

McLean County Museum of History

WIHN Collection

Processed by Torii Moré
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Collection Information

VOLUME OF COLLECTION:	1 Box
COLLECTION DATES:	1970-1977
RESTRICTIONS:	None
REPRODUCTION RIGHTS:	Permission to reproduce or publish material in this collection must be obtained in writing from the McLean County Museum of History
ALTERNATIVE FORMATS:	None
OTHER FINDING AIDS:	None
LOCATION:	Archives
NOTES:	None

Historical Sketch

This information is from the WIHN Wikipedia page, which was sent with the collection and is located in Folder 1.

WIHN, branded 96-7 I-Rock is an FM active rock radio station on the Normal, Illinois frequency of 96.7 MHz. It is owned by Connoisseur Media and switched to its current rock format in early 1995 from its former Adult Contemporary format.

The station signed on the air Friday, December 21, 1973 from studios located on the second floor of the Castle Theater Building on Washington Street in Bloomington. The WIHN transmitter was located at Nord Farm on the West side of Bloomington-Normal, The antenna was side-mounted at the maximum allowable height of 300 feet on an already existing communications tower owned by Dr. Stanley Nord. Photographs of the mounting of this transmitter are in folder 1 the collection.

The station was conceived by David S. Wolfenden who formed McLean Communications Corporation. Besides Wolfenden, who became President of the corporation and

the station's General Manager, other McLean principles included Andrew Recor, Wilbur Winn, William Brady, Bert Jackson, and several other local businessmen.

Wolfenden looked for call letters depicting excitement phonetically, a phase. After much searching it appeared that WIHN was available. Wrong! WIHN belonged to "...the oil screw Oregon, sunk...", used for signal flag communications and presumably lost in WWII. With minimal arm twisting by McLean's Washington FCC attorney, Tom Fletcher, the Coast Guard released the call.

Two well-known early station personalities were Doug Blair, the PD and Jerry Holtz. WIHN was one of the first stations nationally to air Casey Kasem's America's Top 40 Countdown.

Scope Note

This collection spans from 1970 to 1977. The collection contains balance sheets, newspaper clippings, correspondence, FCC applications, floor plans, maps, letters from pleased local businesses and individuals, stock & share information, and meeting notices and minutes. The collection shows the application process and years of effort it took David Wolfenden and Thomas W. Fletcher to get WIHN established as a new radio station, follows the profits and losses of the McLean Communication Corporation, and contains record of the eventual sale of David Wolfenden's shares in the company.

Box and Folder Inventory

Loose Items:

1. (Part 1) McLean Communications Corp. Operating Plan
2. (Part 1) Central America Communications Prospectus and Operating Plan
3. Engineering Exhibits Application for Construction Permit January 1972
4. (Part 2) Documentation New FM Station (Confidential)
5. McLean Communications Corporation Application for Construction Permit for new Frequency Modulation Broadcast Station (Ch. 224) at Normal, Illinois Filed March 21, 1972 with FCC

Folder 1: Collection Information & Newspaper Clippings

- 1.1 September 21, 2009. Email from Dave Wolfenden to Andy Rector regarding shipment of WIHN historical material to be dropped off at McLean County Historical Society.
- 1.2 WIHN Wikipedia page with Andy Rector's business card attached.
- 1.3 note- "First Contract- General Telephone First Check- Hard Time Productions"
- 1.4 April 10, 1972. Broadcasting magazine or journal p. 50 (2 copies)
- 1.5 January 29, 1973. Broadcasting magazine or journal page 73
- 1.6 March 12, 1973. Broadcasting magazine or journal page 79
- 1.7 July 16, 1973. Broadcasting magazine or journal page 49
- 1.8 Photocopy from unknown magazine or newspaper article titled "New FM radio station will open this fall" with hand written notes in margins
- 1.9 January 13, 1973 Photocopy of article titled "Group gets FCC permit for FM radio station" in the *Pantagraph*
- 1.10 October 31, 1973. Photocopy of article titled "New FM station to begin" in the *Vidette*

- 1.11 Two photocopies of newspaper advertisements for WIHN
- 1.12 March 31, 1972. Photocopy of legal notice in the *Normalite*
- 1.13 August 1973. Photocopy of article titled "New station to broadcast 'pop rock' music" in the *Vidette*
- 1.14 3 copies of Rate Card #1 daily time classification for WIHN effective November 15, 1973
- 1.15 Public notice of transfer of control of corporate ownership
- 1.16 4 photographs of installation of antenna at Nord Farm

Folder 2: Correspondence 1970-1977

- 2.1 September 17, 1970. From David S. Wolfenden to Federal Communications Commission
- 2.2 December 30, 1971. From David S. Wolfenden to Thomas W. Fletcher (*prospectus and operating plan, pre-incorporation agreement, diagram of available studios*)
- 2.3 January 3, 1972. From Thomas W. Fletcher to David S. Wolfenden (*survey of McLean County leaders and public*)
- 2.4 January 14, 1972. From Thomas W. Fletcher to David S. Wolfenden (*phone conversation between Steven Feder and Theodore V. Bator*)
- 2.5 January 28, 1972. From Thomas W. Fletcher to David S. Wolfenden (*enclosed copy of Feder-Bator application for Channel 224*)
- 2.6 January 28, 1972. From David S. Wolfenden to Thomas W. Fletcher (*enclosed community needs survey.*)
- 2.7 January 31, 1972. From David S. Wolfenden to Thomas W. Fletcher (*enclosed complete survey sheets.*)
- 2.8 January 31, 1972. From Thomas W. Fletcher to David S. Wolfenden (*equipment letter of credit*)
- 2.9 January 31, 1972. From Thomas W. Fletcher to David S. Wolfenden (*filing of application*)
- 2.10 February 1, 1972. From David S. Wolfenden to Thomas W. Fletcher (*financial information and surveys*)
- 2.11 March 7, 1972. From Thomas W. Fletcher to David S. Wolfenden (*FCC application*)
- 2.12 March 23, 1972. From David S. Wolfenden to Thomas W. Fletcher (*Commission publication requirements*)
- 2.13 March 24, 1972. From Thomas W. Fletcher to David S. Wolfenden (*noted application*)
- 2.14 March 25, 1972. FCC announcement of received applications
- 2.15 Notice of incorporation February 29, 1972
- 2.16 April 4, 1972. From Thomas W. Fletcher to David S. Wolfenden (*obtained copy of Broadcast Communications' amendment*)
- 2.17 April 6, 1972. From Thomas W. Fletcher to David S. Wolfenden (*application*)
- 2.18 April 7, 1972. From Thomas W. Fletcher to David S. Wolfenden (*Bloomington studios*)
- 2.19 April 11, 1972. From FCC to Wolfenden (*more information needed*)
- 2.20 April 14, 1972. From David S. Wolfenden to Thomas W. Fletcher (*publication of Legal Notice in Normalite, etc.*)
- 2.21 April 17, 1972. From Thomas W. Fletcher to David S. Wolfenden (*application*)
- 2.22 April 19, 1972. From Thomas W. Fletcher to David S. Wolfenden (*Legal Notice*)

- 2.23 May 8, 1972. From Thomas W. Fletcher to David S. Wolfenden (*enclosed breakdown of FM Application bill*)
- 2.24 May 16, 1972. From Thomas W. Fletcher to David S. Wolfenden (*application and amendments at City Clerk office*)
- 2.25 May 22, 1972. From David S. Wolfenden to Thomas W. Fletcher (*bill of May 8*)
- 2.26 May 25, 1972. From Thomas W. Fletcher to David S. Wolfenden (*Feder/Bator application by-out*)
- 2.27 June 2, 1972. From Thomas W. Fletcher to David S. Wolfenden (*buyout*)
- 2.28 June 23, 1972. From Thomas W. Fletcher to David S. Wolfenden (*buyout*)
- 2.29 July 13, 1972. From Thomas W. Fletcher to Erwin G. Krasnow (*proposed accommodation in Normal*)
- 2.30 July 5, 1972. From Thomas W. Fletcher to Erwin G. Krasnow and David S. Wolfenden (*dictated phone call regarding Feder/Bator application*)
- 2.31 July 14, 1972. From Thomas W. Fletcher to David S. Wolfenden (*definition of commissionable business*)
- 2.32 July 25, 1972. From Thomas W. Fletcher to David S. Wolfenden (*enclosed Feder/Bator expenses*)
- 2.33 August 7, 1972. From Thomas W. Fletcher to Erwin G. Krasnow (*Feder commissions*)
- 2.34 August 4, 1972. From Martin I. Levy to David S. Wolfenden (*two applications for the same channel*)
- 2.35 August 22, 1972. From David S. Wolfenden to Thomas W. Fletcher (*antennas*)
- 2.36 September 25, 1972. From Thomas W. Fletcher to David S. Wolfenden (*application buyout*)
- 2.37 October 5, 1972. From Thomas W. Fletcher to David S. Wolfenden (*filing of application*)
- 2.38 October 17, 1972. From Thomas W. Fletcher to David S. Wolfenden (*Filing of application*)
- 2.39 October 19, 1972. From Thomas W. Fletcher to David S. Wolfenden (*dismissal of materials*)
- 2.40 October 22, 1972. From D.S.Wolfenden to Share Holders and Directors McLean Communications Corp. (*dismissal of Broadcast Communications application and granting of McLean Communications application*)
- 2.41 November 2, 1972. From Thomas W. Fletcher to David S. Wolfenden (*FCC published initial phase relative to re-regulation of broadcasting*)
- 2.42 November 17, 1972. From Thomas W. Fletcher to David S. Wolfenden (*FCC rules*)
- 2.43 December 4, 1972. From Thomas W. Fletcher to Mr. Steven Howard Feder (*Amended Agreement enclosed*)
- 2.44 December 4, 1972. From Thomas W. Fletcher to David S. Wolfenden (*draft of amendment*)
- 2.45 January 2, 1973. From Thomas W. Fletcher to David S. Wolfenden (*confirmation of telephone conversation*)
- 2.46 January 11, 1973. FCC Broadcast Actions
- 2.47 January 12, 1973. From Thomas W. Fletcher to David S. Wolfenden (*Congratulations! Grant of McLean Communications Corporation's application*)
- 2.48 January 12, 1973. From Thomas W. Fletcher to David S. Wolfenden (*availability of call letters*)

- 2.49 January 16, 1973. From Thomas W. Fletcher to William Earman (*channel 224A prospects of Class B*)
- 2.50 January 22, 1973.
- 2.51 January 29, 1973. From Thomas W. Fletcher to David S. Wolfenden (*enclosed letter from Mr. Feder's Council*)
- 2.52 February 1, 1973. From Thomas W. Fletcher to David S. Wolfenden (*availability of WIHN*)
- 2.53 February 2, 1973. From Thomas W. Fletcher to Ben F. Waple (*new frequency & construction permit*)
- 2.54 February 5, 1973. From Thomas W. Fletcher to Ben F. Waple (*call letters WIHN*)
- 2.55 February 12, 1973. From Thomas W. Fletcher to David S. Wolfenden (*letters from US Coast Guard regarding WIHN letters*)
- 2.56 February 21, 1973. From Thomas W. Fletcher to David S. Wolfenden (*public notice WIHN*)
- 2.57 February 22, 1973. From Thomas W. Fletcher to Ben F. Waple (*enclosed FCC form 76-G*)
- 2.58 March 14, 1973. From Thomas W. Fletcher to David S. Wolfenden (*studio location*)
- 2.59 March 16, 1973. From Thomas W. Fletcher to David S. Wolfenden (*studio locations*)
- 2.60 April 3, 1973. From Thomas W. Fletcher to David S. Wolfenden (*Public Notice completion of call assignment*)
- 2.61 May 8, 1973. From Thomas W. Fletcher to David S. Wolfenden (*studio location*)
- 2.62 May 27, 1973. From David S. Wolfenden to Thomas W. Fletcher (*enclosed Forms 313, 301 and two checks*)
- 2.63 July 19, 1973. From Thomas W. Fletcher to David S. Wolfenden (*WIHN application for STL*)
- 2.64 July 31, 1973. From Thomas W. Fletcher to David S. Wolfenden (*enclosed program and operating log*)
- 2.65 August 22, 1973. From Thomas W. Fletcher to David S. Wolfenden (*Public Notice acceptance of WIHN letters*)
- 2.66 August 24, 1973. From Thomas W. Fletcher to David S. Wolfenden (*must be Normal/Bloomington, not Bloomington/Normal*)
- 2.67 September 12, 1973. From Thomas W. Fletcher to David S. Wolfenden (*License application*)
- 2.68 September 12, 1973. From Thomas W. Fletcher to David S. Wolfenden (*STL application*)
- 2.69 September 19, 1973. From Thomas W. Fletcher to David S. Wolfenden (*construction phases and required notifications*)
- 2.70 September 21, 1973. From Thomas W. Fletcher to David S. Wolfenden (*grant expected sometime next week*)
- 2.71 October 2, 1973. From Thomas W. Fletcher to Vincent J. Mullins (*STL application*)
- 2.72 October 10, 1973. From Thomas W. Fletcher to David S. Wolfenden (*Public Notice grant of WIHN STL application*)
- 2.73 November 1, 1973. From Thomas W. Fletcher to David S. Wolfenden (*construction permit*)
- 2.74 November 12, 1973. From Thomas W. Fletcher to David S. Wolfenden (*change in stock ownership*)

- 2.75 November 20, 1973. From Thomas W. Fletcher to David S. Wolfenden (*Public Notice filing of license application for WAKC*)
- 2.76 November 28, 1973. From Thomas W. Fletcher to David S. Wolfenden (*enclosed suggested agreement for part time contract engineer*)
- 2.77 December 3, 1973. From David S. Wolfenden to Thomas W. Fletcher (*enclosed form 302 and balance sheet*)
- 2.78 December 4, 1973. From Thomas W. Fletcher to David S. Wolfenden (*pertinent information relative to assignment of station license of WAKC to Great Oaks Broadcasting, Inc.*)
- 2.79 December 19, 1973. From Thomas W. Fletcher to David S. Wolfenden (*telegram authority*)
- 2.80 January 29, 1974. From Thomas W. Fletcher to David S. Wolfenden (*response concerning recorded programs*)
- 2.81 February 6, 1974. From Thomas W. Fletcher to David S. Wolfenden (*Public Notice FCC acceptance of license application for WIHN FM*)
- 2.82 February 27, 1974. From Thomas W. Fletcher to David S. Wolfenden (*Public Notice of FCC granting license of WIHN*)
- 2.83 copy of above mentioned Public Notice
- 2.84 March 4, 1974. From Thomas W. Fletcher to David S. Wolfenden (*Public Notice granting license of WAKC to Great Oaks Broadcasting*)
- 2.85 March 12, 1974. From Thomas W. Fletcher to David S. Wolfenden (*NAB Convention*)
- 2.86 March 13, 1974. From Thomas W. Fletcher to David S. Wolfenden (*Guy Fraker regarding proposed stock transactions*)
- 2.87 May 22, 1974. From Thomas W. Fletcher to David S. Wolfenden (*concerning local cable carriage of WIHN*)
- 2.88 May 28, 1974. From David S. Wolfenden to Mr. Raymond Kolbus (*signal on cable system*)
- 2.89 July 10, 1974. From Thomas W. Fletcher to David S. Wolfenden (*response to cable system request*)
- 2.90 July 15, 1974. From Thomas W. Fletcher to Raymond Kolbus (*obtaining carriage of station WIHN on local cable station*)
- 2.91 August 27, 1974. From Thomas W. Fletcher to David S. Wolfenden (*STL license grant status*)
- 2.92 September 16, 1974. From Thomas W. Fletcher to David S. Wolfenden (*Public Notice FCC*)
- 2.93 October 7, 1974. From Thomas W. Fletcher to David S. Wolfenden (*Granted license for STL at WIHN*)
- 2.94 November 1, 1974. From Thomas W. Fletcher to David S. Wolfenden (*Public Notice grant of WAKC request for multiple city identification Normal-Bloomington*)
- 2.95 April, 2 1976. From Thomas W. Fletcher to David S. Wolfenden (*renewal of license application of WIHN*)
- 2.96 December 8, 1976. From Thomas W. Fletcher to David S. Wolfenden (*WIHN stock*)
- 2.97 January 11, 1977. From Thomas W. Fletcher to David S. Wolfenden (*McLean stock*)
- 2.98 September 20, 1977. From Thomas W. Fletcher to David S. Wolfenden (*approved assignment of license of station WAKC from Great Oaks Company to Iroquois County Broadcasting*)

Folder 3: FCC Applications

- 3.1 December 14, 1971. Feder and Bator application
- 3.2 January 28, 1972. Feder and Bator application & McLean County Problems Survey
- 3.3 May 2, 1972. Wolfenden to Fletcher regarding attached McLean County Problems Survey & list of participants
- 3.4 October 18, 1972. Fletcher to Ben Waple regarding eleven attached copies of negotiations
- 3.5 December 13, 1972. Fletcher to Ben Waple regarding attached copies of negotiations
- 3.6 December 27, 1972. Fletcher to Ben Waple regarding attached copies of negotiations
- 3.7 January 10, 1973. Feder & Bator request for Channel 224
- 3.8 2 more copies of agreement
- 3.9 Wolfenden application

Folder 4: Balance Sheets

- 4.1 July 17, 1976. Letter from Wolfenden to Wilbur regarding the attached Cash Flow Estimate
- 4.2 1976 WIHN-McLean Communications Corporation Profit or Loss Statements. (January, February, March, April, May, June)
- 4.3 1975 WIHN-McLean Communications Corporation Profit or Loss Statements. (12 months)
- 4.4 1974 WIHN-McLean Communications Corporation Profit or Loss Statements. (12 months)
- 4.5 Article in Broadcasting (journal or magazine) titled "Radio 1974: 243 markets show gains in revenues"

Folder 5: Advertisers

- 5.1-31 Letters from 1974-1975 from local businesses thanking WIHN for advertising their business, events, and/or campaigns (includes Corn Belt Bank, Illinois State University, Disabled American Veterans, Bloomington-Normal Jaycees, Walk for Mankind, St. Joseph's Hospital Auxiliary, William Woods College, St. Patrick's Rectory, Hawkins Studio and Camera Shop, Burgess Shoe Store, Don Smith Paint and Wallpaper Co., First National Bank of Normal, Cutt'n'Dri, Hechts, Apronix, inc., Arie East Liquors, A. B. Hatchery & Garden Center, Napa Auto Supply, Bloomington High School)
- 5.32 Contract renewal spreadsheet with advertisers listed

Folder 6: Floor Plan and Map

- 6.1 Plan drawing of transmitter
- 6.2 floor plan of studio on 209 E. Washington
- 6.3 Plan drawing of Tower & Station Ground for WIHN
- 6.4 Plan drawing of Transmitter and Rack
- 6.5 Map of Bloomington-Normal showing studio location and transmitter location
- 6.6 actual size drawing of Fader and Equalizer

- 6.7 3 photocopies of floor plan of studio on 209 E. Washington
- 6.8 handwritten notes
- 6.9 photocopy of plan drawing of Tower & Station Ground for WIHN
- 6.10 photocopy of plan drawing of Transmitter and Rack
- 6.11 2 photocopies of map of Bloomington-Normal showing studio location and transmitter location

Folder 7: Stocks & Shares

- 7.1 1972 minutes of the first meeting of the board of directors of the McLean Communication Corporation
- 7.2 1972 minutes of the first meeting of the board of directors of the McLean Communication Corporation
- 7.3 1972 stock subscription agreement contract
- 7.4 1972 chart showing names, number of shares, price, and other stock information
- 7.5 1972 notice of annual meeting of shareholders
- 7.6 1973 letter from Wm. E. Moulic and Fred L. Bailey regarding selling stock
- 7.7 1973 letter from William E. Moulic and F.L. Bailey accepting offer for stock
- 7.8 Buyout agreement (2 copies)
- 7.9 Tom Fletcher's number
- 7.10 1974 notice of meeting of shareholders of McLean Communications Corporation
- 7.11 1974 Minutes of meeting of the Board of Directors
- 7.12 1974 minutes of shareholders meeting
- 7.13 1974 shareholder meeting notice
- 7.14 1974 agreement between McLean Communication Corporation and the stockholders
- 7.15 1974 letter regarding buying shares
- 7.16 1974 minutes of shareholder meeting
- 7.17 1974 memo from D. Wolfenden to shareholders regarding state of the cash message
- 7.18 1974 list of shares as they will be issued at each call
- 7.19 1975 letter from Murphey, Jenne & Jones, Certified Public Accountants regarding balance sheets and cash projections (7 pages)
- 7.20 1975 letter to David Wolfenden from Steve Bellinger wishing Wolfenden the best of luck and thanks
- 7.21 1975 letter to David Wolfenden from Steve Bellinger with a job offer
- 7.22 1975 minutes of meeting, July 1, 1975
- 7.23 1975 minutes of meeting of board of directors October 13
- 7.24 1975 letter from Guy C. Fraker to Dave Wolfenden regarding wishing him the best in his endeavors and enclosed copies of meeting minutes
- 7.25 1975 June 2 agreement to transfer Dave Wolfenden's stocks to the corporation (1 blank, 3 signed copies)
- 7.26 1975 letter to Douglas Donoho from Guy Fraker regarding the sale of the radio station
- 7.27 hand written notes on stock information
- 7.26 1975 letter to shareholders from David S. Wolfenden divest himself of his interest in the McLean Communications Corporation
- 7.27 1975 letter to Wilbur Winn from David S. Wolfenden regarding request of figures
- 7.28 1975 assets purchase agreement (2 drafts, 1 signed)
- 7.29 1975 list of shareholders and what they own

- 7.30 1975 McLean Communications Corporation Small Business Corporation Income Tax Return
- 7.31 1975 letter from Guy Fraker to John Wurtzel regarding receiving stock in the name of David Wolfenden
- 7.32 1976 letter from Guy Fraker to Dave Wolfenden regarding minutes of meeting
- 7.33 1976 Stock Purchase Agreement, signed.
- 7.34 1976 Minutes of annual meeting of shareholders and board of directors
- 7.35 1976 correspondence regarding the transfer of stocks
- 7.36 1976 agreement to buy shares
- 7.37 hand written notes about shares
- 7.38 1976 signed stock transfer agreement
- 7.39 hand written note
- 7.40 signed agreement between David Wolfenden and Michael Hassan
- 7.41 letter from Wilbur Winn to David Wolfenden regarding license renewal
- 7.42 1976 notice of meeting of shareholders
- 7.43 1977 proposal regarding stock purchase
- 7.44 1977 notice of annual meeting of board of directors and share holders