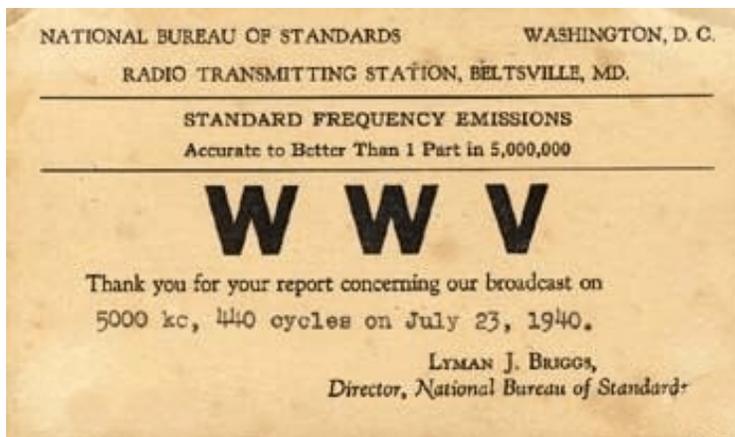


The thought of **WWV** came up and there are some interesting facts about its operation. Fort Collins was not the first location of the operation. The very earliest (NBS) now NIST (National Institute of Standards and Technology) work in the area of time, took place within the Weights & Measures Section in Wash DC. A very stable clock purchased in 1904 used in the time interval standards until 1929 when it was replaced by a double pendulum developed in London. Another changes later by standards based on electronic/atomic methods. Our first QSL displayed here was issued just a few months before a electrical fire destroyed the station November 1940. The amazing accuracy figure is at the end of this article.

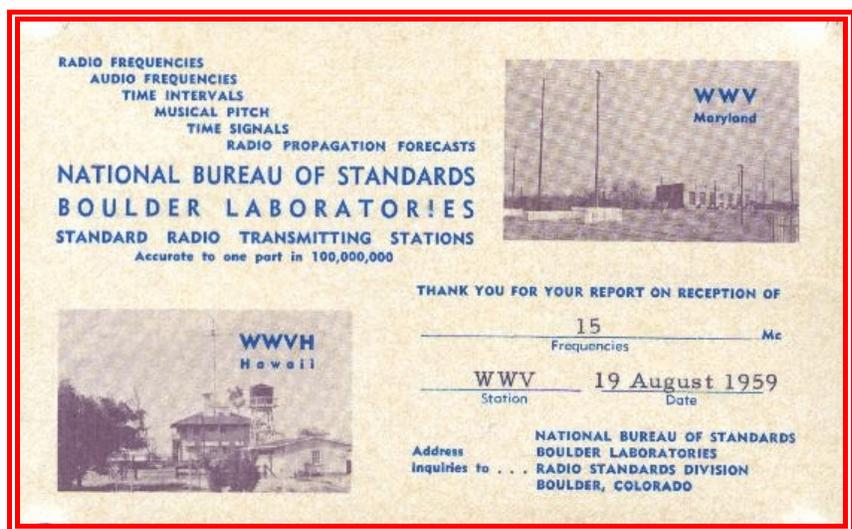
Under the U.S. Dept. Of Commerce - N.B.S Station WWV call is issued in D.C 1919. Now the oldest continuously operation radio station in the USA first testing on the air in 1920. Then in order to meet growing demands of broadcast industry, initiated full time radio broadcasts of frequency signals in March 1923.



WWV moved from DC in 1931 to College Park MD then in 1932 Beltsville & Greenbelt MD, on land now part of NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center, N.B.S. moved its radio station to Boulder Colo in 1966. Headquarters NIST still remain in Gaithersburg, Md., to this day.

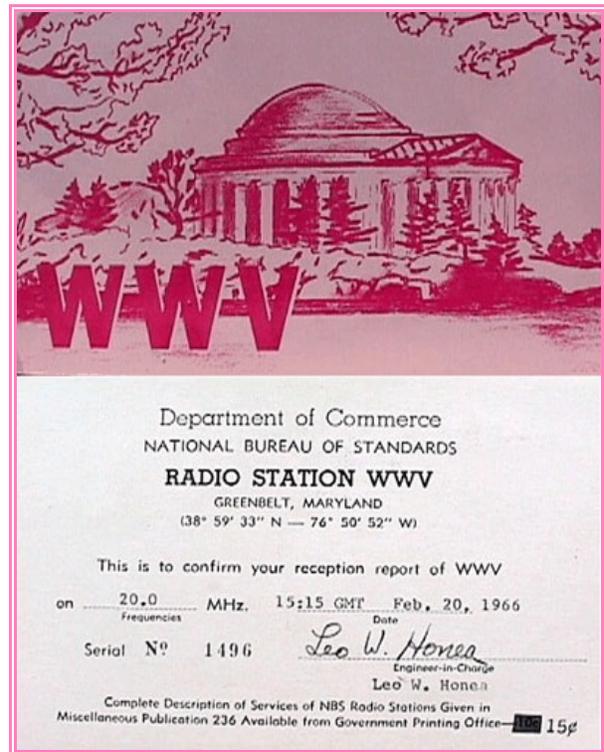
When WWV moved to its present location at Fort Collins (Boulder) Colo. 1 Dec. 1966 enabling better signals throughout continental USA. Notice, this is one of the rare instances where a (W) issued call is operating west of the Mississippi. These cards are fascinating because displayed in the top card, offices and transmitters are on the East coast. In the second QSL card, offices are in Boulder Colo and transmitters are still housed in the East coast. Continued

When WWV moved to its present location at Fort Collins (Boulder)



Between 1945 and 1971 WWV transmitted their ID and Time of day in Morse Code. Voice announcements of time of day began on WWV in 1950. By 1954 when I was a boy listening at the SWL post of Mike Lorenzo in Cambridge, Oh the interval signal was broadcast only each 5 minutes.

Thus N.I.S.T 1988 - until today, formerly National Bureau of Standards (NBS 1901-1988) is an agency of The U.S. Department of Commerce. Their Headquarters remain in Gaithersburg, MD. Which commonly happens, names of agencies change, such as the CAA etc. Those aware of my writings about Cambridge Ohio Radio Boys are familiar with defunct "NAA" Navy radio that broadcast time and weather in Pioneer days..



Today's WWV Fort Collins - Serving the World

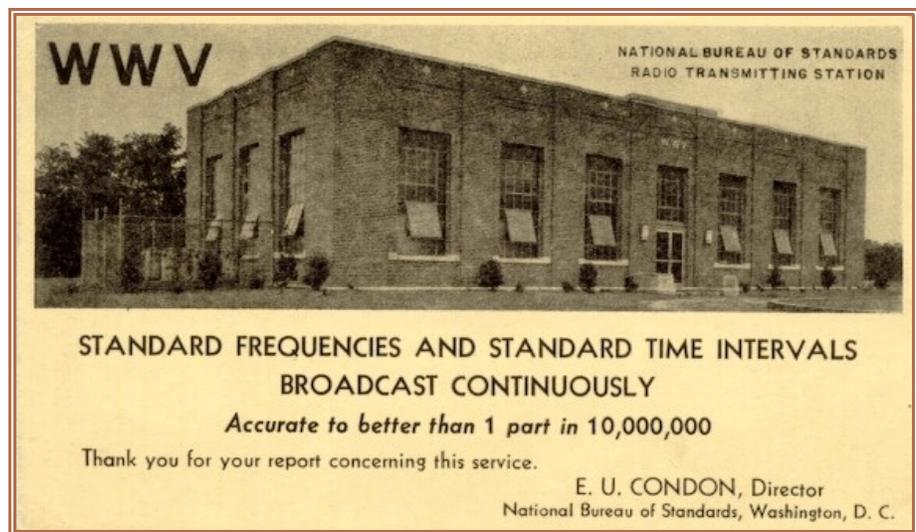
In depth early pioneer history of WWV - Actually WWV began its career as an entertainment and information station: It was back in May 1920, six months ahead of the famous KDKA in Pittsburgh Pennsy., that station WWV at National Institute of Standards & Technology in Washington D.C., made its first broadcasts.

The station was using a modified 50 watt medium wave transmitter, made available from another nearby station, states Bill Kuning and it radiated music programs on 600 kc.

On December 15 in the same year 1920, station WWV began sending out daily Market reports in Morse Code from a 2 KW transmitter on 750 kc. These daily transmissions were on the air for a period of four months.

It was on January 29th 1923 that station WWV began the transmission of standard time and frequency signals, a service that is maintained to this day.

The accuracy rate of WWV over time has grown to immense figures; It is now 5 x 10 to the 16th or neither gains nor will lose a second in 60 million years.



A sister station WWVB is located on the same site in Colorado and it emits time signals on the very low long wave channel 60 khz. It is stated that several million time pieces, clocks and watches plus electronic equipment, receive the WWVB signal and are calibrated automatically by the extremely accurate time pulses. (Excerpted from english.awr.org - NIST.org)

