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Alberta, Southern Alberta

CKMX-AM, (CFCN formerly) **Calgary**, Astral Media Inc.

1919

In early May, W. W. Grant, recently returned from the war, in which he was decorated for his radio accomplishments, constructed a small radio station in Halifax, over which voice and music were broadcast (may have been the first scheduled radio programs in the country).

1920

Grant started a station at Morely, Alberta, a few miles west of Calgary. Station CYAA was set up for the federal government, in connection with the Canadian Air Force Forestry Patrol.

1921

Grant constructed a 50 watt station at High River, Alberta, over which Western Canadians heard their first broadcast concerts.

1922

In the spring, Grant moved the station from High River to Calgary and the call sign was changed to CFCN. The government issued a commercial licence to Grant, after The Herald's CFAC received its licence. CFCN had the distinction of being the first station in Canada to receive compensation for commercial broadcasting. CFCN broadcast over a frequency of 1010 kHz with a power of 750 watts and shared time with station CKCX.

1923

The station increased power to 1,000 watts, and shared 410 metres, splitting airtime with CKCX and CHBC.

1924

Studios were at 708 Crescent Road N.W., and CFCN was now sharing time with CFHC, CHCM, CKCX, CNRC.

1925

CFCN moved to 690 kHz which it shared with CFAC, and power was reduced to 750 watts.

Note Added: [Aberhart began broadcasting on CFCN in the fall from the Palace Theatre in Calgary.](#)

1926

CFCN increased power to 1,800 watts.

1928

H. Gordon Love's Western Broadcasting Co. Ltd. purchased CFCN from W. W. (Bill) Grant.

1929

Power was reduced to 500 watts.

1931

Upon obtaining an increase in power to 10,000 watts, CFCN was taken over by The Voice of the Prairies Ltd. W. W. Grant rejoined the company at this time as vice president and chief engineer. Mr. Love was still the primary owner of the company with Mr. Grant holding an interest.

CFCN moved to 985 kHz and increased power to 10,000 watts from a transmitter site located at Strathmore.

CFVP short-wave began operations, re-broadcasting the programming of CFCN. The VP in the call sign: Voice of the Prairies.

1933

CFCN moved from 985 kHz to 1030 kHz. Power remained at 10,000 watts.

1936

H. Gordon Love purchased W. W. (Bill) Grant's interest in CFCN / The Voice of The Prairies Ltd. (Grant & Love Radio). Grant headed to Saskatchewan to work for the CBC's CBK Radio at Watrous. Studios were listed as being in the Toronto General Trust Building.

1942

The corporate name was changed to The Voice of The Prairies Ltd.

1946

CFCN's request for a power increase to 50,000 watts was refused.

The station's slogan at the time: The Voice of the Prairies.

Gordon Love offered to sell CFCN to the listeners of Alberta, provided his station be allowed to stay on 1010 kHz and increase power to 50,000 watts. He offered to give Canadian listeners the first locally-owned high-powered station as a solution to the CBC wavelength seizure. The government wanted to move CFCN to 1060 kHz so the CBC could build a 50,000 watt station in Alberta, using CFCN's 1010 kHz frequency. The CBC planned to take over the frequencies of CFCN, CFRB Toronto and CKY Winnipeg for their own use.

1947

CFCN moved from 1010 kHz to 1060 kHz with a full-time power of 10,000 watts (directional at night). The transmitter was located at Strathmore.

1957

CFCN was an affiliate of the CBC Dominion network. Ownership of The Voice of the Prairies Limited: H. G. Love 17.5%, Mrs. M. Love 2.5%, J. A. Love 20.0%, The Western Printing & Lithographing Co. Ltd. 40.0%, and W. M. Love 20.0%. Ownership of The Western Printing & Lithographing Co. Ltd.: H. G. Love 99.7%, J. A. Love 0.1%, W. M. Love 0.1% and F. E. Maxie 0.1%.

1960

CFCN Television signed on the air.

1967

In January 1967, Maclean-Hunter Ltd. purchased control of Voice of the Prairies Ltd. (CFCN-AM, CFVP-SW and CFCN-TV Ltd.) from CFCN Communications Ltd. (Love family). M-H kept the CFCN Communications name for this new division.

1968

The Voice of the Prairies Ltd. was denied a licence on May 28 for the operation of a new FM station in Calgary.

1969

On March 21, Maclean-Hunter Ltd. was authorized to acquire a further 2,400 common shares of Voice of the Prairies Ltd.

1976

CFCN enlarged its facilities in Broadcast House and installed all new McCurdy studio equipment. The re-organization of the Maclean-Hunter group of companies (16 cable systems and the CFCN/Shoreacres/Great Lakes broadcasting group) was approved by the CRTC. Reservations were expressed regarding the nearly 10% equity of the Toronto-Dominion Bank in the new company, Maclean-Hunter Holdings Ltd. The shares had been held by Hunco and D. F. Hunter. Effective control of Maclean-Hunter Ltd. was now held by the directors and senior management. CFCN received authorization to change its daytime pattern to improve coverage to the east

1981

Permission was received to move the transmitter site for CFCN-AM and CFVP Short Wave.

1982

In the fall, CFCN moved its transmitter site from Midnapore to a location seven miles east of Calgary, using three towers and a new Harris MW-50 transmitter.

Don Thomas replaced Norm Haines as general manager at CFCN. Thomas had been with CFCO in Chatham, ON.

1983

Following a review of cross-ownership, the licenses for CFCN-AM-TV and CFVP-SW were renewed. CFCN Communications Ltd. was owned by Maclean-Hunter which also owned 49.7% of Toronto Sun Publishing Corp. (owner of the Calgary Sun). The CRTC was satisfied that the legal agreement between TSPC and M-H put restraints on Maclean-Hunter control of the Calgary Sun.

1992

On June 19, the CRTC approved the sale by CFCN Communications (Maclean-Hunter) of CFCN-AM, CFVP-SW and CJAY-FM (all Calgary), CJAY-1 Banff and CJAY-3 Invermere (B.C.) to Standard



Broadcasting Corp. CFCN-TV remained in the hands of Maclean-Hunter.

1996

In early 1996, "Mix 1060" became "AM 1060" with an adult standards format.

2002

On September 6, Standard Radio launched CIBK 98.5. Studios and offices for CKMX-AM and CJAY-FM moved to a brand new facility with CIBK-FM on the third floor of 1110 Centre Street North.

2005

In July, AM 1060 CKMX switched formats from adult standards/oldies to classic country.

2007

On September 27, Astral Media Radio G.P. received CRTC approval to acquire the assets of the radio and TV undertakings owned by Standard Radio Ltd., subject to certain conditions. The purchase included CKMX-AM, CJAY-FM and CIBK-FM.

Written by Bill Dulmage –

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