

telecast with the maximum 100 kw authorized by FCC.

The new transmitting plant will enable viewers within a 60-mile radius to receive top quality pictures, Mr. Yoder said, adding that the station's former "figure 8" transmitting pattern now will be circular, enabling viewers to the east and west to receive the same quality picture as those to the north and south. WNBK's previous directional pattern was required because of interference with other nearby tv stations on ch. 4, Mr. Yoder said.

The present ch. 4 WNBK transmitter is at Brecksville.

## WSLA (TV) PLANS 1,800-FOOT TOWER

AN 1,800-ft. television tower, reported as the world's tallest, is planned for WSLA (TV) Selma, Ala., William B. Benns Jr., consulting engineer and 40% owner of the station, announced last week.

WSLA, owned by the Deep South Broadcasting Co. (WBAM Montgomery, Ala.), has a construction permit for ch. 8 with a tower 300 ft. above average terrain and 2.69 kw effective radiated power at a site on the outskirts of Selma. This was granted last month.

Application to modify that permit, to be filed this week according to Mr. Benns, will ask for removal of the transmitter site to Lowndesboro, Ala., about 25 miles from Selma and 20 miles from Montgomery. Also to be requested will be maximum 316 kw power, which, with the taller tower, will increase the grade B coverage from 23 miles to 80 miles, Mr. Benns said.

Surmounting the 1,800-ft. tower will be a 73-ft. tv antenna, making overall height above ground 1,873 ft. The guyed tower will be fabricated by Sherwin-Moore Steel Co. (Vulcan towers) in Birmingham, Mr. Benns said, and will cost almost \$500,000. An option to lease 300 acres of land at the site, to accommodate the guy anchors, has been acquired, Mr. Benns reported. Height above average terrain will be 2,000 ft.

WBAM Montgomery is also 40% owned by W. J. Brennan, who is station manager.

Request for regional airspace subcommittee approval was submitted last week, Mr. Benns said.

At Oklahoma City, KWTU (TV) has begun construction of a 1,572-ft. antenna tower, and in Dallas KRLD-TV and WFAA-TV have received approval to build a 1,521-ft. tower to be used as a platform for individual antennas. The Empire State Bldg., which houses New York's seven tv antennas is 1,465 ft. above ground. These are the tallest tv structures so far in existence.

## WBTU (TV) Color Tests Set for Late This Month

WBTU (TV) Charlotte, N. C., plans to begin color tests by the end of this month, Charles H. Crutchfield, executive vice president and general manager, has announced. He told the Charlotte Radio & Appliance Distributors Assn. that 95% of the special color equipment to transmit a color test pattern and to relay color network programs had arrived and was being installed. Installation at WBTU's Spencer Mt. facilities is under the supervision of Chief Engineer M. J. Minor.

Stressing the compatibility of color tv, Thomas E. Howard, director of engineering for the station, said that color tv will come in three stages—network rebroadcasting, color slides and film, and finally live studio originations.

## Leading the Color-Blind

AFTER several weeks of testing its new color tv equipment, WKY-TV Oklahoma City was putting on its first color broadcast (of NBC-TV's *Paul Winchell Show*). Several prominent guests had been invited to view the program on color receivers in tv dealer booths at a Home Builders' show in the Municipal Auditorium. Midway through the program, Jim Reed, staff reporter for the *Oklahoman* assigned to cover the event, leaned over to a WKY-TV official and asked, "Would you call that a really good color picture?" The official, his feelings ruffled because he thought the reception was "magnificent" after his weeks of hard work, replied with an



WKY-TV Oklahoma City owner E. K. Gaylord takes his turn manning a color tv camera at a five-minute dedicatory program April 8 officially launching the station's local studio color telecasting operations.

emphatic affirmative and asked if the reporter didn't think so. "I don't know," was the reply, "and I can't understand how I ever caught this assignment . . . I'm so color blind my wife has to match my socks and ties before I can dress for work each day." Mr. Reed's story was filed, adds the station, only after color details had been described for him by more fortunate viewers.

WKY-TV plans to begin regular colorcasts of both network and live studio shows by May 1, P. A. Sugg, general manager, reported. The station has been transmitting a daily color test pattern a half-hour before sign-on, since April 1.

## Dabadie Will Assume WBRZ (TV) Post in Fall

J. ROY DABADIE, vice president and general manager of WJBO-WBRL (FM) Baton Rouge, has been appointed general manager of WBRZ (TV) Baton Rouge, which expects to begin operation on ch. 2 Sept. 1.



MR. DABADIE

stockholder in the WBRZ licensee. Succeeding Mr. Dabadie as WJBO and

WBRL general manager will be Charles Garvey, former sales manager of the radio outlets, Mr. Manship said. Mr. Dabadie will remain at the radio stations to help Mr. Garvey in taking over management before devoting full time to the television outlet, Mr. Manship declared.

John Wooldridge succeeds Mr. Garvey as sales manager of WJBO and WBRL, Mr. Manship said.

## New Outlets to Start In San Juan, Honolulu

First vhf for Little Rock, KARK-TV began regular programming April 15.

TWO stations were scheduled to begin regular programming this past weekend: in San Juan, P. R., the city's second tv outlet, and Honolulu, that city's third.

KULA-TV Honolulu (ch. 4), has been on test patterns since April 2 and was to begin commercial operations last Friday, Jack Burnett, general manager, reported. Station is affiliated with ABC and represented by Headley-Reed Tv Inc.

WAPA-TV San Juan (ch. 4), was reported ready to start regular programming yesterday (Sunday), affiliated with ABC, NBC and DuMont, and represented by Caribbean Networks.

Little Rock, Ark., got its first vhf but second video outlet last week as KARK-TV (ch. 4) began regular programming April 15, T. K. Barton, vice president and general manager, announced. Station will be an NBC and DuMont affiliate, represented by Edward Petry Co.

### Test Patterns

WHO-TV Des Moines, Iowa (ch. 13), started regular test pattern transmission last Thursday, and "barring unforeseen difficulties" will begin commercial programming April 25, Col. B. J. Palmer, president, said.

Tentative starting date of May 15 has been set by WKNY-TV Kingston, N. Y. (ch. 66). In addition to network programming, the station has signed popular local radio talent for regular tv shows.

WCNY-TV Carthage (Watertown), N. Y. (ch. 7), reported it expects to begin regular programming sometime this summer, affiliated with CBS and ABC.

KLIX-TV Twin Falls, Idaho (ch. 11), has set a tentative starting date of Aug. 1, Frank C. McIntyre, vice president and general manager, reported. Station will be represented by George P. Hollingbery Co. and affiliated with ABC.

E. J. Schneider, president of Seattle Construction Co., permittee for ch. 20 at Seattle, reported last week that target date and other plans have not been definitely set. Mr. Schneider said that plans are being carried out very cautiously to avoid unwise decisions.

### The Uhf Story

"We have followed the uhf story quite closely . . . In our opinion, a smartly planned campaign for the sale of low cost converters to the public, and proper programming will be the determining factors in the success of this venture," he said.

Bill Bevens, executive vice president, Air-Pix Corp., permittee for ch. 48 at Gastonia, N. C., said last week the station plans to be on the air by the summer. Coit M. Robinson is president.

Peninsula Tv Inc., grantee of ch. 6 at Marquette, Mich., expects to begin regular op-