

January 3, 1992

Mr. Jeff Kitze
BUCC 183656
RTE 20 - Box 430
Dillwyn, VA 23936-0430

Dear Mr. Kitze

Yes, I still-work at KFI. I have been here for almost sixteen years and still enjoy working and listening to KFI. (KFI Inc. also owns and operates KOST FM 103.5) Thank you for sending the article on KFI from Popular Communications. That is a publication that I seldom see and I did not have a copy of the article you enclosed. Since you have explained your circumstances, I can imagine it is difficult for you to obtain another copy or make a Xerox copy so I will copy the article and send a copy back to you.

I envision your current residence as a place with lots of reinforced concrete and steel doors and barred windows. This would seem to be a very poor receiving location. If you hear KFI in Virginia under these circumstances you will have quite an accomplishment to your credit. Let me know if you succeed in receiving KFI in Dillwyn and I will be glad to send you another QSL card. It is only fair to tell you that the QSL cards are still the same as they were in '84 or '85. You have made me curious as to how you got in, "trouble with the law." I hope your appeal goes well and you can get out of trouble with the law. What does, "BUCC" stand for in your address? I presume 183656 is your personal identification number.

The cold weather really has nothing to do with the long skip of broadcast stations. It is really the short days and long nights that permit DX reception. The ionosphere becomes a better reflector at broadcast band frequencies when it is not disturbed by the sun shining on the ionosphere.

Yes, KFI still uses the same transmitter building shown in the picture in the article you sent. It is interesting to see a photo of the building taken when the brick was all exposed. A long time ago the brick was cemented over. The building now has a uniform cement gray appearance. You can only see the tile around the upstairs front door that contains the station call letters. The designers of the building could not have imagined the changes that have taken place. The city border line was changed and the old building is no longer in Buena Park but instead in La Mirada. The location is no longer out in the country.

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AM640

K·F·I
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103.5FM

There is a freeway (throughway to you people back east) very close by. A lot of nearby buildings have come and gone as the area has been and continues to be redeveloped. The 27 acres of the KFI antenna system is being redeveloped. It already has four large warehouse buildings on it with more to come. The land is leased by Cox Enterprises to a developer that is building the warehouses. The ground system for the antenna system goes under parking lots and over buildings now. There are no longer any farming operations on the land as there were for so many years.

The transmitter shown in the picture was replaced in 1960. The 1960 transmitter is still in place and serves as a backup transmitter to a newer one that I worked on installing in 1978. We expect to put in a new transmitter again in March of 1992. The new transmitter will have an overall efficiency of 86%. The original transmitter had a very poor overall efficiency of about 20%. Technology has come a long way. The new transmitter will have no tubes at all. It is all solid state.

KFI has never operated at more than 50 KW. The 100KW tubes in the final of the old transmitter were necessary in order to provide power for modulation peaks. The present transmitter has tubes of the same power capacity but only used for modulation peaks so that the signal will not be distorted.

At one time there was talk of having some 500 or 750 KW superpower stations. The base insulator on the present antenna is rated for such high power. In the late seventies the FCC decided to go the other way and break up the clear channels rather than have superpowers.

The original antenna system was as you have correctly drawn it. There were 4 or 5 parallel wires suspended between the two towers. The wires were fed in parallel. The towers were nothing but supports. In 1948 the flat top antenna system was replaced with a single 750' vertical tower. The vertical tower is the radiating element. In the next few weeks we plan to replace the incandescent red lights on the tower with a new strobe light system. There is a lot of aircraft traffic in the vicinity and the tower should be more visible in the daytime.

There is a second tower on the property with a height of 200' that is used for backup purposes only.

The caption under the picture of the NBC studios in Hollywood is somewhat misleading. KFI never had studios in that building. Those were NBC studios only. During most of KFI's affiliation with NBC the KFI studios were at 141 N. Vermont in Los Angeles. KFI took the network feeds the same as any other affiliate. There were times, I believe, when KFI did feed the NBC network from the KFI studios on Vermont Avenue. The old KFI studios are still at 141 N. Vermont but are now owned by the Korean Times Newspaper. I had a chance to see the studios about 15 years ago shortly after KFI moved to the present studio location. By now I suspect the

old technical equipment has been removed to make space for the Korean newspaper publishing operations.

The old NBC studios in Hollywood were torn down long ago. NBC needed room for television. The Hollywood location was sold to Home Savings and Loan and NBC moved to Burbank.

I hope I have answered your questions about KFI.

Yours truly,



Marvin Collins
Chief Engineer KFI - KOST