WRC 1922 Station License

2019.1.18

Donated by Ken Mellgren

WRC was one of D.C.'s earliest entertainment radio stations. Owned by RCA, it became a major network station when The National Broadcasting Corporation (NBC) was launched in 1926.

The framed WRC license we exhibit was issued in 1923. Prior to the creation of the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) in 1934, the Federal Radio Commission (FRC), had (since 1927), regulated radio broadcasting. This WRC license was issued by the Bureau of Navigation of the U.S. Department of Commerce because, prior to the rapid growth of entertainment radio in the early 1920s, the principal use of radio had been maritime communications. The same agency that handled lighthouses was responsible for issuing licenses for shipboard radio systems, and so, by default, it granted licenses for the early entertainment stations.

WRC's license stated that the station was authorized to broadcast on 640 kHz with its 500-watt transmitter and flat-top or "T" antenna.

WRC was on the air until 1984.