

Area couple files application to start radio station here

By JOHN HOINSKI
Staff Writer

For years Ronald Schacht thought about starting up his own radio station. Now, if everything goes well, he will have his wish.

Schacht, along with his wife, Denise, general partners of Mountain Broadcasting, have filed an application with the Federal Communications Commission to construct and operate a new FM station in the Dallas Area.

The 950 kilowatt station, which will operate on a 93.7 MHz frequency and have its transmitter located in Plymouth Township, will be an easy listening, news broadcast type operation.

"For about 15 years, I thought about running my own radio station, and for about the last 12, I thought about having it here in Dallas," Schacht, a Plymouth resident said.

"I started laying the groundwork in March of '85. I had engineering maps all over the floor. I was driving my wife crazy. But there are a lot of details involved, plus you have to show why a station is needed in a particular area," Schacht explained.

"The people in Dallas are served mostly by Wilkes-Barre and Scranton stations, but I think they should have their own broadcast station. That's mainly why we want to start one here. And it could be of service to the community, too. Look at that tornado that came through there last year. Those people had no warning it was coming."

Schacht, who currently serves as an engineer for a number of radio stations while also doing work for a local TV station, has spent approximately \$1000 in cash so far and about nine times that amount in man hours. And even though he says he isn't sure where the building will be located yet, preliminary plans have been completed. Unfortunately, an FCC rule involving FM stations says that the application must be advertised for 30 days, thus allowing anyone interested to bid for the station Schacht laid the foundation for.

A large company from New Jersey did and now the FCC is in the process of reviewing the application, a process that can take months or even years to settle.

Schacht says two ways of solving the problem, among others, would be by default or by a lengthy, drawn out hearing. In the first instance, if the application of one of the parties is found to be defective, the other gets it by default. In the second case, a hearing inquiring who would be the most qualified could also take place. But that can take months, even years to settle.

"One advantage we do have is that the FCC usually gives it to the local person," Schacht said. "But I am going to fight hard for it. We laid out all the plans for this and then some big company comes along, who doesn't even specialize in this line of work, and tries to horn in on it."

"One other advantage we have is that we would be right here to manage the station. How can a company that takes its orders from people in New Jersey know what is going on?"

Schacht says managing his own station will also allow him to be more creative and to make adjustments he would like to see done.

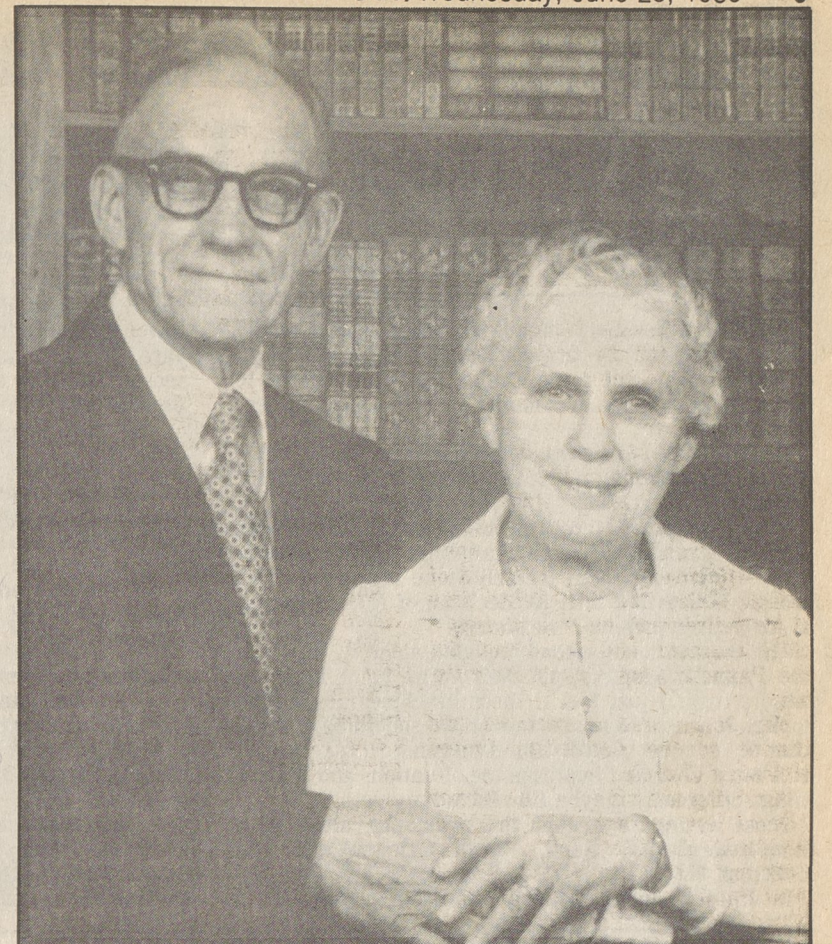
"Managers look at all aspects when they are running a station," he noted. "I never had my own way. But it's just like any job. You can make suggestions to the boss, but they make the ultimate decisions."

"There is so much technology in radio today that what I'd like to do is make the station sound so good that it would be like plugging in your compact disc player at home."

Schacht, who says he probably won't hear anything for about a month from the FCC, has had experience in this type of venture before. He spearheaded a 10-watt station at the Penn State/Lake Lehman campus from 1974 to 1978. The station went off the air a year or two later, however, after he left when the FCC stopped the operation of 10 watt stations. Because of funding problems, the station then ceased operations.



As they were, as they are...
Shown here are Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Ellsworth of Lehman as they appeared on their wedding day 50 years ago in the photo



at left and as they appear today in the photo at right. Mr. and Mrs. Ellsworth will celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary with an Open House.

Ellsworths celebrate 50th anniversary

In celebration of their 50th wedding anniversary, Mr. and Mrs. Joseph A. Ellsworth of Lehman announce an Open House invitation to family and friends on Sunday, June 29, from 2 to 5 p.m. at their home on Mill Street.

Mr. and Mrs. Ellsworth were married on June 17, 1936, in Lehman Methodist Church by Rev. Lynn H. Brown.

Mrs. Ellsworth is the former Celia Whitesell, daughter of the late Mr. and Mrs. Olivet Whitesell of Lehman. Mr. Ellsworth is the son of the late Mr. and Mrs. E.D. Ellsworth of Meshoppen.

The couple has three children, Louise Glad-

kowski of Monroeville, Pa.; Kenneth Ellsworth of Warren, Ohio; and Howard Ellsworth of Allentown. They also have four grandchildren, Michael and Brenda Gladkowski and Mark and Karen Ellsworth.

Mr. Ellsworth taught school for 45 years in Wyoming, Susquehanna and Luzerne Counties, retiring in 1971. A resident of Lehman since 1942, he has been a member of Masonic Lodge of Tunkhannock for 57 years, has been a member of Odd Fellows for 60 years and was treasurer of the Lehman Township Volunteer Fire Company for 30 years. Mr. Ellsworth repairs furniture in

his spare time.

Mrs. Ellsworth is a member of the Friendship Class and United Methodist Women of the Lehman United Methodist Church. She is also a member of Lady Toby Rebekah Lodge of Lehman and a member of the Lehman Fire Company Auxiliary.

Both Mr. and Mrs. Ellsworth are active members of the Lehman United Methodist Church.

They request no gifts other than the presence of their family and friends during the Open House celebration.

Just passin' through! Bikers peddling their way to San Francisco, Calif.

By JOHN HOINSKI
Staff Writer

If you happened to be traveling along Route 309 in Kingstown Township and in Dallas early last Friday afternoon you may have noticed two unusual bicycle riders along the way. Not that cyclists are a rare site, but these two definitely looked out of place — and they were.

Clad in heavy pants and shirts rolled up to their knees and elbows, and with their bikes bogged down with backpacks, sleeping bags and other equipment, Robert Baert, 23, of Long Island, and Ralph Hilton, 18, of Houston, Texas, slowly eased their way past the Dallas Shopping Center and continued up what seemed like an endless hill. But they were in no hurry.

For the past month and a half, the two have biked from Dallas, Texas, and plan to keep going until September or October when they reach San Francisco where they will work for a publishing company as - what else - bicycle messengers.

"We have a friend there, so we're going to work there for about five or six months," Baert said. "Then we will probably go to Europe. I would like to travel from London to the Great Wall of China. But, first we have to save up some money."

The young men, who have been averaging approximately 100 miles a day, usually spend a total of about

\$35 a week, but once in a while they will pick up small jobs for usually no more than a week at a time to help them get by.

"Sometimes we'll get odd jobs at a farm or something like that, but we don't stay too long. And then sometimes we'll offer to wash dishes in return for a meal," Baert noted. "Last night for instance we stopped at a pizza place and we explained our situation to the owner. But he gave us a big pizza and drinks and we didn't even have to wash dishes. That was real nice of him."

But not all of their experiences in the area have been pleasant, Hilton explained.

"We were in Bear Creek. I will never forget that name," Hilton laughs. "We pulled up to the front of one house to ask the people if we could camp out by their house. Bob pulled his bike up to the front of the house and I parked mine on the side."

"As I started walking back to my bike a bear came up from the back of the house," he continued. "Just then Bob came around the corner and said, 'Ralph, there's a bear!' I looked up and there he was standing almost right next to me. I got real scared and made a noise and the bear took off. I'll never forget Bear Creek, Pennsylvania."

The two have met coal miners in West Virginia, diamond miners in Arkansas, cyclists in Harrisonburg,



Dallas Post/John Hoinski

Taking a break

Ralph Hilton of Houston, Texas, left and Robert Baert of Long Island, right, take time out along Route 309 in Dallas from their bicycle journey to San Francisco. Baert, who has been on the road since January and Hilton, who joined him in Dallas in May, say they hope to reach their destination by September or October.

Virginia and Mennonites in Tennessee. But so far they like Pennsylvania the best.

"This is really a beautiful state," Baert said. "People in rural areas are much nicer than city people. Sometimes you'll get spit on and run off the road by people in the big cities, but not from rural people. It's really true when they say you have a friend in Pennsylvania."

Baert has been on the road the longer of the two, since January, and in fact didn't even know Hilton until they met in Dallas, Texas, where they struck up a friendship. Having weathered snow in Canada, rain throughout Tennessee and tornado warnings in Texas, Baert faced his biggest obstacle, however, in the Lone Star State.

"I had my bike stolen for three weeks in Texas," he recalled. "I

had to use a skateboard to get to work and back. Then one day a friend of mine saw me guy riding my bike around town and he got it back for me."

Baert, who has worked as a clothing designer and a road cyclist, among other jobs, says his father,

who operates Albar Machine Corps in Effort, Pa., doesn't mind his traveling across the country. But for Hilton, who has another semester to go before finishing high school, he says his parents are not too thrilled about the idea. "They didn't like it too much," he smiled.

Prima

(Continued from page 1)

being chosen to open up your theatre," Gregory said. "It sounds fabulous and I hope I can put on a great show for you."

Gregory, who is currently performing at the Metropolitan Opera in New York, will begin the first of her 32-city tour in Wilkes-Barre. And she is excited about it.

"I always prefer to work in older theatres than in the newer ones," Gregory noted. "You get that theatrical feeling in the older buildings."

Gregory, who first appeared on the cover of the prestigious Dance Magazine at the age of seven and nine times overall, is considered to be the reigning American ballerina.

"We're so used to seeing Soviet dancers running around. It's nice to see an American, the really first ballerina, off on her own," said Bill Como, editor in chief of Dance Magazine.

The tour also received national attention, too. First Lady Nancy Reagan is honorary chairman for the event.

The theatre, which seats approximately 1,800 people, is expected to be a sellout on opening night. But, according to Boscov, there will be plenty of other attractions to give people an opportunity to see the center.

"We have 60 dates already signed for," the chain department store owner said. "And we will have over 110 presentations this year alone."

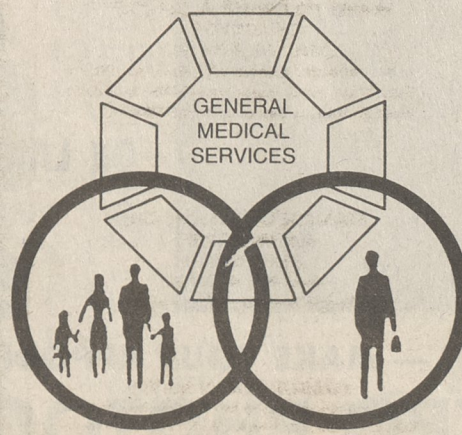
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