

Echo Visits With WPGC

by Frank Groff

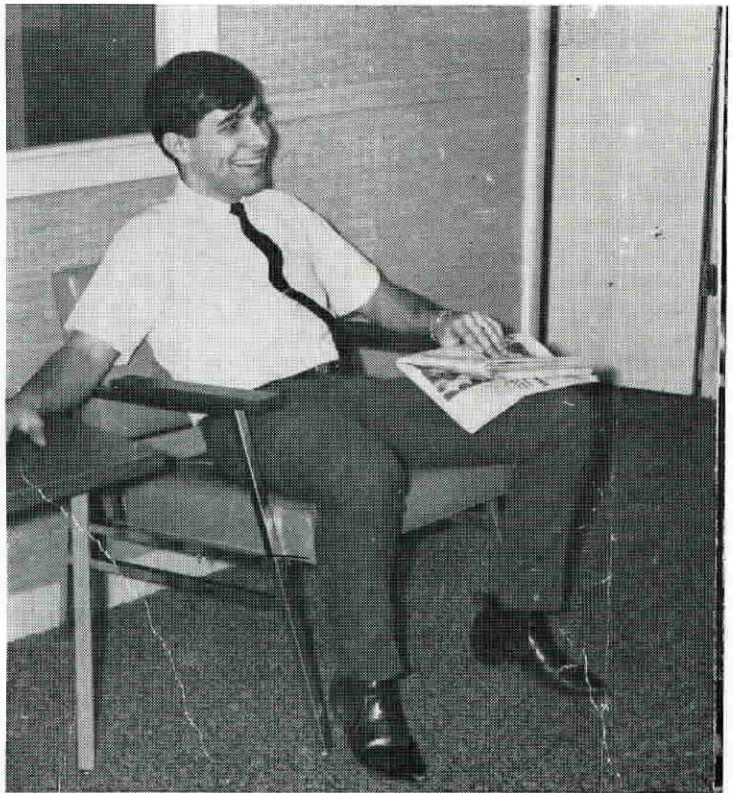
WPGC is probably the largest and most popular radio station in Maryland. It is the favorite of the Washington area teenagers and is tuned in on just about every radio on the streets. This ECHO reporter visited the station to find out a little more about it.

As with many modern-day radio stations, WPGC has a frequent turnover of station personnel. When photographers Bill Spence and John Krack visited WPGC with me for pictures and interviews with the Good Guys, we had the pleasure of talking with Paul Carmal, who was better known as "Tiger" Bob Raleigh. Tiger Bob was very "individualistic" to say the least, and he had convincing comments on certain aspects of radio and recordings. Unfortunately "Tiger Bob" Carmal left WPGC two weeks after I talked with him, making way for Bill Miller, from Oklahoma. Bill becomes "Tiger Bob" number Five.

Before coming to WPGC, Harv Moore, the Boy Next Door, was at station WFKY in Frankfurt, Kentucky. He is the music director, so the songs that are played are usually his choice. When asked to comment on the quality of the new records, especially protest songs, Harv said, "There is a bunch of junk on the market. But it's not the singers' fault. The writers should be judged instead." Besides being the most popular disc jockey in Washington, Harv has written several songs which have been recorded by local groups. He also recorded a song he wrote, "I Feel So Fine." Harv has been interested in being a disc jockey since he was nine. In giving advice to teenagers who want to be disc jockeys, Harv said simply, "If it's what you want to do, do it." That's good advice for anyone.

Marvelous Marv Brooks has been with WPGC for 15 months. He came from station WPAC in New York, where the only time they played rock-and-roll was "when the boss went out for lunch." Talking to Marv was quite an experience. His unique sense of humor is hard to describe. Marv commented on the current protest songs as "interesting, but they won't accomplish anything." Musical tastes for Marv range from Beatles and Beachboys to Frank Sinatra and Nat King Cole.

Dean Griffith, whose real name is Larry James, has been with WPGC since April, 1965, when



Tiger Bob Number 4 sits back and relaxes.

he left station KEWI in Topeka, Kansas. Dino, who is probably the only person who disliked both "Eve of Destruction" and "Dawn of Correction" said, "Protest songs would be all right if they did something to help." The Beatles for songwriting, and Paul Revere and the Raiders for music head Dino's list of favorites in modern music. But his pride-and-joy is a gigantic collection of Jazz albums. Charlie Byrd and Stan Getz are his favorites in this type of music.

Dino controls the airways from 6 to 11 p.m. every Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday plus the 2 to 6 slot on Saturdays and 10 to 2 on Sundays. The most popular feature of his weeknight show is the make-it or break-it contests where listeners are invited to call in their votes on new records. Many records are played on Dino's show weeks before they become national hits.

Gentleman Jim, until recently, was the newest addition to the WPGC broadcasting staff. Unlike the other D.J.'s, Jim, whose real name is Bob Benson, has done a lot of his dis-jockeying work in the D.C. area. In the last year or so, he has worked at WSMB in Waldorf; WHMC in Gaithersburg, and WINX. Jim considers it an honor working at WPGC. He handles the 6 to 11 slot on Mondays, Tuesdays, Saturdays and Sundays.

Some of you have probably wondered at one time or another who the distinguished sounding newscaster on WPGC is. His WPGC work name is MacNamara, but his real name is Jim Gray. Jim was a D.J. for many years before becoming a newscaster. He has worked in Richmond and Charlottesville and also at WTTG, Channel 5 T.V.

When asked about today's music, Jim simply gave an outright, "I don't like it!" He handles the newscasts from 6:30 a.m. 'til 2:30 p.m. and he then goes home to count his money. His only fault is that he keeps forgetting Marv Brooks' name; he keeps calling him Charlie.

Next, you probably wonder, why the new D.J.'s are given the names of the old ones. This policy started at WMEX in Boston. Radio listeners would rather think they are still listening to the old familiar D.J.'s rather than keep up with the constant turnover of personnel. The WPGC Good Guys didn't especially like the idea of not being able to use their real names, but, as one of them puts it, "For the money they're paying me, I'll go along with it."

WPGC AM and FM has been operating since 1954 and has been the number one station in Washington and nearby Maryland for many years. Let's keep it that way.