

WHAT YOU MIGHT LIKE TO KNOW ABOUT W R U L

International Radio Station WRUL is on the air with daily and weekly broadcasts to Europe and to Central and South America. European listeners hear their favorite programs in the Swedish, Norwegian and English languages, while those in Latin America receive theirs in English, Spanish and Portuguese.

Skilled engineers and maintenance crews are in charge of the plant at Scituate, Massachusetts, where five transmitters totaling 250,000 watts are located on the rugged New England coast, connected with the studios in New York City by leased telephone line. Continuous improvements are effected in the plant and antennae system in order to maintain the transmitters at their peak of efficiency and well in advance of the radio art. Transmitter WRUL-1 is of 50 kw capacity, high level modulated. WRUL-2 and WRUL-3 are also of 50 kw capacity each, arranged in twin formation so that the outputs can be combined to give a total power of 100 kw whenever this extra power is needed. WRUL-5 is of 80 kw capacity with a power amplifier using long line tank circuits. WRUL-4 is a transmitter of somewhat older design, operating at 50 kw.

The antenna system of WRUL consists of eleven different rhombics, most of which are electrically reversible from a rapid switching bay located within the plant. The strategic location of the Boston area for international broadcasting makes it possible, for example, to beam at an angle of 32 degrees directly into Scandinavia, and, by electrically reversing the beam through a group of magnetic switches, the antenna can be quickly directed to Central America. Similarly, the beam for Central Europe and Russia can be immediately reversed to cover Mexico. This reversible beam construction has given WRUL good coverage in more than 58 countries around the world from a central location.

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WRUL was founded in Boston some years ago by Walter S. Lemmon for the purpose of furthering international education and culture. It was known then as the World Radio University. Professors from Harvard, the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Boston University and other institutions of higher learning conducted courses in literature, music, economics, languages, aviation, astronomy, geography and electronics. Student-listeners enrolled from all over the world, and at its peak the instruction broadcasts were heard in some thirty countries.

During the early part of World War II, WRUL was credited with saving 900 Norwegian merchant ships through broadcasts which alerted their captains to the German invasion. For this, Mr. Lemmon was awarded the King Haakon Peace Medal, one of several citations he received from foreign governments for outstanding achievement in the war effort. The station was taken over by the United States Government later, and was an integral arm of the Information Service. In 1947, WRUL was restored to independent ownership. Today, WRUL is the only international broadcasting station in the United States which offers program time for private sponsorship.