



DECEMBER 29, 1952

DOZEN NEW TV GRANTS

Open Way for Vhf in Ida., Nev.

BRINGING television for the first time to Idaho and Nevada through vhf grants to Boise and Reno, FCC last week further pushed processing of uncontested new-station applications and issued a dozen construction permits—three vhf and nine uhf.

Two uhf permits went to Pittsburgh, where the sole operating outlet is WDTV (TV) on vhf Ch. 2, and another uhf permit went to Buffalo, N.Y., where WBEN-TV operates on vhf Ch. 4. Buffalo earlier was given two uhf permits, one commercial and one educational.

The Commission also approved an increase in the effective radiated power of an existing station, KSTP-TV Minneapolis on vhf Ch. 5, from 24.7 kw visual and 17.3 kw aural to 100 kw visual and 60 kw aural. This is the second power boost to the Twin Cities, the FCC Broadcast Bureau earlier granting WCCO-TV on vhf Ch. 4 an increase in ERP from 17.9 kw visual and 9.2 kw aural to 100 kw visual and 50 kw aural [B•T, Dec. 22].

New station processing last week pushed Commission action down the Group A line to Reno, city No. 148. Buffalo, city No. 181 on the Group B list, is as far as the Commission went a fortnight ago in awarding a commercial uhf permit there.

Stress on A Group

Concentration of FCC attention to the Group A line, cities now not having service, was seen by Washington observers as indicating that the Commission continues to be seeking to "clean up" the uncontested requests in those cities as soon as possible—perhaps virtually all by the time Congress convenes and the new Republican Administration takes office.

Total number of post-thaw construction permits stands at 169 with last week's actions. Ten of the total are noncommercial, educational authorizations. Total number of TV stations authorized in the U.S. now is 277. Of this number, 122 are on the air.

The new station permits issued last week were:

Muskegon, Mich. (City priority Group A-2, No. 83)—Versluis Radio and Television Inc. (WLAV Grand Rapids), granted uhf Ch. 35, effective radiated power 270 kw visual and 140 kw aural, antenna height above average terrain 970 ft.

Meridian, Miss. (Group A-2, No. 101)—Mississippi Broadcasting Co.

(WCOG), granted uhf Ch. 30, ERP 210 kw visual and 110 kw aural, antenna 500 ft.

Lafayette, Ind. (Group A-2, No. 128)—WFAM Inc. (WFAM-FM), granted

uhf Ch. 59, ERP 20 kw visual and 10.5 kw aural, antenna 360 ft.

Bakersfield, Calif. (Group A-2, No. 132)—Bakersfield Broadcasting Co. (KAFY), granted uhf Ch. 29, ERP

20.5 kw visual and 11 kw aural, antenna 460 ft.

Lawton, Okla. (Group A-2, No. 133)—Oklahoma Quality Broadcasting Co. (KSWO), granted vhf Ch. 7, ERP 10 kw visual and 5 kw aural, antenna 540 ft.

Boise, Idaho (Group A-2, No. 135)—KIDO Inc. (KIDO), granted vhf Ch. 7, ERP 51 kw visual and 26 kw aural, antenna 80 ft.

Watertown, N. Y. (Group A-2, No. 136)—The Brockway Co. (WWNY), granted uhf Ch. 48, ERP 185 kw visual and 100 kw aural, antenna 570 ft.

Neenah, Wis. (Appleton, Wis., Group A-2, No. 139)—Neenah-Menasha Broadcasting Co., granted uhf Ch. 42, ERP 15.5 kw visual and 8.3 kw aural, antenna 290 ft.

Reno, Nev. (Group A-2, No. 148)—Nevada Radio-Television Inc. (KWRM), granted vhf Ch. 8, ERP 3 kw visual and 1.5 kw aural, antenna minus 440 ft.

Pittsburgh (Group B-4, No. 180)—J. Frank Gallaher, Loren Berry and Ronald B. Woodyard, partnership, granted uhf Ch. 47, ERP 230 kw visual and 120 kw aural, antenna 480 ft. Operating: WDTV (TV), vhf Ch. 2.

Pittsburgh (Group B-4, No. 180)—Telecasting Co. of Pittsburgh, granted uhf Ch. 16, ERP 89 kw visual and (Continued on page 58)



LOUIS G. BALTIMORE (l), owner, WBRE-TV Wilkes-Barre, Pa., and A. R. Hopkins, general sales manager, RCA Engineering Products Dept., are on hand as uhf equipment is loaded for shipment from the RCA Victor Div. plant in Camden, N. J. Other stations receiving transmitters are WSBT-TV South Bend; WSBA-TV York, Pa., and WJPG-TV Atlantic City.

UHF SERVICE SPEEDS

In Four Cities

WITHIN 48 hours following delivery of RCA's first four uhf TV transmitters [B•T, Dec. 22], three cities began receiving uhf TV signals and a fourth was preparing to begin transmission today (Monday) or tomorrow.

The three cities—first to put uhf broadcasts on the air since KPTV (TV) Portland, Ore., began last September—were Atlantic City, N. J., York, Pa., and South Bend, Ind. Wilkes-Barre, Pa., was hoping to get its station on the air today or tomorrow.

On full-scale commercial operation is WJPG-TV Atlantic City, which began regular telecasting at 10:45 p.m. Dec. 21, following a successful test pattern broadcast at 8:12 p.m. that day.

WSBA-TV York put a test pattern on the air at 2:06 a.m. Dec. 21, and followed this with a limited number of network and commercial programs. Full commercial operation is scheduled in York Jan. 1.

Out in South Bend, WSBT-TV put on a test pattern at 11:50 p.m. Dec. 21. Regular commercial op-

eration began at 7 p.m. Dec. 22, with two hours a night programming since then.

With the way cleared by New Jersey State Police, WJPG-TV got its transmitter at 4:15 p.m. Dec. 19, according to President Fred Weber. Video test pattern went out from the station's 458-ft. antenna at 3 p.m. Dec. 20, but the transmitter began failing later that day, Mr. Weber said. For the next 28 hours, RCA officials, including Lester Lapin, uhf transmitter design engineer, worked to get the 20-kw signal on the air and at 8:12 p.m. Dec. 21, a Ch. 46 video and aural test pattern was transmitted from the WJPG-TV antenna, Mr. Weber said. At 10:45 p.m. that day the station's dedication began, with a Philco TV Playhouse kinescope of "The Gift" as the first commercial program, Mr. Weber reported.

Regular schedule runs 1-5 p.m., test patterns; 5 p.m. sign-off for programs from all four networks, Mr. Weber announced. Station is linked by AT&T microwave from Philadelphia. Local originations

are programmed from a Telop and two 16mm film projectors. Camera chains for local live pickups are due this spring, Mr. Weber said. Charge is \$150 for one-time, Class A hour program, and \$20 for an announcement.

Ninety miles from the RCA factory at Camden, WSBA-TV York, Pa., received its transmitter at 7 o'clock Friday night (Dec. 19), according to Vice President Walter J. Rothensies. Mr. Rothensies said that a test pattern went out over the air at 2:06 a.m. Dec. 21, and continued for a time with slides, film and live camera shots of personnel working on the installation. A limited number of network and local commercial programs are being carried by WSBA-TV, said Mr. Rothensies, but full commercial operation has not been scheduled before Jan. 1.

The York Ch. 43 station is putting out 20 kw from its 550-ft. antenna. Rate of \$200 for one-hour one-time Class A program has been set, with \$37.50 for announcements. Affiliation contracts have been (Continued on page 77)