

WKY-TV CLEARS WAY FOR TV TRIAL COVERAGE

Oklahoma judges approve after conference in which station newsmen answer possible objections.

WKY-TV Oklahoma City, long active in the effort to remove barriers to tv coverage of court proceedings, plans to cover a number of trials this summer and fall. This coverage will be taken with the approval of Oklahoma judges who took part in a recent discussion with WKY-TV newsmen. Grant Foster, WKY-TV news director, and Charles Bishop, newsmen, presented the tv case to a conference of 35 district judges and two Oklahoma Supreme Court justices.

Tv coverage will be demonstrated to the American Bar Assn. convention in Philadelphia next month [B•T, July 25].

As in other areas, the stiffest opposition to tv coverage of trials comes from the bar association rather than the judges. Many of the Oklahoma judges were sympathetic to tv coverage after the subject had been discussed and WKY-TV had explained how tv need not interfere with courtroom decorum.

WKY-TV contended the medium has the right to cover all news at the source with tools of the trade, just as a reporter uses his pencil. The station demonstrated a quiet sound-on-film camera using high speed Eastman and DuPont film with normal room lighting.

Explaining the discussion of the issues, P. A. Sugg, WKY-TV executive vice president and manager, listed questions raised by judges and the answers. He explained that cameramen must dress suitably and operate inconspicuously in the courtroom. He reviewed the question-answer session this way:

Q—If a tv station does not film all of the trial isn't there a possibility of distorted presentation?

A—Neither the spectators nor reporters are required to sit through the entire trial, nor is the newspaper required to print each word of testimony. Tv newsmen are trained and experienced professional men whose background is one of accurately presenting both sides of an issue or story.

Q—One judge stated he was forced to ban a newspaper reporter who consistently wrote biased accounts.

A—Sound-on-film cannot be biased for it accurately reflects what occurred in the courtroom, and film alone eliminates bias, provided, of course, the editing is done by mature and professionally trained people.

Q—Don't newspaper and tv men only want



APPOINTMENT of Free & Peters Inc. as exclusive national sales representative for WWJ-AM-TV Detroit, effective Sept. 1, is being announced today by Edwin K. Wheeler, general manager of the stations. Making final arrangements last week (l to r): seated, H. Preston Peters, F&P president; Mr. Wheeler; William W. Bryan, vice president and manager of F&P's Detroit office; standing, Lloyd Griffin, F&P vice president for tv, and Russel Woodward, executive vice president of the station representative firm.

to cover trials of a sensational nature?

A—Each story has a different news value, and the decision on this by necessity must be reserved by the news editor. However, even in trials of a sensational nature, tv news cameras, when allowed in the courtroom, would provide the public a picture of a dignified judge, presiding over an orderly meeting, and not a mob of citizens crying for vengeance as might be portrayed by some Hollywood movies, or even the newspapers.

Q—Would it be desirable for television cameras to cover the trials provided the station agreed to hold all of the film until the trial had been concluded and the jury's verdict returned?

A—Such a rule for television would be eminently unfair in view of the fact a similar rule is not established either for the public or newspapers.

Roger Van Duzer Appointed KTUK (TV) Station Manager

APPOINTMENT of Roger Van Duzer, former director of operations of KBET-TV Sacramento, as station manager of ch. 3 KTVK (TV)



MR. VAN DUZER

Phoenix was announced last week by Leon Nowell, part owner and general manager. The station, which went on the air last February, is ABC affiliated and is principally owned by Arizona's Gov. Ernest W. McFarland.

Mr. Van Duzer, prior to his KBET (TV) post, had served as operations manager of Jacksonville Broadcasting Corp., applicant for ch. 12 in Jacksonville (WPDG), which holds a favorable initial decision.

During 1953 and part of 1954, he had been

program manager of KNUZ-TV Houston, and from 1951-1953 had been program director of WLTV (TV) (now WLWA [TV]) Atlanta. From 1944 until 1951 he was on the executive staff of WMBR Jacksonville. The preceding two years he served as general manager of WALB Albany, Ga. Mr. Van Duzer began in radio as a performer with then WGBS New York in 1927. He turned to announcing in 1931 and for eight years thereafter was manager-leader (pianist) of his own orchestra in the New York area. He is 43 and is the father of three sons.

STORER EARNINGS EXCEEDING 1954'S

NET EARNINGS of Storer Broadcasting Co. for the second quarter of 1955, which ended June 30, amounted to \$1,039,919.02, it was announced last week. For the same period last year, the figure was \$814,100.82.

Net earnings for the first six months of 1955 were \$1,851,908.46 as compared with \$1,617,336.17 for the six months of 1954. For the second quarter of 1955 earnings amounted to 42 cents a share on the combined 1,686,500 shares of Class B common and the 788,250 shares of common stock. Comparable earnings for the first quarter were 32.9 cents per share. After paying the regular 3 3/4 cent dividend on Class B common, there remained \$1.25 per share of common stock compared to 97 cents for the first quarter or \$1.40 per year.

Storer redeemed and cancelled all of its 7% cumulative preferred stock on July 1, at the redemption price of \$107 per share at the aggregate price of \$1,605,000.

Storer owns WJBK-AM-FM-TV Detroit, WSPD-AM-FM-TV Toledo, WAGA-AM-FM-TV Atlanta, WBRC-AM-FM-TV Birmingham, Ala., WJW-WXEL (TV) Cleveland, WWVA-AM-FM Wheeling, W. Va., WGBS-AM-FM-TV Miami, Fla., and KPTV (TV) Portland, Ore.

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