

at deadline

PEOPLE

HARRY MASON SMITH, WLW Cincinnati veteran executive, is retiring as vice president of Crosley Broadcasting Corp. and active head of WLW Cincinnati Dec. 1. After extended vacation, Mr. Smith will continue as special representative and consultant periodically with firm. Mr. Smith has been associated with James Shouse, chairman of board, and Robert Dunville, president of Crosley Broadcasting, for past 25 years. He has served as manager of service department, eastern sales manager, general sales manager, vice president in charge of radio and television and then head of WLW.

CHRISTY WALSH JR., Ted Bates & Co. producer on Colgate-Palmolive's *The Millionaire*, to agency supervisor on C-P's *Strike It Rich*, both CBS-TV programs, in Hollywood. **GRANT TYLER**, production assistant in New York office, to Hollywood office as tv producer.

DAVID P. EVANS, WOR-TV New York operations manager; **RICHARD SIMON**, tv director of WATV (TV) Newark, and **WILLIAM TERRY**, with Bryan Houston, N. Y., all joining tv department, Ogilvy, Benson & Mather.

FCC Begins to Study Allocations Above 890 Mc

FCC announced Friday it was opening up what it called "preliminary fact finding hearing" on all service allocations above 890 mc. The allocations study—first since early post-World War II days—encompasses all uses from 890 mc to 30,000 mc, among which are radio and tv studio-transmitter links, remote pickups and intercity relays.

Move is seen as first step in overall allocations review which will probably include spectrum between 30 mc and 890 mc (where fm and tv bands are located).

Comments from interested parties regarding assignments in microwave bands above 890 mc are requested by Jan. 7, 1957. Move was agreed to by five commissioners, with Comr. Richard A. Mack dissenting on, it is understood, ground that FCC policy on economic protection to common carrier services not open to question. Comr. John C. Doerfer was out of town.

Microwave hearing will be held at date to be announced. Questions raised and on which comments are solicited include: Present and future demands for both common carrier and private point-to-point system; if shortages of frequencies develop to point where common carriers cannot satisfy all customers, should system of priorities be established; eligibility standards for point-to-point use; shared vs. exclusive use; common carrier vs. private point-to-point use; interconnection; land mobile, ISM and navigation requirements; broad vs. narrow band; common engineering standards, etc.

Segments of spectrum of interest to broadcasters include 890-952 mc, used for radio and tv-aerial communications; 1990-2110 mc, 6875-7125 mc and 12,700-13,200 mc, all of which are used for tv.

Desilu, NTA Contract For Six Tv Film Series

DESILU Productions will produce six new tv film series (half-hours) for National Telefilm Assoc., and its NTA Film Network, Ely A. Landau, president of NTA, New York, and Desi Arnaz, president of Desilu, Hollywood, are announcing today (Mon.). NTA's initial investment for new programs is in excess of \$500,000. Shows to be offered next season for sale by NTA on its film network as well as on other tv networks, with certain series to be offered for regional sponsorship.

In concluding pact, both firms exercised options contained in original production arrangement between them last July when Desilu started production of *The Sheriff of Cochise*, for NTA and which now has been sold in more than 125 markets. New pact is described as one of biggest of its kind and follows closely on heels of NTA's double agreement with 20th Century-Fox Film Corp. [B•T, Nov. 5].

Series in preparation to range from adventure stories to situation comedies, and marks "first time that a film distribution company will have available such a wide range of outstanding programming from one studio," Mr. Arnaz said. NTA observed it has minimum of 10 tv film series now scheduled for production assuring its film network's current supply of 1½ hours of programming weekly to affiliates.

WHOSE TOWER?

U. S. ARMY has been negotiating over past four months to acquire WOR-TV New York standby tower which was struck by plane with five resultant deaths last Thursday (earlier reports said six persons were killed; see story, page 82), station officials revealed Friday. Army, which reportedly wants to dismantle and then reassemble 760-ft. tower at Aberdeen (Md.) Proving Grounds, is slated to give its decision Nov. 16. Price not disclosed.

Spokesmen also revealed tower is not owned by WOR-TV but by R. H. Macy Employes Pension Fund, which leased it to station under long-term contract when General Teleradio acquired Macy interests in WOR-AM-TV.

Network Tv Gross Sales Up 18% for September

NETWORK TV gross time charges totaled \$39,107,409 in September compared to \$33,044,766 for like month last year, gain of 18.3%, according to Publishers Information Bureau compilation. Each network boosted billing: ABC-TV by 36.7%, CBS-TV by 21.1% and NBC-TV by 9.8%. Total for nine month period of all networks was \$353,961,824, or 21.8% above last year's Jan.-Sept. period. The totals:

	Sept. '56	Sept. '55	Percent Change
ABC-TV	\$ 5,638,376	\$ 4,123,780	+36.7
CBS-TV	\$18,399,872	\$15,188,805	+21.1
DuMont	—	\$ 11,538	—
NBC-TV	\$15,089,161	\$13,720,643	+9.8
Total	\$39,107,409	\$33,044,766	+18.3

	Jan.-Sept. '56	Jan.-Sept. '55	Percent Change
ABC-TV	\$ 56,493,853	\$ 32,718,864	+72.7
CBS-TV	\$162,811,764	\$138,474,755	+17.6
DuMont	—	\$ 3,102,708	—
NBC-TV	\$134,656,207	\$116,265,935	+15.8
Total	\$353,961,824	\$290,562,262	+21.8

AFTRA Strike in Seattle

AFTRA local voted at weekend to strike four Seattle stations—KIRO, KING, KOMO and KJR. Strike sanction was asked of Seattle Central Labor Council's executive board after union reportedly rejected \$4.40 weekly wage increase for announcers. George Peckham, AFTRA executive secretary, said walkout would include KOMO-TV and KING-TV.

Jensen Offered TASO Job

AXEL G. JENSEN, Bell Labs. director of television research, has been offered \$25,000 year job as executive director of Television Allocations Study Organization. Offer was made at executive board meeting Friday at NARTB headquarters in Washington. Response from Mr. Jensen, who was present at Friday's meeting, expected by or before Nov. 20 when next executive board meeting is scheduled. TASO was set up at request of FCC to study uhf-vhf problems, advise Commission on future of uhf. It is composed of representatives of five broadcast groups. Post of executive director had first been offered to Arthur V. Loughran, IRE president and former research v.p., Hazeltine.

Nearly \$1 Million Involved In Station Sales Friday

STATION SALES Friday involved total of almost \$1 million.

KOMA Oklahoma City, Okla., 50-kw outlet, sold by multiple station owner John T. Griffin, for \$342,500, according to Blackburn-Hamilton Co., Washington, broker negotiating sale. Transfer is subject to FCC approval.

Purchasing group is comprised of Myer Feldman, counsel, Senate Banking & Currency Committee; Burt Levine, president, WROV Roanoke, Va.; Arnold Lerner, sales manager, WCMS Norfolk, Va., and Donald Rubin, Florida banker. KOMA, founded in 1927, is CBS affiliate and operates on 1520 kc. KOMO tv affiliate, KWTV (TV), not involved in sale.

Ownership of KOOK-AM-TV Billings, Mont., will go to Joseph S. Sample, current president and 10% owner of stations, application filed for FCC approval indicated. Transfer of control being worked out in this fashion: Licensee Montana Network Inc., paying \$403,650 for 1,242 shares from 12 stockholders; Mr. Sample paying \$121,800 for 406 shares owned by C. L. Crist, and \$14,625 for 45 shares owned by V. V. Clark; John Glenn Sample, father of Joseph S. Sample, paying \$35,595 for 41 shares treasury stock. Ownership will be held 93.28% by Joseph Sample; 5.85% by John Glenn Sample.

Application filed with Commission to sell KBMI Henderson and KSHO-TV Las Vegas, both Nev., from Moritz Zenoff to Television Corp. of America (Zugsmith-Hogan-Oxarart-Feldman interests) for approximately \$200,000. This supersedes prior applications which proposed to sell 50% interest in tv outlet to Wilbur Clark, Desert Inn owner, and then transfer station to Tv Corp. which was subject of FCC McFarland letter.

Davis Takes in Partners

NEW engineering firm, George C. Davis Consulting Engineers, formed Friday with four members of Mr. Davis' staff becoming partners. Joining him in partnership are Julius Cohen, Robin Compton, Walter L. Davis and Ralph E. Dippell. Offices will continue in Munsey Bldg., Washington. Mr. Davis, who had been at FCC, predecessor FRC and Dept. of Commerce radio staff, set up consulting firm in 1937 with E. C. Page. He formed own firm in 1942.