Tulsa VHF acquired by Scripps-Howard

KVOO-TV purchase, for reported $7 million, fills buyer's quota

Scripps-Howard Broadcasting Co., Cincinnati, a group owner long inactive in station buying, has announced an agreement in principle to buy KVOO-TV Tulsa, Okla., subject to FCC approval. The price of the channel 2 NBC-TV affiliate is understood to be about $7 million.

The station is being sold by Central Plains Enterprises Inc., principally owned by its president—Harold C. Stuart. Mr. Stuart also owns 98% of Southwestern Sales Corp., licensee of KVOO(TM) Tulsa.

The acquisition, which is also subject to approval by Scripps-Howard's board of directors and to final agreements, will complete Scripps-Howard's chain of VHF outlets. It already owns WYES(TV) Cleveland; WCPO-TV Cincinnati; WMAC-AM-FM-TV Memphis; WPTV(TV) West Palm Beach, Fla.; and WNOX(AM) Knoxville, Tenn. The company's last broadcast acquisition was in December 1961 when it bought WPTV from John H. Phipps for $2 million.

Jack R. Howard is president of Scripps-Howard, which also owns 49% of a CATV system serving suburbs of Cleveland. Group newspaper publisher E. W. Scripps Co. owns about 67% of Scripps-Howard.

Texas group gains control of two TV's

A group of Texas broadcasters and Allan Shivers, former governor of the state, have acquired control of the permittee of KSEI-TV Lubbock and KVET-TV Austin, both Texas.

The FCC last week approved assignment of the construction permit for the Austin channel 24 facility by KVERT Broadcasting Co., owned by R. B. and Bill B. McAlister and others, to Channel Twenty-Four Corp. It also approved the transfer of control of McAlister Television Enterprises Inc., permittee of KSEI-TV (ch. 28).

The buyers—Mr. Shivers, Tolbert Foster, W. E. Dyche Jr. and Edgar B. Younger—will own 54.4% of the permittees of both stations. The present stockholders of McAlister Television Enterprises will continue to own their stock and new stock will be issued to the buyers. The price for the permit for unbuilt KVET-TV is $44,138; $200,000 for the KSEI-TV transfer. In addition, the buyers will pay $300,000 to Channel Twenty-Four Corp. for their stock in the corporation.

Mr. Shivers was governor of Texas from 1949 to 1957; Messrs. Foster, Dyche and Younger have interests in KVET(AM) Palestine and KDOX(AM) Marshall, both Texas. In addition, Mr. Foster has interest in KVET(AM) Center and owns CATV systems in Center and San Augustine, both Texas.

The McAlister group owns KVET(AM) and KASE(FM), both Austin, Tex.

In approving the assignment and transfer, the commission also granted a request for extension of time to construct KVET-TV and waived the three-year holding rule for KSEL-TV because the ABC-TV affiliate has suffered losses since it went on the air in November of 1968 and the present stockholders were unable to obtain further capital.

The vote was 4-to-1 with Acting Chairman Robert T. Bartley dissenting, Commissioner Nicholas Johnson abstaining and Chairman Dean Burch not participating.

CBS says its team is not for sale

A London investment group was reported last week to have offered CBS Inc. $25 million for the New York Yankees baseball club. But CBS, which paid $14 million for the Yankees in 1964, denied that it was negotiating with the firm—International Investors Group Service Ltd.—and insisted that the team is not for sale.

"Obviously if someone comes in with a tremendous offer, you're going to have to listen," said a CBS spokesman, "but there's no 'For Sale' sign out."

International Investors Group's board chairman is former New York Mayor Robert F. Wagner. There was speculation that the Yankees would be moved from Yankee Stadium to share Shea Stadium, built during the Wagner administration, with the New York Mets. In addition to the club, the investment firm was reported to be interested in the real estate on which Yankee stadium is built, property which is owned by the Knights of Columbus.

Lee gets its FM in Billings, Mont.

The FCC last week announced that the initial decision April 15 granting Lee Enterprises Inc.'s application for a new FM station in Billings, Mont., became effective June 4.

The commission, noting that Lee owned the only newspaper in Billings and four others in the state, and held interests in 11 others as well as in 12 radio and television stations in the Midwest, last year set Lee's application for hearing on a concentration-of-control issue (Broadcasting, April 7, 1969).