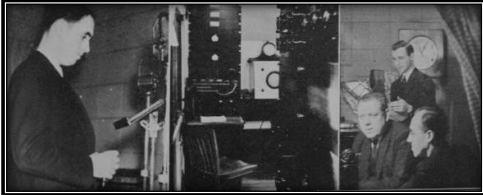


History of WBAA: Advancements in Technology and Equipment

"Wireless. Today, it means wi-fi. A century ago it was the hot new invention called radio. And like today, it ushered in a revolution that transformed our world."

1922 Purdue continues to use the experimental station, but also adds a broadcast service for the community under the call sign WBAA, airing primarily agricultural lectures. Equipment was shared between experimental and broadcast stations.



First messages broadcast on April 21, 1922 at 9 p.m. written by Secretary of Agriculture and read by Prof. Achatz.

1941-late 1960s WBAA moves to Elliott Hall of Music. Updated equipment and larger facilities enable WBAA to provide more programming, including live performances of plays, music, and other entertainment through "School of the Air." WBAA continues to provide lectures and other educational content to the community.



Ray Wolf, Bill Shigley and Brook Balkema on "School of the Air."

1971 Broadcasters across the country, including WBAA, band together to create a network of public radio stations called National Public Radio (NPR). With that brings world-class content and international news coverage. Corporation for Public Broadcasting provides funding.

mid 1980's WBAA improves sound quality by embracing digital technology, leading the way for public radio's future.



2012 Station adds online streaming and apps for Android, iPhones, and iPads. Expands WBAA's audience to a younger generation and positions the station for ongoing success.

early 1900's The U.S. Government provides funding to Purdue University to assist with training the Army Signal Corp of Engineers. Radio signals are tested for military



WBAA station operated by Professor R.V. Achatz. Testing Morse Code for U.S. Military.

communications during World War I. Prof. R.V. Achatz leads efforts along with Purdue engineering students.

1925 WBAA grows in popularity and needs to upgrade equipment and technology to reach a broader audience and demand for programming. State provides funding for upgrades.



1929-1932 Chemical fire destroys WBAA. The station moves to "new" Electrical Engineering building on Northwestern Ave. Purdue provides funding for new transmitters that quadruples the station's power so that it can serve more people in Indiana.



1982 WBAA loses its self-standing transmitter towers in a storm. Myron Noble, President of PiRod Incorporated, makes a significant gift to WBAA providing three new towers so that the station can continue operating.



early 1990's WBAA becomes available worldwide through online streaming. Purdue class of 1942 makes a significant gift to WBAA enabling the addition of the FM station with more music and entertainment. High definition programming becomes accessible to more than 2.5 million people in Indiana & Illinois.

2014? By replacing WBAA's outdated equipment, the station can continue to provide more sustainable and reliable coverage. A few needed upgrades include: \$4,000 to replace existing audio web streaming equipment, \$1,000 for new video monitors in the control room studios and \$30,000 to replace the control room consoles.

If you are interested in learning more about ways that you can financially support WBAA, including planned giving, Please contact WBAA's Development Director, Chrissie Ankerberg, at (765) 496-7794 or cankerberg@purdue.edu.