

PROG. TEST AUTH.

7-24-59

BROADCASTING STATION LICENSE RECORD

COMM. TV

GN 31

WAAY-TV (EHP:12-19-63)

Call letters X WAFG-TV

HUNTSVILLE, ALABAMA; STATION LOCATION

STATION ID: Huntsville-Decatur, Alabama

(Ltr. 4-14-69)

Date first licensed 9-1-64 (OFFICIAL #553)

Name of licensee ROCKET CITY TELEVISION, INC.

Transmitter location 1000 Monte Sano Boulevard S. E., Huntsville, Alabama  
S.W. corner Monte Sano Boulevard and Sunset Avenue, Huntsville, Alabama

Main studio location 1000 Monte Sano Boulevard S. E., Huntsville, Alabama (BPCT-3554, 7-9-65)  
S.W. Corner Monte Sano Boulevard and Sunset Avenue, Huntsville, Alabama

# CONSTRUCTION PERMIT AND LICENSE RECORD

| Appl. No.   | Date Issued | Freq.  | Power     | Time Div. | Period From- To- |
|---|-------------|--|-----------|-----------|------------------|
| BPCT-2475   | 11-25-58    | CH #31   | V-9.08 kw | U         | 1-25-59          |
| AH:980'   |             | 572-578  | A-4.54 kw |           | 7-25-59          |
| CP for a new Comm. TV B/C Station   |             |  |           |           |                  |
| BPCT-5298   | 5-22-59     | CH# 31   | V-17.4kw  | U         | 1-25-59          |
| AH:1020'  |             | 572-578  | A-9.55kw  | MSL:1764' | 11-22-59         |
| Mod. CP (BPCT-2475) auth. to chg. ERP, install new transmitter make change in equipment and antenna height. |             |  |           |           |                  |
| WIRE  | 7-24-59     | RE LIC. APPL. BLCT-957, AUTH. GR. OPR. WAFG-TV ON PROGRAM TEST ACCORD. SECTION 3.629 RULES & CP BMPCT-5298, SUBJECT TO COMPLIANCE WITH SECTION 3.649 RULES & SUBMISSION OF ADDITIONAL ENGINEERING DATA TO SHOW COMPLIANCE ON ITEMS REFERRED TO IN LT. THAT FOLLOWS: ADVISE |           |           |                  |
| WIRE  | 12-30-60    | PENDING RECEIPT OF VERIFIED REQUEST. AUTH. GR. OPR. WAFG-TV TEMP. PERIOD ENDING 1-30-61 ACCORD. CP. BPCT-2817. WIRE 1-11 Commenced per. 1-8-61   |           |           |                  |
| BPCT-2817   | 11-10-60    | CH #31   | V-204 kw  | U         | 1-10-61          |
| AH-1020', MSL-1764'   |             | 572-578  | A-112 kw  |           | 7-10-61          |
| CP to change ERP, install new trans. & make other equipment changes.  |             |  |           |           |                  |
| WIRE  | 2-2-61      | PENDING FILING OF LIC. APPL. AUTH. GR. OPR. WAFG-TV TEMP. PER. END. 2-28-61 ACCORD. CP BPCT-2817   |           |           |                  |
| WIRE  | 3-2-61*     | RE AMENDED LIC. BLCT-957* AUTH. GR. OPR. WAFG-TV TEMP. PER. END. 4-13-61   |           |           |                  |
| WIRE  | 4-24-61/    | RE AMENDED BLCT-957 AUTH GR TO OPER WAFG-TV ON PROG TEST   |           |           |                  |
| ACCORD RULE 3.629 & CP BPCT-2817.   |             |  |           |           |                  |
| BTC-4337  | 11-13-63    | Voluntary transfer of control of per- mittee corporation from P.T. Gunn, James R. Cleary, Thomas A Barr, John A. Higdon, John S. Gregory, Jr., Robert M. Darby J.E. Beasley, Jr., Winston S. Garth, Jr., et TO Smith Broad- casting, Inc. EFF: 11-18-63                    |           |           |                  |
| BLCT-957  | 9-1-64      | CH.#31   | V-204kw   | U         | 9-1-64           |
| AH:1020'  | MSL:1764'   | 572-578  | A-105kw   |           | 4-1-67           |
| License to cover CP (BPCT-2475 as mod)  |             |  |           |           |                  |
| BPCT-3554   | 7-9-65      | CH.#31   | V-155     | U         | 9-9-65           |
| AH:1020'  | MSL:1769'   | 572-578  | A-31      |           | 3-9-66           |
| CP chg. ERP, ANT. sys. and redescrbe Transmitter & Studio location.   |             |  |           |           |                  |

CARD #2  
Form BC 126  
June 1954

COMM. TV B/C

## BROADCASTING STATION LICENSE RECORD

Date first licensed .....

Call letters ..... HAAX-TV .....

Station location .....

Name of licensee ..... ROCKET CITY TELEVISION, INC. .....

Transmitter location ..... SEE CARD #1 .....

Main studio location ..... SEE CARD #1 .....

# CONSTRUCTION PERMIT AND LICENSE RECORD

| Appl.<br>No.  | Date<br>Issued | Freq.   | Power      | Time<br>Div. | Period<br>From- To |
|---|----------------|---|------------|--------------|--------------------|
| BPCT-3757   | 4-13-66        | CH. 31  | V-155kw    | U            | 6-13-66            |
| AH:1020' MSL:1769'  |                | 572-578   | A-31 kw    |              | 12-13-66           |
| CP to replace expired CP(BPCT-3554)   |                |   |            |              |                    |
| BMLCT-609   | 4-15-66        | same  | same       | same         | 6-13-66            |
|   |                |   | A-38.9 kw  |              | 4-1-67             |
| Mod. of Lic to reduce Aural ERP   |                |   |            |              |                    |
| BMPCT-6363  | 11-29-66       | CH. 31  | V-741 kw   | U            | 6-13-66            |
| AH: 1290' MSL:2044'   |                | 572-578   | A-74.1 kw  |              | 1-13-67            |
| Mod. of CP (BPCT-3747, repl. for BPCT-3554) to chg. ERP, type of transmitter, antenna, increase AH. |                |   |            |              |                    |
| BMPCT-6426  | 3-28-67        | Same  | Same       | Same         | 6-13-66            |
| Mod. of CP(BPCT-3757 as mod) to extend completion date.   |                |   |            |              | 9-13-67            |
| -----   |                |   |            |              |                    |
| WIRE  | 5-12-67        | RE TENDERED LICENSE APPLICATION   |            |              |                    |
| AUTH. GR. OPERATE WAAY-TV ON PROGRAM TEST ACCORDANCE SEC. 73.629 RULES AND CP BMPCT-6426.           |                |   |            |              |                    |
| BRCT-553  | 4-14-67        | Same  | Same       | Same         | 4-14-67            |
|   |                |   |            |              | 4-1-70             |
| RENEWAL OF LICENSE  |                |   |            |              |                    |
| BLCT-1686   | 7-18-67        | CH-31   | V-741 kw   | U            | 7-18-67            |
| AH:1290' MSL:2044'  |                | 572-578   | A-74.1 kw  |              | 4-1-70             |
| License to cover CP(BPCT-3757, as mod.)   |                |   |            |              |                    |
| BRCT-553  | 4-1-70         | RENEWAL OF LICENSE (S)  |            |              | 4-1-73             |
| EBSA  | 5-15-72        |   |            |              |                    |
| BRCT-533  | 4-13-73        | RENEWAL OF LICENSE (s)  |            |              | 4-1-76             |
| Wire  | 11-27-74       | Pending restoration full utility voltage, auth. grtd. oper. temp. per. end. 2-27-75 at reduced <del>pr</del> pwr. Advise when normal oper. resumed. |            |              |                    |
| BRCT-553  | 3-9-76         | Ch. 31  | V. 741 kw  | U            | 4-1-79             |
| AH: 1290' MSL: 2044'  |                | 572-578   | A. 74.1 kw |              |                    |
| Renewal of license  |                |   |            |              |                    |
| BPCT-4931   | 7-8-76         | Ch. 31  | V. 676 kw  | U            | 9-8-76             |
| AH: 1790' MSL: 2549   |                | 572-578   | A. 67.6 kw |              | 1-8-78             |
| CP to Chg ERP, TLA HAAT   |                |   |            |              |                    |

BC-126  
February 1974

# BROADCASTING STATION LICENSE RECORD

Date first licensed .....

Call letters WAAY-TV

Station location .....  
HUNTSVILLE, ALABAMA

Name of licensee ROCKET CITY TELEVISION, INC.

Transmitter location .....

Main studio location .....

# CONSTRUCTION PERMIT AND LICENSE RECORD

| Appl.<br>No. | Date<br>Issued | Freq.                                 | Power       | Time<br>Div. | Period<br>From- To   |
|--------------|----------------|---------------------------------------|-------------|--------------|--|
| WIRE         | 12-30-76       | Pend. the filing of lic. appl. on 302 |             |              | Auth. grted oper. WAAY-TV strict accord BPCT-4931, temp. per. ending 2-21-77. This confirms oral auth. given via telephone of 12-20-76. Any extension of this auth. subject to the filing of lic. appl. by 2-21-77. If future use of RCA TFU-24 ant as an aux. is contemplated, necessary file form 301 for construction permit. |
| WIRE         | 3-1-77         | Re tend. lic. appl., auth. grted      |             |              | WAAY-TV main trans. and ant., on PTA accord. BPCT-4931.  |
| BLCT-2537    | 4-29-77        | Ch. 31                                | V. 676 kW U |              | 4-1-79   |
| AH: 1790'    | MSL: 2549'     | 572-578                               | A. 67.6 kW  |              | Lic(BPCT-4931) for chgs.   |
| BRCT 781201  | KL 3-22-79     | RENEWAL OF LICENSE                    |             |              | 4-1-82   |
| BTC-801230KK | 2-20-81        | VOL. TC                               |             |              |  |

FORM BC-121  
AUG. 1955

APPLICATION RECORD - BROADCASTING

Call Letters WAPG-TV  
NEW

Name ROCKET CITY TELEVISION, INC.  
(P.O. 1500 Glenwood Drive, Huntsville, Alabama)

| Station L:   | Huntsville, Alabama | Application for  | Action  |          |
|--------------|---------------------|--|---------|----------|
|              |                     |  | Nature  | Date     |
| File No.     | Dated               |  |         |          |
| BPCT-2475    | 2-25-58             | CP for a new Comm. TV broadcast station -  | GRANTED | 11-25-58 |
| Recd & Filed | 2-27-58             | Freq.: Ch.#31, 572-578 mcs.<br>ERP: Vis. 9.08 kw., Aur. 4.54 Kw.<br>Hours: Unlimited<br>S-L: SW corner of Monte Sano Blvd. and Sunset Ave., Huntsville, Alabama<br>T-L: Same<br>StationL: Huntsville, Alabama<br>(GE TT20A) (982 ft.)<br>Bell, Moring & Richardson, Attys. (Huntsville, Ala.)<br>Lloyd W. Root, Jr. &<br>Raymond C. Watson, Engrs. (Alabama) |         |          |
| Amended      | 10-27-58            | Amended to chg stockholders, stock subscrip-   |         |          |
| Recd & filed | 11-3-58             | tion, financial data & additional engr. data   |         |          |

Aug. 1955

Call  
Letters WAJG-TVName ROCKET CITY TELEVISION, INC.  
Huntsville, Ala.

| File No.                   | Dated              | Application for   | Action  |         |
|----------------------------|--------------------|---|---------|---------|
|                            |                    |   | Nature  | Date    |
| BMPOT-5298<br>Recd & filed | 4-2-59<br>4-6-59   | Mod. of CP (BPCT-2475 which auth. a new Comm. TV b/c station) to change ERP from Vis. 9.08 kw, Aur. 4.54 kw, to Vis. 17.2 kw, Aur. 9.64 kw, install new transmitters (GPL Continental PA-714) change type of antenna (to GE TY-250) make changes in equipment and antenna height above average terrain to 1016'<br>Filed direct (by Ala. Atty, James R. Cleary) | GRANTED | 5-22-59 |
| BLCT-957<br>Recd & filed   | 7-24-59<br>7-24-59 | License to cover CP (BPCT-2475 as mod.,) which authorized a new comm. TV B/C station and change description of transmitter and studio location to 1000 Monte Sano Boulevard, Huntsville, Ala., in lieu of SW Corner Monte Sano Boulevard and Sunset Ave., Huntsville, ALA. filed direct   | GRANTED | 9-1-64  |
| Amended<br>R & F           | 2-23-61<br>2-27-61 | Amended to also include facilities in BPCT-2817   |         |         |



AUG. 1955 Card #3

Call WAAY-TV eff: 12-19-63  
Letters X WAFG-TVName ROCKET CITY TELEVISION, INC.  
Huntsville, Alabama

| File No.                 | Dated              | Application for  | Action   |          |
|--------------------------|--------------------|--|--|----------|
|                          |                    |  | Nature   | Date     |
| EPCT-2817<br>R & F       | 9-30-60<br>10-3-60 | CP to change ERP from Vis. 17.4 kw, Aur. 9.55 kw to Vis. 216.8 kw, Aur. 122.1 kw, install new transmitters, from GPL Continental PA-714 to GE TT-25A and make other equipment changes.<br>Filed direct   | GRANTED  | 11-10-60 |
| BTC-4337<br>Rec. & filed | 7-3-63<br>7-17-63  | Voluntary transfer of control of permittee corporation from P. T. Gunn, James R. Cleary, Thomas A. Barr, John A. Higdon, John S. Gregory, Jr., Robert M. Darby, J. E. Beasley, Jr., Winston S. Garth, Jr., et al TO Smith Broadcasting, Inc.<br>Prince & Paul, Atty., Transferor<br>George O. Sutton, Atty. Transferee | GRANTED<br>Condition that the transfer not be consummated until the transferee surrenders the CP for STATION WAAY-TV.<br>EFF: 11-18-63 | 11-13-63 |

FORM BC-121  
AUG. 1955

APPLICATION RECORD - BROADCASTING

COMM. TV

Call  
Letters WAAV-TV

Name ROCKET CITY TELEVISION, INC.  
CH# 31 HUNTSVILLE, ALABAMA ZIP 35801

| File No.  | Dated  | Application for  | Action   |                               |
|---|--|--|--|-------------------------------|
|   |  |  | Nature   | Date                          |
| BPCT-3554<br>Recd.<br>FILED                           | 4-16-65<br>4-19-65<br>4-28-65                    | Construction Permit to change ERP from Vis. 204 kw, Aur. 105 kw to Vis. 226 kw, Aur. 113 kw; change type of antenna to RCA TFU-24DM; changes in antenna system and redetermine Transmitter and Studio Locations as 1000 Monte Sano Boulevard, S.E., Huntsville, Alabama. | GRANTED  | 7-9-65                        |
| EMLCT- 609<br>Received<br>RESUBMITTED<br>Rec. & filed | <del>none</del><br>3-14-66<br>3-29-66<br>3-30-66 | Modification of license to reduce Aural ERP from 105 kw to 44.2 kw.  | <del>RETURNED 3-22-66 as incomplete (not dated or signed)</del><br>GRANTED | <del>3-22-66</del><br>4-15-66 |
| BPCT-3757<br>R & F                                    | 3-29-66<br>3-30-66                               | Construction Permit to replace expired CP (BPCT-3554) which authorized changes in existing station.  | GRANTED  | 4-13-66                       |

AUG. 1955

## APPLICATION RECORD - BROADCASTING

COMM TV

Call  
Letters WAAY-TV

Name ROCKET CITY TELEVISION, INC.

CH. 31 HUNTSVILLE, ALABAMA

| File No.                     | Dated                          | Application for  | Action   |          |
|------------------------------|--------------------------------|--|--|----------|
|                              |                                |  | Nature   | Date     |
| BMPCT-6363<br>Recd.<br>FILED | 7-20-66<br>7-22-66<br>9-26-66  | Mod. of CP (BPCT-3757, replacement for BPCT-3554, which auth. chgs. in existing station) to make the following changes: ERP Vis. 1240 kw, Aur. 124 kw; type of transmitters GE TT-25A (MODIFIED); type of antenna to RCA TFU-30J SPEC.; make changes in antenna structure; increase antenna height above average terrain to 1372 feet. | GRANTED<br>Subject to compliance with Section 73.640 of Rules. | 11-29-66 |
| BMPCT-6426<br>Rec'd<br>Filed | 12-6-66<br>12-8-66<br>12-27-66 | Modification of CP (BPCT-3747, as mod., which auth. change in existing station) to extend completion date to 7-13-67.<br>Cohn and Marks, Atty. (Paul Dobin)  | GRANTED  | 3-28-67  |
| BRCT-553<br>R & F            | 12-27-66<br>12-29-66           | RENEWAL OF LICENSE   | GRANTED  | 4-14-67  |

APPLICATION RECORD - BROADCASTING

COMM. TV

Call  
Letters WAAV-TV

Name ROCKET CITY TELEVISION, INC.  
HUNTSVILLE, ALABAMA

| File No.  | Dated   | Application for   | Action  |         |
|---|---|---|---------|---------|
|   |   |   | Nature  | Date    |
| BLCT-1686<br>Recd.<br>FILED                             | 4-29-67<br>5-2-68<br>5-10-67                  | License to cover CP (BPCT-3757, as mod.,) which authorized changes in an existing station.                  | GRANTED | 7-18-67 |
| Ltr.  | 3-3-69<br>MAR 12 1969                         | Req. waiver of Sec. 73.652(a) of Commission's Rules to permit station identification as Huntsville-Decatur. | GRANTED | 4-14-69 |
| BRCT-553<br>R & F<br>\$150 #564055<br>PN Recd.<br>PRESS | 12-10-69<br>12-12-69<br>"<br>"<br>JAN 20 1970 | RENEWAL OF LICENSE<br>AMENDED 2-27-70 re staffing & Programming.<br>AMENDED 2-20-70 re Sec. IV-B            | GRANTED | 4-1-70  |
| BRCT-533<br>R & F<br>PN REC<br>PRESS                    | 12-11-72<br>12-29-72<br>"<br>"<br>JAN 8 1973  | RENEWAL OF LICENSE  | GRANTED | 4-13-73 |

Form BC-121  
September 1969

#7

# APPLICATION RECORD - BROADCASTING

COMMERCIAL TELEVISION

Call Letters WAAY-TV

Name ROCKET CITY TELEVISION, INC.  
CH-31 Huntsville, Alabama

| File No.   | Dated   | Application for  | Action  |                  |
|--|---|--|---------|------------------|
|  |   |  | Nature  | Date             |
| BRCT-553<br>R & F<br>PN Rec'd:<br>PRESS:             | 11-18-75<br>12-1-75<br>12-1-75<br>23 FEB 1976 | RENEWAL OF LICENSE<br>Annual Reports Filed<br>Atty: Lawrence N. Cohn (Cohn and Marks)<br>Contours filed 12-1-75.   | GRANTED | 3-9-76           |
| BPCT-4931<br>R&F<br>#550734 \$100<br>AC-001<br>PRESS | 3-26-76<br>3-31-76<br>3-31-76<br>7 JUN 1976   | CP to chg. ERP to Vis. 674.53kW(H), Aur.<br>75.68kW(H); chg. TL (same site desc.)<br>(34-44-15 86-32-02) and HAAT 1791.5 feet.<br>Ltr. 6-22-76 from station requesting early<br>grant of BPCT-4931 - to Geoff Bentley. | GRANTED | 7-8-76<br>5-2-77 |
| BLCT-2537<br>R&F<br>PRESS                            | 1-20-77<br>1-21-77<br>MAR 23 1977             | Lic. to cover (BPCT-4931) for changes.<br>Amended 1-28-77 re correct information   | GRANTED | 4-29-77          |

APPLICATION RECORD - BROADCASTING

Call  
Letters WAAV-TV

Name ROCKET CITY TELEVISION, INC.

ch-31 HUNTSVILLE, ALABAMA

| File No.                                      | Dated                                     | Application for  | Action           |                    |
|---|---|--|------------------|--------------------|
|   |   |  | Nature           | Date               |
| BRCT-<br>781201KL<br>R&F<br>PN REC'd<br>PRESS | 11-15-78<br>12-1-78<br><br><b>79 0124</b> | RENEWAL OF LICENSE<br>RICHARD A. HELMICK, ATTY   | GRANTED          | 3-22-79            |
| ETCCT-801230KK<br>(Form 316)                  |   | Vol. TC of licensee corp. from Elizabeth Kirby J. Smith and Marcellus D. Smith, III, shareholders of Smith Broadcasting, Inc. to Elizabeth Kirby J. Smith and Marcellus D. Smith, III, Trustees for the benefit individually of Elizabeth Kirby J. Smith and Marcellus D. Smith, III.<br>Atty.: Richard Helmick (Cohn and Marks) | GRANTED<br>Eff.: | 2-20-81<br>3-25-81 |

## About the History Cards ...

History Cards were first used by the Department of Commerce to keep track of applications filed by, and changes to, the earliest AM broadcast radio stations in the early 1920s. The records were subsequently transferred to the Federal Radio Commission in 1927, and after that to the Federal Communications Commission when that agency was created in 1934. These cards gradually grew into a large card file.

TV History Cards were initiated in the early 1940s, with the authorization of the earliest TV stations. History Cards remained in use until the creation of the first computerized database in 1980 to track broadcast applications, the Broadcast Application Processing System (BAPS). However, the Commission did not transfer the data from the History Cards to the new system. Instead, it retained the History Cards in their original form for reference.

In 1999, the Commission moved to a new location (445 12<sup>th</sup> Street SW), and also at that time created the successor database to BAPS, the Consolidated DataBase System (CDBS). Prior to that move, the History Cards were transferred to microfiche by a contractor (only a few sets of microfiche exist), and the original paper cards were destroyed. The History Cards were stored on the microfiche as negative images, like those you see above.

History Cards contain very brief entries and notes about station facilities, applications, and ownership. They are not, and never were intended to be, a comprehensive record of a station's operations. Nevertheless, they can be useful to help determine, for example, when a station first went on the air and its call letters at that time. History Card comments were generally typed onto the cards, and thus some records will show more faintly or with more smudging than others, depending on the quality of typewriter and ribbon then used. Occasional handwritten comments, corrections, and strikeouts may also be found. Cards may be incomplete, missing, or occasionally out of sequence.

The History Cards are presented here as they were copied to microfiche, to preserve this record for public use, and with the hope that they will be of value to future researchers of television station history.

