

UHF SHIPMENTS

RCA Sends 4 Transmitters in Acceleration

COMMERCIAL uhf TV started moving last week when RCA Victor on Friday shipped the first four uhf transmitters to come off the Camden production line to WFPG-TV Atlantic City; WSBT-TV South Bend, Ind.; WBRE-TV Wilkes Barre, Pa. and WSBA-TV York, Pa.

Announcement of the production line shipments was made by W. W. Watts, vice president of RCA Victor Engineering Products Dept. Mr. Watts said production has been stepped up so that the monthly schedule will be about double that originally contemplated. He declined to estimate how many transmitters would be produced monthly.

All the transmitters were 1 kw jobs.

KPTV (TV) Portland, Ore., was the first commercial uhf station to begin operating, but it is using the experimental uhf equipment employed by RCA at its Bridgeport, Conn., tests [B•T, Sept. 22].

Scheduled to begin the first commercial operation with factory-produced uhf transmitters is WFPG-TV Atlantic City. Equipment was scheduled to arrive early Friday. Atlantic City is 60 miles from Camden and a New Jersey police escort had been arranged and by Saturday the station was due to begin telecasting. WFPG received its TV grant Oct. 30.

Immediate Start at WFPG

According to Fred Weber, president of WFPG-TV, the Ch. 46 station was to start immediately with full 19.7 kw radiated power from its 458-foot high antenna on White Horse Pike. The 24-gain antenna, which was completed Dec. 9, has been tilted ½-degree mechanically and ½-degree electronically in order to cut down radiation over the Atlantic Ocean and increase radiation inland.

The station expected to begin with 12 hours weekly programming. It has signed with all four networks for service via AT&T microwave relay from Philadelphia via three-link system which uses two state forestry towers and terminates at the Ritz Carlton Hotel in Atlantic City. From there it is fed to the WFPG-TV transmitter. Class A one hour rate is \$150.

WFPG-TV is one of the Friendly Group of stations, which comprises WSTV Steubenville, WPIT Pittsburgh, WBMS Boston and WFPG.

Same group is associated with Richmond, Va., businessmen in the Dixie Television Corp., applicant for uhf Ch. 29 there, and in WHGN Huntington, W. Va., applicant for vhf Ch. 13, although Mr. Weber is not a stockholder in the latter. He is a vice president and director, however.

Mr. Weber, a former MBS executive, was president and a major



FINAL test of an RCA Victor uhf transmitter is being made preparatory to shipment. The transmitter shown, including video, audio and control units, was one of the first four shipped from Camden last Friday.

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stockholder in WDSU New Orleans when it put its TV station on the air pre-freeze. Stations were later sold to the Stern family.

WSBA-TV York, Pa., hopes to get its transmitter Friday night and planned to put a test pattern out by Dec. 22, going full commercial operation New Years Eve or New Years Day. The uhf Ch. 43 station intends to put out 20 kw

from its 550-ft. antenna (its CP calls for 170 kw), and has established a Class A hour rate of \$200. It will be affiliated with ABC and DuMont, according to Louis J. Appell Jr., president of the company.

WSBT-TV South Bend, Ind., owned by the *South Bend Tribune* was hoping to receive its transmitter last weekend. It planned to put a 20 kw uhf Ch. 34 test pattern

out by Christmas, if not before, from its 540-ft. antenna. A couple of hours commercial network programming was planned thereafter until connection was made into the AT&T's New York-Chicago microwave link at which time full commercial operation would commence according to General Manager Robert H. Swintz. Station has affiliated with CBS and NBC. Its CP calls for 170 kw effective radiated power. Rate card sets a \$200 Class A hour rate.

Although WBRE-TV Wilkes-Barre, Pa., expected to get its transmitter for uhf Ch. 28 last weekend or early this week, it did not plan to begin operating commercially until Jan. 1. It planned to put out 20 kw radiated power from its 1,223-ft. high antenna at the start, with 200 kw planned in mid-1953, and to reach full authorized 1,000 kw power by 1955, according to David M. Baltimore, general manager of the NBC affiliate.

Last week, WBRE-TV asked FCC for permission to put up a relay station on a hill east of Wilkes-Barre, to pick up NBC's WNBT (TV) New York signals as well as those from Philco-owned WPTZ (TV) Philadelphia. New York is 105 airline miles from Wilkes-Barre; Philadelphia, 97. Class A hour rate is set for \$250.

10 NEW UHF's, 3 VHF's

Granted by FCC

EXTENDING processing on both the city priority Group A and Group B application lines by a number of cities, FCC last week issued construction permits for 10 uhf and 3 vhf stations to bring the post-thaw total of new station grants to 157. Overall U. S. station total now is 265.

Three existing vhf markets received new uhf station grants. These are Baltimore, Buffalo and Birmingham. At Baltimore, WITH received uhf Ch. 60. In Buffalo, Chautauqua Broadcasting Corp. was given uhf Ch. 17 and at Birmingham, WSGN received uhf Ch. 42.

Processing of Group A applications reached to city No. 130, Danville, Va., where WBTM was given uhf Ch. 24. Group B action extended to city No. 181, Buffalo.

As of last Thursday, there were 2 uhf and 9 vhf post-thaw new station grantees on the air, which with the 108 pre-freeze vhf operating stations gives a total of 119 outlets on the air. None of the 10 noncommercial educational stations authorized since lifting of the freeze last April have begun operation at this date.

Here are last week's new permittees:

Baton Rouge, La. (City priority Group A-2, No. 19)—Capital Televi-

sion and Broadcasting Co., granted uhf Ch. 40, effective radiated power of 290 kw visual and 150 kw aural, antenna height above average terrain 340 ft. Authorized earlier: WAFB-TV, uhf Ch. 28.

Peoria, Ill. (Group A-2, No. 24)—Hilltop Broadcasting Co. (WWXL), granted uhf Ch. 19, ERP 95 kw visual and 54 kw aural, antenna 280 ft. Authorized earlier: WEEK-TV, uhf Ch. 43.

Wichita Falls, Tex. (Group A-2, No. 56)—Wichtex Radio and Television Co. (KFDX), granted vhf Ch. 3, ERP 60 kw visual and 36 kw aural, antenna 500 ft. Authorized earlier: White Television Co., uhf Ch. 22.

San Angelo, Tex. (Group A-2, No. 77)—KGKL Inc. (KGKL), granted vhf Ch. 3, ERP 6.4 kw visual and 3.2 kw aural, antenna 440 ft. Authorized earlier: KTXL-TV, vhf Ch. 8.

Tucson, Ariz. (Group A-2, No. 91)—Catalina Broadcasting Co. (KCNA), granted vhf Ch. 9, ERP 25 kw visual and 12.5 kw aural, antenna 60 ft. Authorized earlier: KVOA-TV, vhf Ch. 4; KOPO-TV, Ch. 13.

West Palm Beach, Fla. (Group A-2, No. 98)—WIRK-TV Inc. (WIRK), granted uhf Ch. 21, ERP 22 kw visual and 11.5 kw aural, antenna 220 ft.

Lake Charles, La. (Group A-2, No. 103)—Southland Telecasters, granted uhf Ch. 25, ERP 20 kw visual and 10.5 kw aural, antenna 330 ft.

Easton, Pa. (Group A-2, No. 127)—Easton Pub. Co. (WEEX-FM), granted uhf Ch. 57, ERP 125 kw visual and

63 kw aural, antenna 760 ft.

Hazleton, Pa. (Group A-2, No. 129)—Hazleton Broadcasting Co. (WAZL), granted uhf Ch. 63, ERP 98 kw visual and 52 kw aural, antenna 660 ft.

Danville, Va. (Group A-2, No. 130)—Piedmont Broadcasting Corp. (WBTM), granted uhf Ch. 24, ERP 225 kw visual and 120 kw aural, antenna 650 ft. Condition.

Birmingham, Ala. (Group B-2, No. 157)—Birmingham News Co. (WSGN), granted uhf Ch. 42, ERP 1,000 kw visual and 500 kw aural, antenna 930 ft. Operating: WAFM-TV, vhf Ch. 13; WBRC-TV, vhf Ch. 4.

Baltimore, Md. (Group B-2, No. 162)—WITH-TV Inc. (WITH), granted uhf Ch. 60, ERP 105 kw visual and 59 kw aural, antenna 300 ft. Comr. Frieda B. Hennock dissented. Operating: WAAM (TV), vhf Ch. 13; WBAL-TV, vhf Ch. 11; WMAR-TV, vhf Ch. 2.

Buffalo, N. Y. (Group B-4, No. 181)—Chautauqua Broadcasting Corp., granted uhf Ch. 17, ERP 165 kw visual and 83 kw aural, antenna 500 ft. Operating: WBEN-TV, vhf Ch. 4. Authorized earlier: WTVF (TV), uhf Ch. 23* (educational).

Concurrent with the Buffalo grant, FCC advised another applicant there, Buffalo-Niagara Television Corp., seeking uhf Ch. 59, that it wished additional information regarding financial qualifications.

In the action granting WBTM (Continued on page 76)