



L.A.'S 'MT. MILLIONS'

By RALPH TUCHMAN

MT. WILSON has television to thank for a change of face if not a change of name. And many Los Angeles television people will tell you that when they think of the mountain the name that comes to mind is "Mt. Millions."

Reason for the name is apparent when one considers that the investment in transmission sites and equipment atop Mt. Wilson by the seven authorized Los Angeles area stations is approximately \$2.7 million.

At present four Los Angeles stations are operating—KFI KLAC-TV KTLA and KTSL (W6XAO). Three are yet to go on the air. They are KTTV KNBH and KECA-TV. KTTV (*Los Angeles Times*-CBS) is due for its inaugural with the telecast of the Rose Bowl Game and the Tournament of Roses parade which precedes it on Jan. 1. NBC's outlet, KNBH, is expected to go on the air before the end of January. KECA-TV is scheduled to be operating by spring as the ABC station.

Pioneer station of the group is Don Lee's KTSL which is operating under provisional commercial authority of the FCC. Its first telecast was beamed in December 1931.

Next came KTLA, owned by Paramount Television Productions

CONSTRUCTION of KECA-TV's \$550,000 transmitter building is expected to be completed in time for early 1949 operation. Concrete, steel reinforced structure has two floors, each with area of 1,650 square feet. Two-car garage and caretaker's residence adjoin building.

Inc., which started experimental telecasting in September 1942, and turned commercial in January 1947. Third was KFI-TV, owned and operated by Earle C. Anthony Inc., and not at present affiliated with any network although its sister AM station is the NBC outlet in Los Angeles.

Set a Record

KLAC-TV is owned and operated by Dorothy S. Thackrey but has been sold to Warner Bros. along with KLAC Los Angeles and KYA San Francisco for an overall price of \$1,045,000 subject to FCC approval. The station set local history and possibly a national record by getting on the air just 60 days from transmitter ground-breaking ceremonies to the telecasting of its first program on Sept. 17, 1948.

All seven stations are operating from or are finishing their transmission site atop Mt. Wilson. Only Don Lee, of the four operating stations, is not using a Mt. Wilson antenna at present. It has been operating from Mt. Lee in the Hollywood Hills but expects its Mt. Wilson site to be completed before spring. Upon the completion of Mt. Wilson site, Don Lee will con-

COMPLETED on Sept. 1, 1948, KFI-TV's Vermont Avenue studio (left photo) houses a 40' x 70' studio, dressing and make-up rooms, engineering and administrative offices and features modern lighting and acoustical installations. From its lofty 1,700 foot perch on Mt. Lee in Hollywood the Don Lee television transmitter (right) producing 16 kw, sends out the KTSL signals.

tinue to use its studio facilities on Mt. Lee.

KTLA has two large studios which measure approximately 35 x 50 feet and 25 x 35 feet in addition to a film studio. KFI-TV boasts a 40 x 70 foot studio for live programming and a film studio. KLAC-TV has a 40 x 50 foot studio for live presentations plus a film studio. As soon as power facilities are completed the station will have use of an audience studio with a stage measuring 20 x 30 feet.

KNBH will have use of a studio reconverted from an AM facility with dimensions of 50 x 110 feet. Adjoining this studio, NBC has built a complete unit with a commentator's studio, projection room, viewing room and a large film vault.

KTTV, which is to have its main studios atop the Bekins Building in Hollywood, has a 40 x 40 foot space plus a film studio. In addition the station will make use of one of the CBS Hollywood radio studios as well as the *Los Angeles Times* auditorium.

Television Center

KECA-TV will operate from the old Vitagraph Studios lot recently

purchased, and renamed Television Center. There, two large studios are available measuring approximately 105 x 250 feet and 100 x 175 feet respectively. In addition to these, ABC also will have considerable open land for outdoor shots within the acreage purchased.

Since Los Angeles area stations will all share the same transmission point it is surprising that their basic hourly charges are approximately the same. Four stations—KTTV KTLA KECA-TV and KNBH—each list a basic rate of \$500 per hour.

KTLA in addition lists Class B and C time at lower figures. KLAC-TV lists \$450 and KFI-TV asks \$400. Don Lee's KTSL is lowest with an asking price of \$300; the latter is no doubt partially explained by the reduced coverage resulting from transmission atop Mt. Lee. This figure is expected to be adjusted as soon as the station is beaming its image from Mt. Wilson.

KTLA leads in total program

TRANSMISSIONS from KTTV (TV) will emanate from the transmitter of KNX-FM and KTTV (TV) atop Mt. Wilson. Top portion of pylon is KTTV's super-turnstile antenna, lower part KNX-FM's antenna. Headquarters of KNX-FM are located at right, those for KTTV at left of doorway.

NBC is represented on Mt. Wilson by the transmitter building of KNBH, the interior of which is shown here. KNBH is planning to be on the air in January with a minimum of 12 hours weekly.

