for the LGBT community. A new wave of Russian and Polish immigrants also sought airtime, and WSBC became a haven for them. In 2001, the station took on a heavy edge when it became the home of WKTA, WVVX and WJKL).

WSBC now transmitting fulltime on 1240 from the old WEDC radio tower on Milwaukee Ave.

Newsweb would expand their radio holdings. In March, 2001, WYPA was purchased from Douglas Broadcasting. The station operated on 820...reuniting the 1240 and 820 frequencies under common ownership once again. In 2004, the company purchased WNDZ(AM) and WRZA(FM) from Z-Spanish, WAIT from Next Media (a deal involving WZCH/WWYW in Dundee) and WKIE, WKIF and WKIE from Big City Radio. Mark Pinski became WSBC Station Manager as well as overseeing WCSN (the news 820) and WAIT (850) from the north side WSBC's studios on Milwaukee Avenue. The FM stations as well as WNDZ would be under the direction of former WXRT, WSCR and WCKG General Manager, Harvey Wells from the former WTAQ studios at 6012 So. Pulaski Road on the city's south side. In May, 2005, WAIT became WCPT...the city's Air America Progressive Talk affiliate and shifted operations to the Pulaski studios. WCPT would shift to 820 in November, 2007 with WAIT returning to 820 and control from the WSBC studios. WNDZ would also move in to the new Milwaukee Avenue studios in 2008. As of this writing new studios for all the stations are under construction in the former WEDC building. Throughout the years and changes, WSBC has been the ultimate radio survivor. It made it through the interference prone madness and then the 1927 Radio act. It then endured and thrived in a three-way time share arrangement that limited it to only 8 hours a day for over 70 years and now is reaching out to new listeners in whatever voice resides in or near the studios.

<http://www.wisn.com/wiki/WCRW>  
<http://www.wisn.com/menofuhf.htm>  
<http://www.wisn.com/communication/web/thesisfiles/tarver.pdf>  
<http://www.wisn.com/communication/web/thesisfiles/tarver.pdf>  
<http://www.wisn.com/communication/web/thesisfiles/tarver.pdf>

**Return To The Chicago Radio Timeline**

**WCRW - Chicago**

<b>6/17/1996</b>	<b>720Khz, 1340kHz, 760kHz, 1210kHz, 1240kHz</b>	<b>Clinton R. White, Josephine White, Ed Jacker, Loraine Peterson</b>
------------------	--	---

r and the Commerce Department lost its ability to regulate the airwaves. This would lift a freeze on authorizing new  
| for new stations and operators to get on the air while Hoover struggled to get Congress to pass legislation to give him  
n up the airwaves. In the meantime anyone who wanted to get on the crowded airwaves had one last chance to do so.  
r radio operator and engineer, quickly applied for a license. In August his station, WCRW, was on the air utilizing a  
itter operating on 720 kHz. The studios were at White's home at Waveland and Pine Grove in Chicago's north side

As was the case with most stations, WCRW had limited hours of operation and entered into several time-sharing arrangements so his signal could be heard through the noise. White would entertain his friends and neighbors with some "hillbilly" music, one of the first country music formats on the air. His wife Josephine also spun the tunes from White's "vibraphone". She would claim to be the first female disc jockey. The station also had news and music programs aimed at the German, Swedish and Italian communities, finding a way to pay the bills through foreign language broadcasting and brokering.

By 1927, White had increased power to 500-watts and would be joined on 720 kHz by WHT, the station owned by Chicago Mayor William Hale Thompson as well as Arne Nelson's WIBO that operated from near Devon and Broadway on the city's far north side. In April, WCRW shifted to 760 kHz and then over to 1340 kHz in a time-share arrangement with WPCC, Reverend J. C. Hair's station from the North Shore Congregational Church at Wilson and Sheridan Road and WFKB, operated by Francis K. Bridgeman from the Woodlawn neighborhood on Chicago's south side.

featuring the Embassy Hotel before extension of Lake  
 ve moved the Lake shore farther east

ome studios and moved into the Embassy Hotel at Pine Grove and Diversey  
 ne the station began to identify itself as the "Gold Coast Station", offering  
 recorded music programs. These shows would get the attention of  
 c President James Petrillo. He would lead boycotts against this and other  
 i forcing them to employ union musicians. Stations such as WCRW that  
 usic were particularly targeted. White would still play his "vibraphone"  
 foreign language programming that bypassed both music royalties and the

o community and ethnic programming would help him earn re-licensing  
 was passed and the new Federal Radio Commission determined which  
 unity interest. WCRW would be assigned 1210 kHz with only 100 watts of  
 ncy with two other foreign language broadcasters, WEDC, owned by Emil  
 from his showroom at Ogden and 22nd on Chicago's southwest side, and  
 tation that was broadcasting from studios at Roosevelt Road and Wabash  
 e. This time sharing arrangement would endure for the next 70 years.

**WCRW was the home for Polka music by  
 Little Wally in the 40s and 50s**

Under the new time sharing agreement, WCRW would be on the air no more than five hours a day, 11pm-2pm and then from 5pm-7pm daily with WSBC and WEDC dividing the rest of the day. During World War II, WCRW, like other ethnic language stations, would come under government scrutiny...concerned that special messages were being broadcast on the station's German and Italian programming. Following the war, WCRW also began to air some black programming as well as Spanish...a sign of things to come.

While other time sharing arrangements would dissolve in the 30s and 40s, WEDC, WCRW and WSBC continued to operate separate transmitters and studios. Each year the station managers would meet to agree on new hours (which pretty much would conform to the old hours) and try to buy the others out. Despite his weak 100 watt signal and antiquated facilities, White would fill the airtime and resist offers to sell.

The Gold Coast area would undergo change in the 50s as the wealthy and middle class moved on to suburbia and new immigrants from Puerto Rico and other Caribbean countries would move into the area; especially around Humboldt Park. A record promoter, Raul Cardona, began hosting a program on WCRW that soon drew a loyal audience and making Cardona one of the first Hispanic radio stars in Chicago. By the 60s he was in control of a majority of WCRW's air time.

he Embassy Hotel...the  
until 1989

suddenly when he suffered a heart attack while inspecting the station's antenna.  
ie station; continuing to run it as Clinton did. She brought in contract engineer Ed Jacker  
ion's upgrade to 250 watts in the early 60s and then 1,000 watts by the end of the

's, WCRW would continue to broadcast its 5 hours a day, a living legacy of Clinton White,  
ssy Hotel. Its antiquated antenna made reception of the station difficult in most areas of  
itts. The signal was only heard clearly on the North and West sides; easily the weakest  
In't seem to matter as the station sold out its air schedule; most of the hours to Cardona.  
sed away, station control went to Ed Jacker and then to his daughter Lorraine Peterson.  
its long time home in the Embassy Hotel (that was about to be torn down) and moved  
fects office at Milwaukee just north of Bryn Mawr on the city's northwest side. The  
1 transmitter and share the WEDC tower that was right down the street...greatly

Raul Cardona -  
Popular Puerto  
Rican radio  
personality  
heard who  
dominated  
WCRW's airtime  
from the 60s  
through the 90s

In 1995 WSBC owner, Danny Lee, sold WXRT(FM) and WSCR(AM) to Westinghouse for \$77.5 million dollars. The windfall would allow him to fulfill a long time goal of consolidating the 1240 frequency. In June, 1996 Lee purchased WCRW for \$500,000. At 7pm on June 17, 1996, almost 70 years to the day Clinton White first fired up his Vibraphone, WCRW said good night for the last time.

Cardona and the other WCRW brokers would move their shows to WSBC. He would retire a year later. Also in 1997, WSBC would purchase WEDC and bring to an end the nearly 70 year time share...one of the most enduring and unique in broadcasting history. While WCRW would be no more, in 1998 its studios would become the new home of WSBC. In recent years those studios would also be the home to other Newsweb stations: WCSJ in Chicago Heights, WAIT from Crystal Lake and WNDZ in Portage, Indiana.

ukee  
SBC,  
adio

[om/books?id=2f-PJGCNJcoC&pg=RA1-PA192&lpg=RA1-PA192&dq=Petrillo+WCRW+Chicago&source=bl&ots=](#)  
[lzugoliVoaOcYR4OOWg-&hl=en&sa=X&oi=book\\_result&resnum=4&ct=result](#)  
[ks?id=4kaOT8SdfkYC&pg=PA40&lpg=PA40&dq=Petrillo+WCRW+Chicago-&source=bl&ots=](#)  
[W3AjNlyUGjwZDle54&hl=en&sa=X&oi=book\\_result-&resnum=1&ct=result#PPA41,M1](#)  
[om/article.html](#)  
[com/coms2/summary\\_0286-9632294\\_ITM](#)  
[/WCRW](#)

[Return To The Chicago Radio Timeline](#)

WEDC - Chicago		
6/13/1997	710kHz, 1240kHz, 1200kHz, 1210kHz, 1240kHz	Emil Denemark Cadillac, Foreign Language Broadcasters

Before spot commercial advertising dominated broadcasting, radio stations were mostly use to promote the business or ego of the station owners. It would spread a business name far and wide, plus having a radio studio and radio antenna on the premises was a status symbol and attracted a crowd.

The automobile would come of age in the 20s and Emil Denemark had built one of the largest car dealerships in the city at Ogden and 22nd Street on Chicago’s southwest side. Denemark was a Jazz fan who built a radio station to spotlight both his favorite music and his dealership. In October, 1926 he would sign on his station, WEDC, transmitting with a powerful 1,000 watts on 710 kHz.

eature live remotes from hotels and night  
Douglas Park areas as well as originating a  
Denemark’s showroom. The station would also  
operate on the city’s west side. Just like other  
stations, WEDC would broker air time and spoke  
to Polish, Lithuanian, Yiddish and Czech  
in addition to hearing voices in their native  
languages became Denemark’s customers. By  
increasing power to 500 watts and shifted to 1240  
kHz, Guyon’s WGES from the nearby Garfield  
area as WEHS in north suburban Evanston and  
broadcasting from Chicago’s south side.  
Connections to its area would help WEDC meet

**ments of the Federal Radio Act of 1927**

**WEDC would be licensed to 1210 kHz**  
**ower. The station would also share time**  
**IBC; broadcasting from Roosevelt Rd. &**  
**WCRW from the Embassy Hotel on the**  
**d Sheridan on Chicago's north side.**

**The WEDC Antenna atop the Emil Denemark Cadillac showroom in 1951**

**WSBC would grab the morning and prime evening hours, WCRW operated only 5 hour a day from 11am until 2pm and from 5pm to 7pm and WEDC took the remainder of the time. The station aired ethnic programming during the day and still spinning jazz and pop music late at night from the Denemark Cadillac showroom studios (visitors were told not to touch the new cars). Even at 100 watts, WEDC's late night signal would be heard across the country as it was the only station that operated on that frequency in the wee hours of the morning. It became a popular DX catch among night owl listeners.**

**In 1940, WEDC would boost its power to 250 watts and then March 29, 1941, along with WSBC and WCRW, shifted over to 1240 KHz. Over the years Denemark would try to buy out his fellow 1240 occupants and visa versa. Despite its fragmented hours, WEDC as well as the other 1240 stations would prosper with their ethnic programming. During the War the station would be criticized and scrutinized by the government, along with other foreign language stations, for the possibility of passing coded messages on its German and Italian language programs. In reality a vast majority of these programs were extremely supportive of the Allied war efforts and the station spoke for and to a growing expatriate community.**

**rk Cadillac showroom**  
**ocal health center**

**ighborhoods surrounding Denemark's location began to change. The children of the immigrants of**  
**ind north and blacks and Hispanics were replacing them. While WEDC continued to air shows**  
**ern European listeners, more black and Spanish programs would begin to fill the air time.**  
**was sold to McLendon Broadcasting and brokerage there was terminated. A year later WHFC**  
**language station, was sold to Leonard and Phil Chess in March, 1963...displacing more brokers**  
**(GES). FM would be one alternative for some brokers where air time was cheaper but there were**  
**pecially those who spoke languages other than English. To prevent losing another station, one**  
**owner. Roman Pucinski, a powerful Chicago Alderman who would later serve in Congress (like**  
**purchased WEDC from Denemark in early 1967. Pucinski's mother, Aurelia Puchinska, hosted the**  
**WGES. When the station was sold, her program was canceled. She struggled to find a new radio**

**Chicago Alderman**  
**and U.S.**

he dial and at different times created a lot of listener confusion. With her son owning the station WEDC and would be heard every morning until she passed away in the late 70s. Pucinski would and his wife would serve as station manager determined to preserve foreign language radio in

Language Broadcasters, moved from the auto dealership into a former auto repair shop at 1000 N. Milwaukee on Chicago's far northwest side. This new location would, once gain, put it in a predominately European and Polish area and ensure Mrs. Puchinska a place to do her morning show.

Congressman Roman Pucinski, whose mother did a morning Polish Show, bought WEDC from Emil Denemark in 1967 and moved the station to the city's Northwest Side

Throughout the 70's Spanish programming would begin to dominate the 1240 time share. WEDC's late night "Buenos Dias Chicago" was a 6-hour block; the longest on the time share and became a popular program. In the early 80's, Pucinski's wife would become disabled and his mother passed away, the station would begin to deteriorate as caretaker managers were brought in to try to keep the station air time sold and on the air. Pucinski's company, Foreign Language Broadcasters, moved from the auto dealership into a former auto repair shop at Milwaukee near Bryn Mawr on Chicago's far northwest side. This new location would, once gain, put it in a predominately Eastern European and Polish area and ensure Mrs. Puchinska a place to do her morning show.

Throughout the 70's Spanish programming would begin to dominate the 1240 time share. WEDC's late night "Buenos Dias Chicago" was a 6-hour block; the longest on the time share and became a popular program. In the early 80's, Pucinski's wife would become disabled and his mother passed away, the station would begin to deteriorate as caretaker managers were brought in to try to keep the station air time sold and on the air.

Lee & Bryn Mawr on Chicago's Northwest Side...now used to transmit WSBC

endure into the 90's...each station maintaining their own separate transmitters WSBC from 6am-8:30am, WEDC: 8:30am-10:00am, WSBC: 10:00am-11:00am, WSBC: 2:00pm-3:30pm, WEDC: 3:30pm-5:00pm, WCRW: 5:00pm-7:00pm, WEDC: 7:00pm-10:00pm, WEDC: 10:00pm-11:00pm, WSBC: 11:00pm-Midnight and WEDC: 11:00pm-Midnight and Midnight to 10 am. 1240 time share would begin in late 1995 when Westinghouse purchased from Danny Lee the owner of WSBC. Lee then used his windfall and purchased

, 1996, then finally consolidated the channel a year later when he purchased the largest time-share in Chicago; a remnant of the Radio Act of 1927, would conclude when WEDC would hit the plates for the final time...70 years after firing up for the ark's showroom. Emil Denemark Cadillac is still in business with their current term on Chicago's southwest side.

0 kHz frequency, Lee sold WSBC to Fred Eychanner's Newsweb Corporation, the deal 50 for \$5 million. The WSBC studios would move into the former WCRW building on the antenna atop the old WEDC studios.

Newsweb would add several other AM stations to their portfolio. They bought suburban Ford Heights, WYPA (the former WSCR and WAIT) from Douglas Lake from NextMedia and WNDZ in Portage, Indiana from Z-Spanish. Stations originate from the former WCRW studios but in 2010 work began on new building that is expected to be online in 2011. While silent from the airwaves, stations continue to fill the airwaves with foreign language programming.

WEDC's Tower at 5725 N.  
Milwaukee - still standing tall and  
used fulltime by WSBC

[http://www.amazon.com/books?id=aDVquR0h-dsC&pg=PA107&lpg=PA107&dq=Emil+Denemark+Chicago-&source=shuR8wUYmxITrgKUSUKE&hl=en&sa=X&oi=book\\_result&resnum=5&ct=result](http://www.amazon.com/books?id=aDVquR0h-dsC&pg=PA107&lpg=PA107&dq=Emil+Denemark+Chicago-&source=shuR8wUYmxITrgKUSUKE&hl=en&sa=X&oi=book_result&resnum=5&ct=result)  
[http://www.amazon.com/WEDC-books?id=WIJ4njjvRqEC&pg=PA5&lpg=PA5&dq=WEDC+Radio+Chicago-&source=bl&ots&pg=PA157&lpg=PA157&dq=WEDC+Radio+Chicago&source=shuR8wUYmxITrgKUSUKE&hl=en&sa=X&oi=book\\_result&resnum=2&ct=result](http://www.amazon.com/WEDC-books?id=WIJ4njjvRqEC&pg=PA5&lpg=PA5&dq=WEDC+Radio+Chicago-&source=bl&ots&pg=PA157&lpg=PA157&dq=WEDC+Radio+Chicago&source=shuR8wUYmxITrgKUSUKE&hl=en&sa=X&oi=book_result&resnum=2&ct=result)  
[http://www.amazon.com/links/other\\_places.htm](http://www.amazon.com/links/other_places.htm)