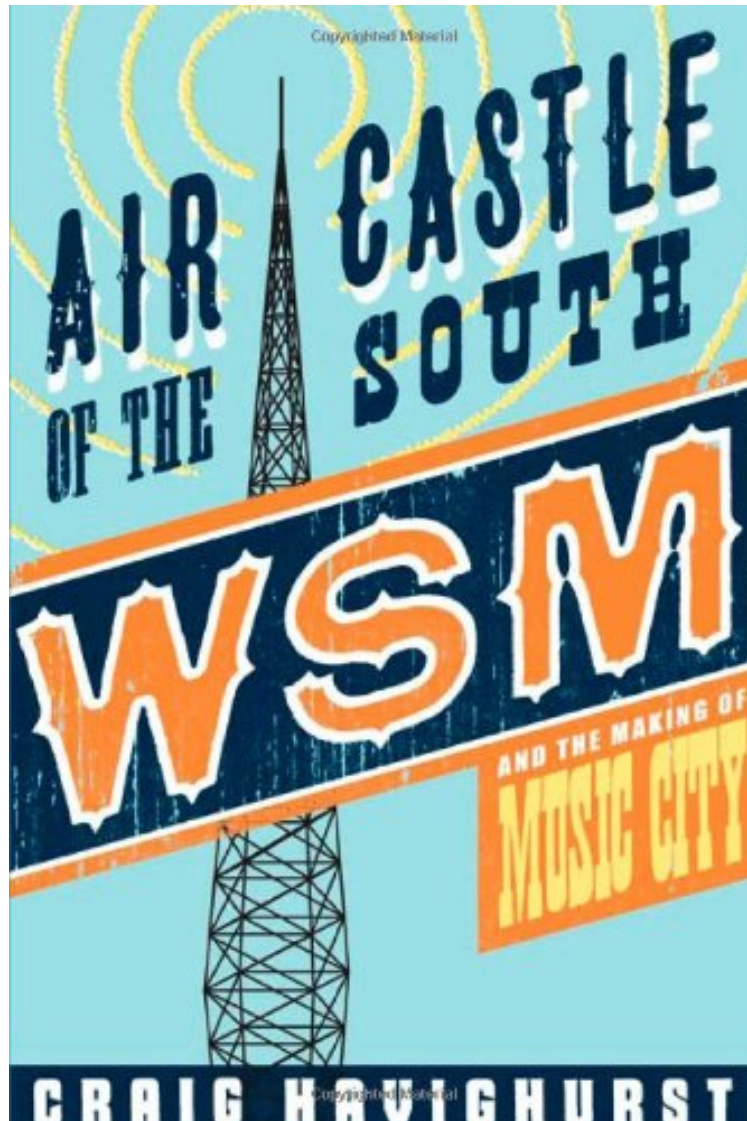


## Air Castle of the South: WSM and the Making of Music City (Music in American Life)

Craig Havighurst

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**Craig Havighurst : Air Castle of the South: WSM and the Making of Music City (Music in American Life)** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Air Castle of the South: WSM and the Making of Music City (Music in American Life):

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. History of Nashville and Country Music By HuntleyMCAuthor Craig Havighurst did extensive research on the history of WSM radio and the city of Nashville. It was interesting to see how

the radio station helped build a city and a city helped to keep a radio station true to its roots. There are great stories from station employees and Opry legends. Anyone interested in the history of radio, history of country music or the history of the Grand Ole Opry will find, I believe, this book as an interesting and informative read. 6 of 6 people found the following review helpful. Legendary Radio By Ray Aubrey The Legend, WSM AM 650 is without doubt the greatest radio station that ever existed anywhere. Heard in some 38 states in the evening, WSM has brought millions of hours of listening pleasure to millions of people since 1925. No other radio station even comes close to the programming and content of this great radio station. This book chronicles The Legend from it's infancy to it's prowess in today's radio world. Great reading and information for a true American icon and institution. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Tells WSM's story beautifully and accurately from my viewpoint. By Frida3000 I worked at WSM in 1956-58. I worked on the Country Music DJ Festival, and it was the best time of my life. The book tells the story very much as I remember it. I especially loved the quotes from my former boss, Harriane Condra. She was my idol.

Started by the National Life and Accident Insurance Company in 1925, WSM became one of the most influential and exceptional radio stations in the history of broadcasting and country music. WSM gave Nashville the moniker Music City USA as well as a rich tradition of music, news, and broad-based entertainment. With the rise of country music broadcasting and recording between the 1920s and 50s, WSM, Nashville, and country music became inseparable, stemming from WSM's launch of the Grand Ole Opry, popular daily shows like Noontime Neighbors, and early morning artist-driven shows such as Hank Williams on Mothers Best Flour. Sparked by public outcry following a proposal to pull country music and the Opry from WSM-AM in 2002, Craig Havighurst scoured new and existing sources to document the station's profound effect on the character and self-image of Nashville. Introducing the reader to colorful artists and businessmen from the station's history, including Owen Bradley, Minnie Pearl, Jim Denny, Edwin Craig, and Dinah Shore, the volume invites the reader to reflect on the status of Nashville, radio, and country music in American culture.

"In the midst of commercial radio's struggles comes a reminder of its glory days, when stations' soaring transmitter towers seemed like monuments to the broadcasters' influence. *Air Castle of the South*, by Craig Havighurst, tells the story of one such station, Nashville's WSM-AM. . . . While Mr. Havighurst, a music journalist and documentarian, is most interested in the station's cultural import, *Air Castle of the South* also presents a fascinating case study in the rise of commercial broadcasting. . . . Mr. Havighurst has done a service in preserving the colorful and instructive history of WSM - and in reminding us that giants once lived on the radio dial."--Wall Street Journal