

## TV Sets Ready

NATIONAL distribution of its television receivers is planned to be underway in early February, it was announced last week by General Electric Co. representative before Albany (N. Y.) Appliance and Radio Dealers Assn. Sets are to be sent to areas where stations are now in operation. The first GE model will be a console unit with 6 x 8 inch direct view tube. Set will include AM band.

## CKSO Gets FM

CKSO Sudbury, Ont., has been issued the second commercial FM station license in Canada, W. J. Woodill, general manager of CKSO, has announced. Special order-in-council was passed at Ottawa granting the license through the Department of Transport. Other FM commercial license in Canada is that issued to CFCF Montreal. CKSO will erect its FM antenna on the Grand Theatre Bldg. Frequency, power and call have not been announced.

## Mobile Two-Way Radio Grants Total 1000—FCC

FCC REPORTED last week that approximately 1,000 experimental grants, involving about 12,000 vehicles, have been issued for the development of mobile two-way radiotelephone service. In addition there are about 27,000 licensees operating mobile units in such recognized services as police, fire, special emergency, aviation, etc.

In the taxicab industry, which was reported to have \$4,000,000 invested in radio, the Commission said 200 experimental grants have been issued covering almost 8,000 taxicabs in cities from Boston to San Diego, and that applications are on hand for nearly 2,000 additional units involving 135 cities in 40 states. Telephone facilities in 60 cities have received or applied for radio links with private cars, buses and boats, FCC said, estimating that about 4,000 pieces of mobile equipment are now operating in this category.

## WNCA Sale to WPDQ Owners For \$80,100 Reported to FCC

SALE of WNCA Asheville, N. C. (1340 kc, 250 w) to the owners of WPDQ Jacksonville, Fla. for \$80,100 was reported to FCC last week for approval.

The Commission also received an application covering the previously announced sale of WHIZ Zanesville, Ohio (1240 kc, 250 w), by Fort Industry Co. to Southeastern Ohio Broadcasting System for \$272,500 [BROADCASTING, Dec. 30]. In view of Fort Industry's present ownership of seven AM stations, FCC had requested the filing of the application to sell WHIZ before passing upon Fort Industry's application to acquire WJBK Detroit from James F. Hopkins Inc. for \$550,000 [BROADCASTING, Jan. 6].

Purchasers of WNCA are James R. Stockton, president and 30% stockholder of Jacksonville Broadcasting Corp. (WPDQ); Linton D.

Baggs Jr., vice president and 60%; Robert R. Feagin, secretary, 10%. They were also associated with the ownership of Voice of Augusta Inc., unsuccessful applicant in a competitive proceeding for a new station at Augusta, Ga.

### Equal Owners

The sales agreement provided that the purchasers would pay \$25,000 in earnest money and advance up to \$10,000 as of Jan. 1 for the interim operation of WNCA, a new station authorized a year ago. Equal owners of the station are James M. Earnest and Albin F. Knight, Washington attorneys; J. Alfred Miller, manager of a printing business; Richard Marion Arnold, electro-medical equipment dealer, and Jack O. K. Barfield, owner of Dr. Pepper Bottling Co. at Asheville.

Southeastern Ohio Broadcasting System, buying WHIZ, is headed by H. C. Rittick, vice president and general manager of the Zanesville *Times-Signal*. Other owners are Orville B. Littick, president and publisher of the *Times-Signal*, and Earnest B. Graham, attorney and businessman. Each has one-third interest. They also own the Zanesville Baseball Club.

Meanwhile, reorganization of the licensee of WWCO Waterbury, Conn. (1240 kc, 250 w) from a partnership to a corporation was reported for approval. Equal owners are Mitchell G. Meyers, Ruben E. Aronheim, and Milton H. Meyers, also owners of WEIM Fitchburg, Mass. The application asks that the licensee name of WWCO be changed to Mattatuck Broadcasting Co.

## KRNT HAS BIG NEWS DAY

Quickly Covers Bank Robbery, Murder Stories;—KSD Helps Bring Woman Bandit to Justice—

KRNT Des Moines got a series of news breaks Jan. 22 which enabled the station to give quick coverage to several stories, most sensational of which was a daring robbery of the Des Moines Bank and Trust Co. and the subsequent capture of and confession by the woman bandit who held up the bank.

The robbery occurred at 1:20 p.m. and the bandit (later identified as Mrs. Opal Dixon, Des Moines waitress) emerged from the bank as a KRNT foursome was leaving a lunchroom across the street. The foursome got busy immediately, according to the KRNT management, and at 1:30 p.m. the station flashed a brief lead story phoned from the scene. This was followed five minutes later with a detailed story by a member of the foursome.

By 1:35 KRNT Newsman Charles McCuen was on the scene with a wire recorder, and from then on he had a busy day. Mr. McCuen first got interviews with bank officials and was in the bank when police arrived 45 minutes after the robbery with Mrs. Dixon. All of this was wire recorded by Mr. McCuen and put on the air on KRNT's 6 p.m. newscast. Newsman McCuen also was on hand when Mrs. Dixon confessed shortly before 10 p.m. and he got a quick interview with Des Moines' chief of police which was wire recorded and put on the air, along with a description of the confession, at 10:05 p.m. KRNT also fed the complete account to the ABC network.

To complete a day of rapid-fire news coverage KRNT on its late evening news broadcasts aired the

following: wire recording of an eye-witness account of a murder in a Des Moines tavern brawl, live news reports of the accidental fatal shooting of a small boy by his father and an automobile accident involving three casualties, and a wire recording of an interview with John Hackett, newly appointed Drake U. football coach.

Another station, KSD St. Louis, figured in the events leading up to the capture of the Des Moines bank robber, Mrs. Dixon, who it later developed was the same woman who had robbed the United Bank and Trust Co. in St. Louis on Dec. 26. Reading an AP dispatch describing the Des Moines robbery and noting that this robbery was engineered in much the same manner that the St. Louis bank had been held up, an alert KSD reporter called the matter to the attention of Herman Seibels, St. Louis chief of detectives. Detective Seibels immediately got in touch with Des Moines authorities, and within an hour Mrs. Dixon had confessed not only the Des Moines robbery but also the one in St. Louis.

## Actors Feted

RALPH H. JONES Co., Cincinnati, Feb. 1 is giving a dinner in honor of the five actors playing major roles in the cast of *Linda's First Love* and who have been with the program for 10 years. The company is agency for the Kroger Co., sponsor of the program on a number of stations. Kroger executives will be present at the dinner as well as representatives of stations carrying the program and members of the cast and production staffs of all three Kroger programs. The five actors associated with the show for the past 10 years are Arline Blackburn, Karl Swenson, Edith Spencer, Barbara Weeks and Bennett Kipack. Dinner will be held at the Sherry Netherland Hotel, New York.

## Recorders Ready

BRUSH DEVELOPMENT Co., Cleveland, last week introduced the Mail-a-Voice and the Soundribbon, two new types of magnetic recorder-reproducers which are now on sale in the New York area. The Mail-a-Voice records and reproduces the human voice on folding paper blanks that can be erased and used again. The Soundribbon "magnetic ribbon" recorder-reproducer makes half-hour continuous recordings on a special magnetized paper tape, which also can be erased. A national advertising campaign is expected to begin shortly with McCann-Erickson as agency.

## U. S. to Start Russian Broadcasts Next Month

RUSSIAN-language broadcasts will be started by the State Dept. International Broadcast Division late in February, the exact date to be set sometime after Feb. 1, Kenneth D. Fry, chief of the IBD, said last week. Tests are being conducted on three powerful relay transmitters at Munich and a staff of 12 is undergoing indoctrination under supervision of Charles Thayer of the IBD.

Tentative plans contemplate a daily broadcast of news, music, editorial opinion from the U. S. and cultural programs at 1 p.m., EST (9 p.m., Moscow time). Reports reaching the U. S. indicate that Russia has thousands of shortwave receivers capable of tuning in the Munich transmitters. No formal objection to the Russian-language programs have been raised by Russia, which has been beaming English-language broadcasts to the U. S. for several months.

