

FIRST COMMERCIAL UHF

KPTV (TV) Portland, Ore., on Air

By EARL B. ABRAMS
MONTHS ahead of all expectations, the first commercial uhf TV signal was scheduled to go out into the ether Saturday from KPTV (TV) Portland, Ore.

This also will be the first TV service in that northwest city.

Station put its Channel 27 transmitter on the air within minutes after it received word Thursday that the FCC had granted its request for permission to operate commercially on an interim basis.

KPTV is owned by Empire Coil Co., New Rochelle, N. Y., electronics parts manufacturer. Herbert Mayer is president. Empire Coil



Mr. Mayer

P. R. Those applications were withdrawn recently.

Ability to get on the air so quickly—station received its CP July 11—is attributed to the purchase of the 2½-year-old RCA Bridgeport experimental uhf TV station last month [B•T, Sept. 1].

Bridgeport 1-kw station was dismantled Aug. 25, shipped by fast freight and truck to Portland, and reassembled by the same RCA engineers who operated the plant in the East. All parts were coded and a day and night shift of workers aided in its installation which was completed Sept. 11.

Special RCA Victor 21-gain antenna was expressed from Camden Sept. 6, arrived in Portland Sept. 11 and was installed that evening. Two hundred-and-fifty ft. tower was begun Sept. 9 and completed Sept. 11, in time to receive the antenna.

Claims Viewers' Calls

Although Mr. Mayer admitted that he had no idea of the number of TV sets in Portland capable of picking up his 17.6 kw signal, he said that calls from viewers began to come in last Thursday.

A special BROADCASTING • TELECASTING check of major receiver manufacturers indicated that all were rushing complete TV sets to the Portland market. Most were also sending in uhf strips so that turret tuners could be adapted for the uhf channel.

Only sponsor signed for the KPTV inauguration was RCA, Mr. Mayer acknowledged. He reported that he had "a stack" of requests for time and spot sales, but that as of Thursday he had no idea of schedule or availabilities.

Opening day's gala program was due to begin with a reception and luncheon at Portland's Multnomah Hotel, to be followed by a visit to the city-owned Council Crest Park

site in the western hills of the Columbia River metropolis. First regular program was due to start at 4:30 p.m., with guests viewing the telecasts at the Benson Hotel. Notables were to include state and city officials.

Mr. Mayer was scheduled to lead off the first telecast. He was to be followed by the RCA-sponsored film of the Bridgeport experimental uhf operation. Following the film, KPTV was scheduled to be hooked into the NBC-TV network for *All Star Revue* and *Show of Shows*. First day on the air was due to end at 7:30 p.m.

Regular, full-scale programming is scheduled to begin Oct. 1 with the World Series, Mr. Mayer said. Until then the station will be on a test basis, although programs will be telecast one or two hours each night, he said.

Station is putting an 87 dbu signal over the entire city of Portland, Mr. Mayer reported, with the 1-kw transmitter and 17.6 kw effective radiated power. It is also putting a Grade A signal (74 dbu) into the adjacent cities of Vancouver, Wash.; St. Helens and

Oregon City, Ore.; and a Grade B signal (64 dbu) into Salem, Ore., and Longview, Wash.

KPTV's CP calls for an effective radiated power of 87.9 kw. In his request for the STA, Mr. Mayer reported that delivery of a 5-kw uhf transmitter was not promised until November 1953. He also stated that the visual modulation monitor was promised for February 1953, but that aural modulation monitor and visual and aural frequency monitors were due to be delivered in 30 days.

In his application for the STA, Mr. Mayer stated he intended to operate for an interim period with network feeds and local film shows only, pending completion of studio facilities in downtown Portland at 735 S. W. 20th Place.

AT&T coaxial cable runs from Sacramento to Portland, where TV signals are transposed to microwave facilities for the 150-mile hop to Seattle.

Transmitter is at the north end of Council Crest Park, located in the western hills of Portland. The 14-bay antenna is 1,023 ft. above average terrain and more than

1,300 ft. above sea level.

There has been some talk in Portland of the city erecting a 700-ft. tower at the KPTV site so that all TV stations can be located at that point, but nothing definite has yet taken place.

The site is near the KOIN antenna and field measurements were necessary to insure that no interference would be caused to that station's directional radiation pattern.

Work Continues

Transmitter went into the shell of the transmitter building when it arrived earlier this month. Work is continuing to finish the cinder-block housing, both structurally and with power and water facilities.

As to uhf TV receivers, most manufacturers were humping to get enough stock in the hands of their distributors and dealers. Only problem seems to be that upswing in TV sales in recent months has necessitated quotas for all distributors, and set makers are unsure they can get enough sets into Portland to meet demand.

RCA Victor planned to have
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SRTS LIBRARY

Stations Assured on Licenses

ASSURANCE that stations with performing rights licenses may broadcast any transcriptions purchased, as well as leased, from Standard Radio Transcription Services without need to worry about recording licenses (mechanical rights) has been given by Standard to its subscribing stations.

Standard's letter follows one sent Sept. 10 to all stations by Harry Fox, agent and trustee of some 450 music publishers for recording rights. He alleged that stations buying the Standard recordings outright will have to obtain "proper clearance of the mechanical and other rights involved from the owners and publishers thereof" before using these recordings on the air [B•T, Sept. 15].

Standard, which proposes to discontinue its monthly library releases and to sell outright to stations the collection of recordings it has amassed, on Sept. 12 wrote its subscriber stations that its counsel considers Mr. Fox's position "entirely groundless." Furthermore, Standard states, it "will defend any action brought by Mr. Fox or his clients against any radio station resulting from the purchase of our library."

Standard's letter, in full text reads:

"To all our subscribers:

"We understand that you have received a letter from Harry Fox regarding the purchase of our li-

brary transcriptions. Our counsel, Sydney Kaye of Rosenman, Goldmark, Colin & Kaye, advises us that Mr. Fox's position on behalf of his publishers is entirely groundless.

"We, therefore, repeat to you our complete assurance that transcriptions purchased from us may be used by you as long as you have performance licenses. Furthermore, we will defend any action brought by Mr. Fox, or his clients, against any radio station resulting from the purchase of our library."

Standard's Statement

Asked for an amplification of this message, to explain more fully the legal situation which might not be wholly clear to station operators and other non-legally trained persons, Standard issued the following statement to BROADCASTING • TELECASTING:

"Standard considers wholly unwarranted the implication contained in Mr. Fox's letter to stations dated Sept. 10, that use of transcriptions purchased from Standard will be subject to clearance by stations of mechanical or other rights. It has written to all of its customers agreeing to defend and protect them against any action brought by Mr. Fox or any of his publishers. Standard has no present contract with Mr. Fox. Its expired contract with Mr. Fox specifically reserved to Standard all of its rights under the Copyright Law. Even under the terms of the contract, Stand-

ard's right to sell as well as lease transcriptions to its customers was reserved. The right of Standard to press records in accordance with law is, therefore, beyond question.

"Beyond this, however, it is clear that stations are in no way involved. All that a broadcasting station needs in order to play a transcription is the right publicly to perform for profit the musical compositions embodied in the transcription. Stations have these rights under their contracts with music licensing organizations. The transcriptions which Standard is selling were legally made and are not infringing copies. Even if they were, the U. S. Circuit Court, as recently as May of this year, pointed out that 'one does not infringe a copyright by buying an infringing copy of the work,' and that, though it might be an infringement of copyright to sell certain recordings, it was not an infringement to buy or use them. (*Foreign & Domestic Music Corp. v. Light*). If Mr. Fox has a claim, therefore, which Standard vigorously denies, it is against Standard alone. Standard will not only meet such a claim, if it is made, but it will stand behind and indemnify the purchasers of its transcriptions to the fullest extent.

"Standard is not going out of business, and if Mr. Fox attempts to trouble or coerce any of its customers it will bring Mr. Fox to account by appropriate legal action."