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History of St. Norbert College and Radio in
Green Bay (WTAQ & WHBY)

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1926

Excerpt for Des Peres Yearbook: Station WHBY

The Des Peres Yearbook

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S T A T I O N

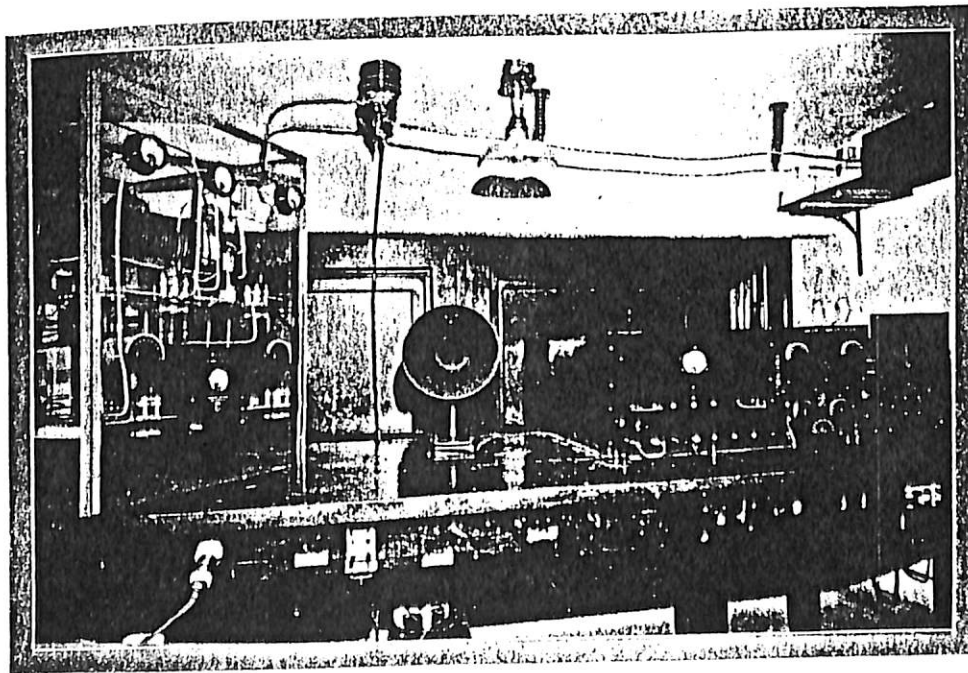
WHBY

It was in nineteen twenty five that the College saw the inception of the Broadcasting Station, WHBY, which has been proving its popularity during the past year. The motive force which not only caused the birth of the idea, but was also an essential condition to its being carried out, was the registration of Cletus Collum, an expert electrical engineer, as a student. If praise be due to any one person, who worked at the erection of WHBY, then in all justice the lion's share must perforce be given to "Clete," as he is known to everyone. Without him, there would be no station at St. Norbert's today, and in view of the existing mixup in regard to matters of radio, it would, probably, never have been.

After the necessary governmental license had been procured, Clete went to work with a will, and in a short time had built a practical working apparatus. Test programs then became the order of the day, and everyone having any connection with the station was kept busy, adjusting and improving the delicate mechanism. For the month or so that followed, St. Norbert's was an experiment station both from the mechanical and from the entertainment standpoint. Soon everything was in readiness, and broadcasting began in earnest, continuing until June.

During the summer months, and until the return of Mr. Collum late in the fall, the station was silent. Immediately after his return, an extensive program of improvements was begun and carried out. New apparatus, including a speech amplifier and an improved microphone was purchased. The old antenna was torn down, and an entirely new system was set up in its place. This antenna, the arteries, as it were, of the machine, consists of a five wire twin cage, twelve feet apart, insulated with eighteen inch pyrex insulators and supported by two steel masts fifty-four feet above the roof of Boyle Hall, a four story structure. This Antenna is of such a type that if the College obtains permission to increase its transmitting power no improvement will be necessary. But at this time there is small hope of such a contingency as the U. S. Chamber of Commerce has a ruling which says that all stations broadcasting on a wave length of between two hundred and two hundred eighty-five meters may not increase their power.

The broadcasting machine itself is an extremely complicated affair. The artist who sends out dulcet strains of music, whether vocal or instrumental, or the orator, who in clarion tones sends forth the harmonies of rhetoric and the



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