

The First Office

Our first office was located on Dunklin Street in Jefferson City in a restored older home next door to Rackers and Baclesse Lumber Company -- Buell's business. We were only there four months and then we moved to a new residential house that Derry and his wife, Verni, were building for speculation on the end of their farm property near Marion -- 15 miles or so from Jefferson City. Here is a picture taken recently of that first location. At the time the porch wasn't enclosed.



The first equipment was new and purchased from Gates Radio. We had a simple console with four "pots", two cart machines, a mic, and, a clock. That's about it. There was a small rack to hold the cart machines.

I was our first engineer. As a teen, I'd put together several electronic "kits". First a "Heathkit" amplifier and then I upgraded to a Dynakit for my music system. I painstakingly hand-wired every piece on every circuit board. So I knew something about electronics. (I still have those tube-type amps today). I did the wiring and installing over the New Year's holiday as the shipping was slow. In fact, I had to drive somewhere to a shipping dock to retrieve the equipment so we could go on the air on the 2nd.

The telephone company tested the circuit during the last days of 1972 in preparation for our inaugural program. I called each station to insure everything worked perfectly. Derry and I showed up at 5:00 am on the 2nd and I ran the equipment while he talked. Eventually, of course, he had to learn how to operate a board, so I could make sales trips and bring in some money!

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