

WSIC Celebrates 60 Years on the Air



Lee Ann Sherrill/CITIZEN

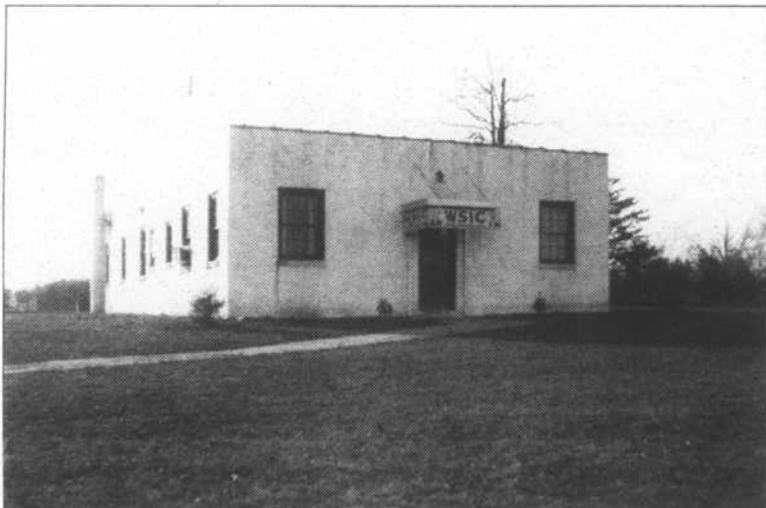
BILL "BILLY BUCK" BLEVINS, seated, holds WSIC's 60th birthday cake. Back row, from left, are Leon Ijames, Jerry White, Joe Blevins and Jeff Corbett.



JERRY WHITE, right, and Leon Ijames reminisce about early radio days.



AN UNIDENTIFIED tower climber.
Photos courtesy of WSIC.



WSIC building in 1947.

Lee Ann Sherrill
IREDELL CITIZEN

FOR "THE VOICE OF STATESVILLE," the airways are far better than silver and gold...they're diamond.

On Thursday, May 3, radio station WSIC 1400 A.M. celebrated its 60th anniversary, a "diamond" anniversary.

Music Coming to Lakewood

Close Harmony, a musical project that brings generations together presents the first of its two concerts this spring Thursday, May 10, at Lakewood Park. Featured will be a group of young violinists who are students of Kathy Estes who have come together with traditional musicians from the Irish Session Group. They have prepared a concert of 18th century Irish Music composed by a blind harper.

The musical group has 14 musicians and includes violins, viola, cello, flute, whistle, guitars, hammered dulcimer and bodhran. At Lakewood Park the group will share its unusual sound with a visually impaired audience.

Gathered in the AM control room from 6 - 9 a.m. Bill "Billy Buck" Blevins and Jerry White welcomed a few extra folks to its Wake Up Crew. Leon Ijames, Joe Blevins and Jeff Corbett dropped by, not just for birthday cake, but to also reminisce about their starts in radio, mostly during their high school days. They also recalled a few wild takes they made over the air.

Youth Leads Service

The Youth of Trinity Episcopal Church will lead the 10:30 a.m. service of Holy Eucharist on Sunday, May 13, Mothers Day.

During this annual observance of Youth Sunday, Trinity's teenagers will fill many roles which are usually taken by adults including leading prayers and songs, reading the scripture, making announcements, delivering the sermon, serving as ushers and assisting with serving Holy Communion.

All are invited to join the congregation at Trinity Episcopal Church for the special service.

Billy Buck remembered a few reports about Sky Lab falling hereabouts. Corbett was a bit more down to earth with a radio tale about the Playhouse Theater rat that was 55 years old when the building was torn down. The legendary rat later became the 55-pound rat living in the bus station. Corbett doesn't know where it might be now.

Although most of the old jocks wandered away from radio, they haven't wandered away from Iredell County. Corbett runs Total Car Home Health Care and teaches college courses through Mitchell Community College and Duke University. Ijames works for Bunch Johnson's Funeral Home and Joe Blevins works for the City of Statesville. Their voices are still unmistakable wherever you encounter them.

Last year when WSIC's sister FM station WFMX moved out

Recycling Center Temporarily Moved

The City of Statesville's downtown recycling center has been temporarily moved to the parking lot of the Statesville Police Department during May. The recycling trailer, located in the City's lot at Meeting and Front Streets, was moved after film crews indicated they needed the lot for their equipment. It will return there as soon as filming of the movie, *Leatherheads*, is completed.

The recycling center was set up last September for the disposal of clean steel food cans, brown food or beverage glass and mixed paper. These items are not part of Statesville's curbside recycling program.

For information, call the Sanitation Department at 704-878-3415.

of the building, Billy Buck and partner Mark Sanger bought it. It's now under the banner of Iredell Broadcasting Inc. along with WSIC. In recent months, Billy Buck and Sanger also bought 1520 AM out of Mocksville.

Iredell Broadcasting has not just been bringing stations under their banner. Recently, the company convinced Jerry White to come

back on air to give listeners a local morning duo of Billy Buck and White.

As part of WSIC's 60th anniversary plans, the station has invited many other former radio personalities to return to the air in May to give "thanks for the memories."

Stayed tuned.

Smyre Speaks at Graduation

Members of the Mitchell Community College GED (General Education Development) Class of 2007 will graduate Saturday, May 12, at 11 a.m. The ceremony will be held on the Circle at the Main Campus.

Randy L. Whitfield, Ed.D., NCCCS associate vice president for academic and student services in

the Basic Skills Department, will be the keynote speaker. Graduating student Natasha Smyre will also address the graduates. Smyre, who has 13 brothers and sisters, is the first in her family to receive a high school diploma.

The ceremony is open to the public. For information, call 704-878-3200.

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