

INC-AM-FM-TV Amarillo, Tex., - acquired by Stauffer Publications (WIBW-AM-FM-TV Topeka, Kans.) for \$5.9 million, including considerable real estate, under agreement signed last Friday (net for license is figured at about \$4 million). Acquisition will be from Whittenburg family who hold over 90%, with applications for FCC approval expected to be filed within fortnight.

WYO Lubbock, Tex., also owned by Whittenburgs' Plains Broadcasting Co., is not involved, however. KGNC-TV, on ch. 4, has been in operation since 1953 and is NBC-TV affiliated. KGNC, also affiliated with NBC, began operation in 1922 and is on 710 kc with 10 kw. KGNC-FM has been on air since 1958 and operates on 93.1 mc with 14.1 kw.

### New England bids

Active bidders for ch. 6 WTEV(TV) New Bedford, Mass., reportedly are group owners Oklahoma Publishing Co. (WKY-AM-TV Oklahoma City; WTVT(TV) Tampa, Fla.; KTVT(TV) Fort Worth) and Rust Craft (TV stations in Steubenville, Ohio; Chattanooga: Augusta, Ga.; Rochester, N. Y., and Jacksonville, Fla.) New Bedford facility, which claims metropolitan Providence as its primary market, reportedly may be sold because of trusteeship-ownership problems. Talking price has been rumored in excess of \$4.5 million, exclusive of obligations and film commitments of more than \$500,000. WTEV(TV) is owned (55%) by E. Anthony & Sons Inc. (WNBH-AM-FM New Bedford; WOCB-AM-FM West Yarmouth, Mass.) and (45%) by New England TV Co. It is ABC-TV affiliate and began operation on Jan. 1, 1963.

### Liability in monochrome

Some TV production companies holding distribution rights to film series that are still in network runs are in dilemma if series is in black and white. Profits, these companies say, come after series goes off network and into syndication. Question now being posed is this: How long can series run on network in black and white before its resale value in syndication depreciates? As networks go all-color and stations turn to more syndicated programs in tint, market will decline for off-network series whose episodes are all, or mostly, in black and white.

### Hung up

WLBT(TV) Jackson, Miss., given one-year license renewal on grounds it discriminates against Negroes in its programming (BROADCASTING, May 24), remains controversial item within FCC. At latest report a further disagreement has developed over pending application of Lamar Life Insurance Co., once parent of station's licensee, to acquire all stock in station (BROADCASTING, June 14).

Chairman E. William Henry and Commissioner Kenneth A. Cox, who favored hearing on WLBT renewal application rather than one-year grant, are urging hearing on transfer application. Commissioner James J. Wadsworth, who didn't participate in earlier proceeding, has sided with them. But Commissioners Lee Loevinger, Robert E. Lee and Robert T. Bartley, who voted for short-term renewal, are for granting transfer application without hearing. And it's certain that Commissioner Rosel H. Hyde, who also was in earlier majority, will favor grant. He is now in Montreux, Switzerland, at international conference on frequency allocations, and there is good chance his balance-tipping vote will be secured long-distance. In that event, Commissioner Cox will be ready with dissent which he is already preparing.

### Staying put

Speculation that's been talked around lately regarding Corinthian Broadcasting's national sales representation plans can now subside. After careful reappraisal, which is described simply as part of periodic review of operational policy matters, Corinthian has decided to keep its five television stations under H-R Television's sales banner. H-R has been Corinthian's exclusive national rep for past five years.

Corinthian has also reached another decision—one that could have far-reaching financial effects for other broadcasters as well. On advice of lawyers company has decided to appeal Chicago U. S. Appeals Court decision which made ruling that TV network affiliations may not be treated as depreciable assets for tax purposes (BROADCASTING, Aug. 23). Chicago decision, based on ground that affiliation contracts would seem to gain

rather than diminish in value and as practical matter have indefinite life expectancy, overturned tax-court ruling that would have allowed depreciation. Corinthian plans to file papers shortly asking U. S. Supreme Court to review Chicago decision.

### Hot one coming

Rev. John M. Norris, controversial licensee of WGB Red Lion, Pa., who has been keeping FCC investigators busy, may soon force commission into some soul-searching. He wants to go into television and is planning to apply for UHF to serve Red Lion. If he does, commission will have to face squarely fact that WGB, as outlet for conservative views, is frequently in fairness-doctrine hot water (see editorial, page 98). Norris, for his part has already filed federal district court suit to have doctrine declared unconstitutional (BROADCASTING, Sept. 27).

### Stretching the wire

CBS has made another move into foreign community antenna television systems. Canadian Department of Transport has approved CBS purchase of minority but substantial interest in small Quebec City system of 500 subscribers. It's operated by Tele-Cable in Quebec and is reported to have strong expansion potential. First Canadian system in which CBS invested, Canadian Wirevision, Vancouver, B. C., has approximately doubled in size since CBS bought in, now lists some 40,000 subscribers. CBS so far has no U. S. CATV interests.

### Technical trap

Results of study of National Association of Broadcasters' engineering subcommittee are expected to show that TV and FM stations have been unwittingly violating FCC's technical rules because of deficiencies in monitoring equipment that FCC has approved. Equipment that FCC itself uses to monitor stations is said to be more sensitive than types FCC has okayed for station use. Hence FCC field men find variations in intensity of audio signals that stations themselves can't detect. Under consideration at NAB is petition for interim rulemaking to permit installation of station gear that would produce more accurate readings.