

FARRIS, NATS SET KTVQ (TV) REVAMP

U. S. District Court approves plan by E. A. Farris, new controlling owner, and National Affiliated Tv Stations Inc. to reorganize Oklahoma City uhf.

PLAN for financial revitalization of uhf KTVQ (TV) Oklahoma City was approved last week by the station's creditors and confirmed by the federal district court. Major backing for the station's reorganization comes from the combined resources of KTVQ's new controlling owner, E. A. Farris, who was one of the major creditors, and the National Affiliated Television Stations Inc., formed two months ago to give aid to ailing stations, uhf or vhf.

The plan for reorganization was formulated by NATS with Mr. Farris, Oklahoma attorney, oilman and rancher. Mr. Farris cancelled all station debts owed him in exchange for all voting common stock [AT DEADLINE, May 16].

NATS was formed by General Electric Co., National Telefilm Assoc. and Hollywood motion picture people because of concern over the increasing number of financially unstable tv stations in seemingly profitable markets. Its part in the rebuilding of ch. 25 KTVQ will be to furnish financial assistance where required, management counsel, an experienced national and regional sales representation and programming. At the time NATS was first announced it offered affiliates a basic film library of over 1,000 hours, mainly the library of National



MR. FARRIS

MR. LESTER

Telefilm Assoc. plus feature films released for tv.

All present KTVQ stockholders will surrender their voting stock for preferred stock. Mr. Farris then will be issued all the voting common stock, becoming controlling owner, subject to FCC approval.

New personnel and management counsel appointed to put KTVQ back on a financial footing include:

- Richard Doherty, director of NATS management services and president of Radio-Tv Management Corp., Washington, who will work closely with the station in an advisory capacity.

- Robert Purcell, tv consultant and former executive of KTTV (TV) Los Angeles, who at the recommendation of NATS will serve as director of television for 60 to 90 days.

- R. Mack Lester, for the past four years station manager of KTOW Oklahoma City, who will be general manager, assuming complete responsibility for KTVQ when Mr. Purcell's job is done. Mr. Lester has been in broadcasting for nine years, almost all in Oklahoma

City. He was sales manager of KOCY there for three years and also served with KBYE there a year and a half. He is a past director of Oklahoma Broadcasters Assn.

In commenting on the reorganization which was filed last December, Judge Edgar S. Vaught of the U. S. District Court for Western Oklahoma, lauded the plan and said he was glad to see both local and national organizations coming to the aid of KTVQ. He said local creditors have been motivated by a "sense of civic pride," recognizing the benefit the community will receive by "preserving the station."

Added cooperation is being received from ABC-TV, which is expected to increase substantially the number of network programs carried by KTVQ.

Francis J. Brott Dies; KOMO Engineering Chief

FRANCIS J. BROTT, 65, director of engineering for KOMO-AM-TV Seattle, Wash., died May 11 following a four-month illness.

Mr. Brott was a radio pioneer, obtaining his first amateur license in 1916. He built five of the original broadcast station transmitters in the Pacific Northwest, as well as KFIY and KGCL, two early broadcast stations which were owned and operated by him in Seattle.

He was named chief engineer for KOMO when it was organized in 1926 and in 1952 was named director of engineering for radio-tv. During his tenure at KOMO, four complete studio installations have been made, including the present \$1 million six-studio plant which houses the stations.

He was a registered professional engineer, a senior member of the Institute of Radio Engineers and a member of Radio Pioneers.

He is survived by his widow, Florence Reed Brott, and two sons.



MR. BROTT

Stafford Warner Dies

FUNERAL SERVICES have been held for Stafford Warren Warner, founder, general manager and co-owner of KWBR Oakland, Calif. Mr. Warner, 63, died May 8 at Oakland's Peralta Hospital. Services were held May 12.

In 1919 Mr. Warner established one of the first radio stations. A year later his experimental outlet began operating under the call KLS which was changed to KWBR in 1945. Mr. Warner also is a pioneer in radio retailing; he opened his first store in 1920.

He is survived by his mother, a sister and three brothers, one of whom is Eugene, co-owner of KWBR.

KPTV (TV) Plans 1,000 Kw

INCREASE in power to 1,000 kw, maximum allowed for a uhf station, has been slated for June 11 by KPTV (TV) Portland, Ore., the nation's first commercial uhf outlet. Delivery of a new RCA high-power antenna is expected late this month at which time it will be placed atop a new 535-ft. tower, replacing the present 210-ft. structure. Target date for the power increase is set to coincide with Portland's Rose Parade. KPTV operates on ch. 27 and is owned by Storer Broadcasting Co.

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