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Dear Frank:

I've messed around today on the road situation all to no purpose because of abominably cold and windy weather.

Late yesterday Orsini Brothers moved their equipment to the site with every expectation of starting this morning. I was out to the mountain at 10 AM and waited for them until near noon. I went to GE's station and called them on the phone. They had meantime been trying to reach my office. It was too darned cold for man or beast. They covered their machines with canvas and left them there. Kampf was to have met me. I phoned his wife to catch him to save a trip out there.

John Orsini just called saying that if the wind stops blowing and it softens up tomorrow, they will start. I may be able to get there although I had planned to be out of town Wednesday. It is important that either Kampf or I be there. I have been unable to reach Kampf on the phone. It looks like my trip will be out as I feel its up to me if Kampf cant be there. I'll try again. If I cant raise Kampf, you can depend upon me to be there.

You should have been out to the mountain today if you wanted to experience what I call an average winter blowing day with snow flurries. It was really blowing too. Josh Billings, GE's station manager and I had field glasses and between blasts were looking at WRTY's new 200 ft. tower swaying like a buggy whip in a gale we estimated to be about 40 mile wind. Frank, the darned thing really swayed considerably. The FM antenna and beacon moved in broad sweeps. I definitely did not like the action in that wind. In a stiffer wind they will have real trouble, I'm afraid, unless they guy it.

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This type of tower is not designed for guying, however. But they may have to resort to it if trouble develops. The real trouble they are very likely to encounter will be from their coaxial transmission line which is 1 5/8" diameter and cannot be treated roughly - such as whipping around as we saw it act today.

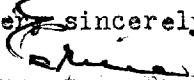
If you have not seen WTRY's FM tower, you would not be able to even venture a guess on how it looks sticking up into the air on the top of that mountain. Its a flimsy looking structure and when loaded with ice and sleet in a high wind could easily fall over.

I'm glad you decided on buying the Blaw-Knox tower built for 30# loading and with double shearing values. Our tower will be but 2/5 of the height of WTRY's and will be amply safe under even the worst possible weather conditions. GE's new 65 ft. television tower was as solid as a rock in the heavy wind today. Only the top antenna element noticeably swayed a fraction, but that was all.

I'll call you tomorrow after going to the mountain - if the weather is so that the men can start work. If not, I'll go about my business and drive to Connecticut as I had planned. Kampf said that he plans to watch the construction about twice a week. He said that should be enough. I'll be out there as often as I possibly can, you may be sure of that. Next week, however, I probably will be away much of the time. Between Kampf and myself, there will be somebody watching the construction all the time. At least we will try to plan it that way.

Dont forget the lease on Hotel Troy space promised Mc Laughlin for December 15th.

Mr. F. L. York  
Troy Record Co  
Troy, N. Y.  
EAB/LW

Very sincerely,  
  
Ernest A. Barbeau  
Radio Consultant