

ship drives, auctions, direct mail and grants from foundations, corporations and other organizations, PBS said. Among the top honorees: WNPB-TV Morgantown, W. Va., which increased its fund-raising 240% over the previous year; Arkansas Educational Television, which showed a 119% increase in membership income, a 661% jump in local underwriting and a 141% boost in state appropriations, and KCTS-TV Seattle, which showed a 49% rise in development income, including more support through special events, membership and underwriting, PBS said.

Interview opportunity

From mid-August until mid-September, four free sample feeds of a new syndicated series, *V.I.P. Newsmaker Interviews*, will be available to TV stations requesting them, according to the Visnews Group, which is offering the new service and the samples. The Visnews Group is a consortium of Visnews Ltd., Viscom International and Bright-Star Communications. Viscom International, New York, is serving as coordinator of the service in the U.S.

Viscom officials said the weekly, satellite-delivered service is designed to give local stations direct access to major national and international news figures, presenting a live interview a week, with subscriber stations having a voice in selecting interviewees and in questioning them.

Jack Albert, executive vice president of Viscom, said: "Initial response has been very positive from news directors across the country who have been looking for such a service on a guaranteed regular basis." Norm Fein, executive producer of *V.I.P.*, said the service will help station news departments expand their coverage "at low cost" and still "keep final editorial control over the content." The guests, producer Tom Freebairn said, "will range from a scientist or doctor who is working quietly on a cure for a disease to an athlete who has broken a major record or a head of state speaking to the world."

Viscom said it will use its own facilities and the international Visnews Group network to line up and broadcast the interviews. The service is being sold on a market-exclusive basis under the direction of Ed Helfer, vice president of marketing.

The first of the four samples is due to be fed this week, and the final one—said to feature "a major world figure"—during the Radio-Television News Directors Association convention in Nashville Sept. 11-14.

All together now

Three sitcom series created for superstation WTBS(TV) Atlanta will be put together in a 90-minute block on Monday evenings, starting Sept. 2 at 6:05 p.m. NYT.

Down to Earth, the original made-for-WTBS situation comedy, will move on that date from its current Friday-night spot to Mondays at 6:05. *Safe at Home* will continue in its present 6:35 Monday slot. And *Rocky Road*, about two sisters and a brother and their struggle to keep their ice cream parlor (and their lives) in order, will premiere Sept. 2 at 7:05 p.m.

"This is a move to create a block of first-run, original situation comedies in the early fringe on the day when the HUT [homes

using television] numbers are up," said Jack Petrik, WTBS executive vice president and general manager. "These original superstation sitcoms are strong, versatile and fresh, and together they make a very strong lead-in to WTBS prime time programming."

The three sitcoms are produced for WTBS by the Arthur Co. at Hollywood Center Studios in Hollywood. *Down to Earth* is produced in conjunction with Procter & Gamble; the two others are produced in association with WTBS owner Turner Broadcasting System. All three are taped in performance before studio audiences.

Sell out

SIN Television Network has sold all available commercial time for its telecasts of the SIN National Song Festival in Miami on Aug. 24 at 9-11:30 p.m. and of the OTI International Song Festival in Seville, Spain, on Sept. 21 at 8-10:30 p.m. (both NYT). Sponsors make a single buy for both programs. Among those signed are Armour-Dial Inc., AT&T Communications, Coca-Cola USA, Colgate-Palmolive Co., Eastern Airlines and Sears Roebuck.



As compiled by BROADCASTING, Aug. 8 through Aug. 14, and based on filings, authorizations and other FCC actions.

Ownership Changes

Abbreviations: AFC—Antenna For Communications. ALJ—Administrative Law Judge. alt.—alternate. ann.—announced. ant.—antenna. aur.—aural. aux.—auxiliary. CH—critical hours. CP—construction permit. D—day. DA—directional antenna. Doc—Docket. ERP—effective radiated power. HAAT—height above average terrain. khz—kilohertz. kw—kilowatts. m—meters. MEOC—maximum expected operation value. mhz—megahertz. mod.—modification. N—night. PSA—presunrise service authority. RCL—remote control location. S-A—Scientific Atlanta. SH—specified hours. SL—studio location. TL—transmitter location. trans.—transmitter. TPO—transmitter power output. U—unlimited hours. vis.—visual. w—watts. *—noncommercial.

Applications

■ WARI(AM)-WXLE(FM) Abbeville, Ala. (AM: 1480 khz; 1 kw-D; FM: 94.3 mhz; 3 kw; HAAT: 385 ft.)—Seeks assignment of license from Henry County Radio Inc. to Abbeville Wireless Corp. for \$450,000, comprising \$300,000 cash and remainder note. Seller is owned by B.C. Eddins and Clark Jones, who also have interest in WFMH-AM-FM Cullman, Ariz. Buyer is owned by William Evans and his wife, Janice. June Thacker and John Thacker (no relation). Evans is station manager of WPMI(TV) Mobile, Ala., which is being sold (see below). It has interest in WHOS(AM)-WDRM(FM) Decatur, Ala.; WFFG(AM)-

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