At Deadline...

HARDING COLLEGE BUYS
WHBQ for $300,000

SALE of WHBQ Memphis (250 w on 1400 kc) to Harding College, Searcy, Ark. for $300,000 clears the way for the nation’s fledgling college radio industry for assignment of license. College, owned by Church of Christ, will acquire 50% from Mrs. Stella H. Thompson, widow of Thomas Thompson, station founder; 25% each from S. D. Wooten Jr., chief engineer, WREC Mem-

phis, and Mrs. Emily P. Alburt, wife of E. A. (Bob) Alburt, WHBQ general manager.

If FCC approves assignment, Mr. Alburt remains as general manager, station continues as commercial outlet. College plans to move to Memphis. Present staff will remain. Mrs. Alburt acquired 25% interest from Hoyt B. Wooten, brother of S. D. Jr. and president, general manager of WREC, in October 1944 because of duopoly rules.

Harding College, established 1924, headed by George Stuart Benson, former missionary to China, veteran teacher, syndicate columnist and former radio commentator. It’s liberal arts, co-educational institution boasts 40 teachers. Plans contemplate college facilities will be used for public service programming, training radio personnel in conjunction with station, but WREC remains non-commercial educational outlet. WHBQ founded in 1926, became MBS affiliate in March 1944. Harding College represented by Neville Miller, former NAB president; WHBQ by George Strong, both Washington attorneys.

Closed Circuit

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ests in radio, including networks, are awaiting with interest FCC decision in proposed KQW sale to CBS for $950,000. This opinion (and probable dissent) expected to deny transfer to network and establish ceiling on number ownership of stations, probably with limitation of six or seven for both AM and FM.

LT. COL. GEORGE O. GILLINGHAM, after more than four years’ duty as information chief, Chemical Warfare Service, returns July 1 to FCC for assignment. Letters of resignation for service time, relief, Earl Minderman, will stay on temporarily to reacquaint Col. Gillingham with assignment which has undergone sweeping change during momentous war years.

WHILE IBEW throws hooks into larger stations, small market outlets are wondering how they can get enough of them as new stations keep taking the air. NAB is asking FCC for aid in living under new order and may ask easing of requirements at later date.

THOSE SWEET songs of love and friendship rendered by Petrolio last winter were music to industry ears at time, but intermission that started in early April when NAB and AFM last met has become more of a terminal leaf. Perhaps it is because ABM President Justin Miller will raise his voice few decibels in next few days by telling Jimmy he’s surprised at recent AFM stalling and anti-radio gestures out of tune with winter wooring. Industrywide Music Committee at May 9 meeting called on NAB head to demand explanation from music czar.

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