

WATL-TV



Remington Rand Inc.

BRANCHES EVERYWHERE

MADE IN U. S. A.

REMOVABLE LABEL GUIDE

Cat. No. 4550L

Patent No. 1390199

Farm BC 126
June 1954

First C.O. 10-26-54 (Started 11-15-54) Suspended Auth. 6-3-55

BROADCASTING STATION LICENSE RECORD COMM. TV.

WBMD-TV (6-17-66)

WATL-TV (1-27-56)

WQXI-TV

Date first licensed

Call letters

Station location Atlanta, Georgia

D.H. OVERMYER COMMUNICATIONS COMPANY, INC. (BMPCT-6387 gr. 1-27-67)

D.H. OVERMYER COMMUNICATIONS COMPANY (BAPCT-351 5-12-65 EFF: 6-21-65)

Name of licensee X ROBERT W. ROUNSAVILLE

(BMPCT-6387 gr 1-27-67)

North Druid Hills Div., Briarcliff Rd. & Shepherd Lane, N.E., Approx. 2500ft east of Atlanta
xRear of 525 Bishop St. Atlanta, Ga. (BMPCT-2159 gr. 6-11-54)

Transmitter location x 1430 West Peachtree Street N.W., Atlanta, Georgia

Broadview Shopping Plaza, Piedmont Road & Morosgo Drive, N.E. Atlanta, Ga.

Main studio location xPeachtree Road and Mathieson Drive, Atlanta, Georgia

CONSTRUCTION PERMIT AND LICENSE RECORD

Appl. No.	Date Issued	Freq.	Power	Time Div.	Period From - To
BPCT-1513	11-19-53	CH.#36 602-608	V-240kw A-123kw	U	1-19-54 7-19-54
C.P. for a new Commercial TV B/c Station					
BMPCT-2159	6-11-54	same	V-219kw A-117kw	U	1-19-54 10-19-54
Mod. of CP (BPCT-1513 etc.) to chg. ERP, T-L, install new transmitter, antenna and make other chg. in equipment.					
BMPCT-2514	9-28-54	same	same	same	1-19-54 4-19-55
Mod. of CP (BPCT-1513, as mod.) to extend completion date.					
WIRE	10-26-54	STA Opr.	Comm.	basis accord	CP BMPCT-2514 except Transmitter continental type PA-714. Vis Output 1kw Period Ending 4-19-55.
BMPCT-2954	3-21-55	same	same	same	1-19-54
Mod. of CP (BPCT-1513 as mod.) to extend comp. date 10-19-55					
WIRE	4-13-55	EXT STA Opr.	Comm.	basis accord	CP BMPCT-954 except using Cont Type PA-714 transm. power output 1kw Vis, Auth. expires 10-19-55
BMPCT-2954	6-3-55	Auth granted suspend operation Period of CP BMPCT-2954 which expires 10-19-55			
BMPCT-3406	9-14-55	same	same	same	1-19-54
Mod. of CP (BPCT-1513 as mod.) to ext. comp date 1-16-56					
BMPCT-3603	2-13-56	same	same	same	1-19-54
Mod. of CP (BPCT-1513, as mod.) to ext. comp date. 7-16-56					
BMPCT-4048	7-26-56	same	same	same	1-19-54
Mod. of CP (BPCT-1513) as mod. to ext comp. date. 10-16-56					
BAPCT-351	5-12-65	Voluntary assignment of construction permit to D.H. OVERMYER COMMUNICATIONS COMPANY, EFF: 6-21-65			
BMPCT-4254	7-27-65	CH.36 602-608mc	V-219kw A-117kw	U	1-19-54 1-27-66
AH: 440 MSL: ..					
Mod. of CP (BPCT-1513, as mod.) to ext completion date					
BMPCT-6223	1-27-67	CH.36	V-708kw	U	1-19-54
BMPCT-6387	1-27-67	602-608	A-141kw	MSL: 2049'	1-27-67
Mod. of CP (BPCT-1513, as Mod.) to chg name, ERP, T-L & S-L					
BMPCT-6577	12-8-67	same	same	same	1-19-54 6-8-68
Mod. of CP (BMPCT-6223 & BMPCT-6387) to ext. completion date					
BIC-5379	12-8-67	VOL. T/C from D. H. OVERMYER to U.S. Communications Corporation EFF: 1-15-68			

Form BC 126 #2
June 1954

COMM.TV

BROADCASTING STATION LICENSE RECORD

Date first licensed

Call letters WBMO-TV

Station location ATLANTA, GEORGIA

Name of licensee D.H.OVERMYER COMMUNICATIONS COMPANY, INC.

Transmitter location SEE CARD #1

Main studio location

CONSTRUCTION PERMIT AND LICENSE RECORD

Appl. No.	Date Issued	Freq.	Power	Time Div.	Period From- To
BMPCT-624	6-11-68	MP (BPCT-1513) chg.			name (2)
BMPCT-6809	2-20-69				8-20-69
		MP (BPCT-1513, as mod)			extend date and include conditpns (L)
BMPCT-6979	3-12-69	CH.36	V-1347 kw	U	1-19-54
		AH: 1080' MSL:2049'	602-608A-202 kw		8-20-69
		MP (BPCT-1513, as mod.)	Chg.ERP, specify SL, type trans.; type antenna; AH.		
BMPCT-6999	4-25-69	CH.36	V-2030 kw	U	
		AH: 1090' MSL:2049'	602-608 A-304.5 kw		8-20-69
		MP (BPCT-1513, as mod)	to chg. ERP, type antenna; inc. AH.		
WIRE	8-12-69	AUTH. GR. TO OPER. REMOTE CONTROL			
WIRE	8-13-69	RETENDERED LIC. APPLI. PENDING			
		COMPLETION TOWER AND ANT. CONSTRUCTION AUTH. GR. OPER. TEMP. PER. END. 9-30-69 ACCORD. BMPCT-6999. GRANT OF PTA ACCORD SEC. 73.629 RULES IS CONTINGENT OF PRIOR FILING OF COMPLETE WPLO (AM) AND WQXI (AM) FIELD INTENSITY MEASUREMENTS SPECIFIED IN OP BMPCT--6999. ADVISE WHEN OPERATION COMMENCES UNDER THIS AUTHORITY.			
WIRE	9-30-69	ABOVE AUTH. EXT. TO 11-15-69			
WIRE	11-14-69	ABOVE AUTH. EXT. TO 2-13-70			
WIRE	4-13-70	LIC. APPLI. BLOT-1898 PENDING FILING			
		ADDITIONAL MEASUREMENTS ESTABLISHING COMPLIANCE WITH WPLO (AM) AND WQXI (AM) CONDITION EXT. AUTH. OPER. TEMP. PER. 8nd 7-13-70 ACCORD. BMPCT-6999.			
WIRE	7-14-70	ABOVE AUTH. EXT. TO			8-13-70
WIRE	8-12-70	ABOVE AUTH. EXT. TO			11-13-70
WIRE	11-10--70	ABOVE AUTH. EXT. TO			2-13-71
WIRE	3-30-71	PENDING RESOLUTION FINANCIAL DIFFICULTIES AUTH. GR. REMAIN SILENT TEMP. PER. END. 6--30-71 SUBJECT TO SUBSEQUENT FILING OF WRITTEN CERTIFICATION THAT TOWER LIGHTING IS BEING MAINTAINED. THIS AUTH. DOES NOT BELIEVE WATL-TV OF RESPONSIBILITY FOR CONTINUING TOWER DETUNING PROGRAM TO ELIMINATE INTERACTION WITH WPLO (AM) AND WQXI (AM) RADIO TOWERS.			
EBSA	5-15-72				
BAPCT-494	7-17-74	Voluntary assignment of OP			

No Card #3

CARD#4

COMMERCIAL TV

BROADCASTING STATION HISTORY RECORD

First licensed

Call Letters WATL-TV

Station Location ATLANTA, GA

Name

Transmitter Location

Main studio location

Authorization Record

File No.	Granted	Facilities	Expires
BRCTV-337 (1)	2-24-77	Studio location and remote control authority.	
BSTV-39	6-11-80	Subscription Television Authority	

Card # 1

COMM. TV.

FORM A-170

APPLICATION RECORD - BROADCASTING

FORMERLY FCC FORM 94

Call
Letters ~~HW~~ ~~WAI~~ TV

Name ROBERT W. ROUNSAVILLE

(P.O. ~~2165 Mathieson Drive, N. E. Atlanta, Georgia~~)

PO 3220 Peachtree Road, N. E. Atlanta 5, Georgia (LTR. 11-3-60)

File No.	Dated	Application for	Action	
			Nature	Date
BPCT-1513 Recd. Filed	9-5-52 9-8-52 9-8-52	Construction permit for new Comm. TV Station Freq: Channel # 36 - 602-608 Mcs. ERP: Vis. 240.063 kw, Aur. 124.327 kw. Unlimited hours of operation S-L- Peachtree Road and Mathieson Drive, Atlanta, Georgia T-L- 1430 West Peachtree St. Atlanta, Georgia (VIS. & AUR. GE TT-25-A) (342.66') Vincent B. Welch- atty.	GRANTED Order Docket 10676	11-19-53
BMCT-2159 Recd. Filed	5-28-54 6-1-54 6-1-54	Mod. of CP (BPCT-1513, which authorized a new Comm. TV B/C Sta.) to change trans. loc. from 1430 West Peachtree St., N.W., Atlanta, Ga., to Rear of 525 Bishop St., Atlanta, Ga., change ERP from Vis. 240 kw, Aur. 123 kw to Vis. 220.738 kw, Aur. 117.545 kw, install new transmitters and antenna system and make other equip. changes. (G.P.L. Continental 716) Filed Vincent A. Pepper, Atty. (440.667')	GRANTED	6-11-54

John H. Mullaney - Engr.

Card # 2

FORM A-170

FORMERLY FCC FORM 94

APPLICATION RECORD - BROADCASTING

COMM. TV B/C

Call
Letters

WATL-TV

~~W-Q-X-1-TV~~

Name ROBERT W. ROUNSAVILLE

Atlanta Ga

File No.	Dated	Application for	Action	
			Nature	Date
BMPCT-2514 Recd.&Filed	9-20-54 9-24-54	Mod. of CP (BPCT-1513, as mod., which authorized a new Commercial TV B/C Sta.) to extend completion date from 10-19-54 to June, 1955. <u>Filed direct.</u>	GRANTED	9-28-54
BMPCT-2954 recd Filed	3-3-55 3-7-55 3-7-55	Mod. of CP (BPCT-1513 as mod., which auth. a new Comm. TV b/c station) to extend completion date from 4-19-55 to 1-1-56 <u>Filed by Vincent A. Pepper, Atty.</u>	GRANTED	3-21-55
BMPCT-3406 Recd.&filed Ext.#4	9-1-55 9-9-55	Mod. of CP (BPCT-1513, as mod., which authorized a new Comm. TV B/C Sta.) to extend completion date from 10-19-55 to 1-16-56. <u>Filed by V A Pepper, Atty.</u>	GRANTED	9-14-55
BMPCT-3603 Recd.&filed Ext.#5	12-9-55 12-16-55	Mod. of CP (BPCT-1513, as mod., which auth. a new Comm. TV B/C Station) to extend completion date from 1-16-56 to 7-17-56. <u>Filed by V A Pepper, Atty.</u>	GRANTED	2-13-56

Card # 3

COMM. TV B/C

FORM BC-121

APPLICATION RECORD - BROADCASTING

FORMERLY FORM A-170

D. H. OVERMYER COMMUNICATIONS COMPANY

Call

WBNO-TV

Letters

W-A-T-U-TV

Name X ROBERT W. ROUNSAVILLE
Atlanta, Georgia

File No.	Dated	Application for	Action	
			Nature	Date
BMPCT-4048 Recd & Filed Ext. # 6	6-15-56 6-19-56	Mod. of CP (BPCT-1513, as mod., which auth. a new COMM. TV B/C Station) to extend completion date from 7-16-56 to 1-16-57. Filed by: Vincent A. Pepper, Atty.	GRANTED	7-26-56
BMPCT-4254 Recd & Filed Ext. #7 SEE AMEND * below	9-17-56 9-18-56	Mod. of CP (BPCT-1513, as mod., which auth. a new COMM. TV B/C Station) to extend completion date from 10-16-56 to _____. *see below Filed by Vincent A. Pepper, Atty.	GRANTED	7-23-65
BAPCT-351 Recd. & Filed	8-6-64 8-13-64	Voluntary assignment of construction permit to D.H. Overmyer Communications Company. Robert W. Healy, Atty. (SMITH & PEPPER).	GRANTED EFF: 6-21-65	5-12-65
* BMPCT-4254 AMENDED Rec. & filed	7-13-65 7-19-65	Amended to change name to D. H. Overmyer Communications Company and extend completion date to 2-21-66.*	GRANTED	7-27-65
BMPCT-6223 Recd. & Filed	1-10-66 1-12-66	Mod. of CP (BPCT-1513, as mod., which authorized a new Comm. TV B/C Station) to extend completion date from 1-27-66 to 7-27-66. Fly, Shuebruk, Blume and Gaguine, Atty.	GRANTED	1-27-67

FORM BC-121
AUG. 1955

APPLICATION RECORD - BROADCASTING

COMM. TV

Call
Letters WBMO-TV

Name D.H. OVERMYER COMMUNICATIONS COMPANY, Inc.
CH. 36 ATLANTA, GEORGIA

File No.	Dated	Application for	Action	
			Nature	Date
BMPCT-6387 Recd. FILED	10-20-66 10-24-66 10-25-66	Mod. of CP (BPCT-1513, as mod., which auth. a new station) to make the following changes: name to D.H. Overmyer Communications Company, Inc.; ERP to Vis. 706.3 kw (HORZ), Aur. 141.26 kw (HORZ); TL to Briarcliff Road and Shepherd lane, N.E. North Druid Hills Division, Ga.; SL to Broadview Shopping Plaza, Piedmond Rd. & Morosgo Drive, N.E., Atlanta, Ga.; type of transmitter to GE TT-59-A; type of antenna to GE TY-97-A; antenna structure and increase antenna height above average terrain to 1074'. Peter Shuebruk, Atty Paul Godley Co. Engr.	<i>CP</i> GRANTED	1-27-67
BMPCT-6577 R & F	6-27-67 6-28-67	Mod. of CP (BPCT-1513, as mod., which auth. a new station) to extend completion date. Fly, Shuebruk, Blume & Gaguine, Atty. (Peter Shuebruk)	<i>CP</i> GRANTED	12-8-67

APPLICATION RECORD - BROADCASTING

COMM. TV

Call
Letters WPMO-TV

U. S. COMMUNICATIONS OF GEORGIA, INC. (6-11-68)

Name D. H. OVERMYER COMMUNICATIONS COMPANY, INC.

Ch. 36 Atlanta, Georgia

File No.	Dated	Application for	Action	
			Nature	Date
BTC-5379 Rec. & filed	6-16-67 6-30-67	Voluntary transfer of control of permitted corporation from D. H. Overmyer to U. S. Communications Corporation. Pierson, Ball & Dowd (William Green) RETURNED TO PROCESSING & DES. FOR HEARING	GRANTED pursuant to order adopted 12-8-67 released 12-11-67 EFF-1-15-68-	12-8-67
BMPCT-6809 R & F PRESS	5-6-68 5-7-68 MAY 15 1968	MP (BPCT-1513, as mod) to extend completion date to 3-1-69. AMENDED 9-3-68 to update information contained in BMPCT-6809.	#426891 5-7-68 \$30.00 GRANTED 2-20-69 *	
BMPCT-6824 R & F PRESS	5-14-68 5-16-68 MAY 24 1968	MP (BPCT-1513, as mod) to change name to U. S. COMMUNICATIONS OF GEORGIA, INC. Wm. S. Green, Atty. (Pierson, Ball & Dowd)	\$30. #429108 GRANTED 6-11-68	5-16-68
BMPCT-6809	Cont'd	Amended 12-2-68 to update information contained in BMPCT 66809 and extend completion date to July 1969.	SEE CONDITIONS BACK OF C.R.D.	

CONDITIONS

- (1) The transmitter specified herein has not been type-accepted. Accordingly, prior to licensing, acceptable data shall be submitted for type acceptance in accordance with the requirements of Section 73.640 of the Commission's Rules.

- (2) Subject to the condition that before program test authority is issued, sufficient field intensity measurements, as hereinafter described, shall be made in the presence of the WPLO and WQXI representatives before and after construction of the TV structure specified herein, to assure that the directional patterns of WPLO and WQXI remain the same as before the erection of the TV structure. The required measurements shall be on the same radials and at consecutive points used in connection with the original proof of performance of stations WPLO and WQXI. Analysis of the data shall be in accordance with Section 73.186 of the Commission's Rules. Measurements shall be made for both directional and non-directional modes of operation and shall be tabulated and ratioed DA/ND. All measurements taken shall be co-certified by all parties to this condition. Failure to cooperate by WPLO and WQXI may result in the withdrawal of protective condition.

#6

COMM TV

FORM BC-121

APPLICATION RECORD - BROADCASTING

AUG. 1955

Call
Letters WBND-TV WATL-TVName U. S. COMMUNICATIONS OF GEORGIA, INC.
CH-36 Atlanta, Georgia

File No.	Dated	Application for	Action	
			Nature	Date
BMPCT-6979 R & F Press #484816 \$30.	1-2-69 1-17-69 1-17-69	Mod. (BPCT-1513, as mod.) to chg. ERP to Vis. 1347 kw (Horz), Aur. 202 kw (Horz); specify studio loc. as 1810 Briarcliff Road, N. E., Atlanta, Georgia; type trans. RCA TTU-110A; type antenna GE TY-206A Zig-Zag; and antenna height above average terrain 1079 feet. Pierson, Ball & Dowd, Atty. (William S. Green) A. D. Ring, Engr. Ltr. from engr. 2-19-69 submitting additional engineering data. Amended 3-6-69 re financial Amended 3-4-69 req. for waiver of Sec. 73.613 of Comm. Rules.	GRANTED See condition on back of card #5	3-12-69
BMPCT-6999 R & F \$30. #503426 PRESS See over	3-24-69 4-1-69 " APR 3 1969	MP (BPCT-1513, as mod.) to change ERP to Vis. 2030 kw (HORZ); Aur. 304.5 kw (HORZ); type of antenna to RCA TFU-36J Special; and increase antenna height above average terrain to 1086 feet. Wm. S. Green, Atty. (Pierson, Ball, Dowd)	GRANTED	4-25-69

Req. for remote control filed 4-16-69 - Smith 4-17-69

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FORM BC-121
AUG. 1955

APPLICATION RECORD - BROADCASTING

COMM. TV

Call
Letters WATL-TV

BRIARCLIFF COMMUNICATIONS GROUP, INC.

Name XU.S. COMMUNICATIONS OF GEORGIA, INC.
CH. 36 ATLANTA, GEORGIA

File No.	Dated	Application for	Action	
			Nature	Date
BLCT-1898 R & F \$30 #534266 PRESS	8-7-69 8-8-69 " AUG 22 1969	LICENSE (BPCT-1513, as mod.) for a new station. Wm. S. Green, Atty. (Pierson, Ball & Dowd)	<i>granted</i>	
Engr. data filed 6-22-70				
BAPCT-494 R & F #034094 \$1000 AC: 051 PRESS: PN REC'D: GRANT FEE: GRANT FEE PAID:	1-19-72 1-20-72 1-20-72 JAN 26 1972 2-11-72 \$470.00 9-10-74	Voluntary assignment of construction permit to Briarcliff Communications Group, Inc. Attys.: William S. Green (Pierson, Ball & Dowd)(Assignor) John R. Wilner (Wilner, Scheiner & Greeley)(Assignee) Amended 1-24-72 to submit document "Pre-Incorporation Agreement" and financial Plan. Amended 3-9-72 re financial data. Ltr. from assignee req. 30 days to determine feasible plan to detune tower. 8-21-72	GRANTED COMMISSION ACTION See back of Card #8 for existing conditions EFF: 8-15-74	7-17-74
F. C. C. - WASHINGTON, D. C. AMENDED 10-3-72 re detuning of tower.				

Letter, dated 1-13-72 on behalf of Production 70s, Incorporated, a Georgia Corporation, relative to the present status of Station WATL-TV, Atlanta, Georgia, and the availability of this channel for operation in the public interest.

BAPCT-494

PETITION TO DENY ASSIGNMENT, OR, IN THE ALTERNATIVE, TO GRANT WITH CONDITION filed 2-23-72 by Jason L. Shrinsky for SJR Communications, Inc.

PETITION TO DENY filed 2-25-72 by Thomas W. Fletcher for Production 70s, Incorporated.

Ltr. 3-7-72 from John R. Wilner for WATL req. ext. of time to file oppositions to petitions submitted by SJR.

OPPOSITION to Petition to Deny filed 3-9-72 by John Wilner for Briarcliff Communications Group, Inc.

OPPOSITION TO PETITION TO DENY filed 3-9-72 by William S. Green for US Communications of Ga., Inc.

REPLY TO OPPOSITION TO PETITION TO DENY filed 3-21-72 by Thomas W. Fletcher for Productions 70

PETITION TO WITHDRAW "PETITION TO DENY ASSIGNMENT, OR, IN THE ALTERNATIVE, TO GRANT WITH CONDITION" filed 8-9-72 by SJR Communications

PETITION FOR WAIVER OF THREE YEAR RULE filed 6-4-74 by William S. Green on behalf of U. S. Communications of Georgia, Inc.

Ltr. 6-19-74 from Thomas W. Fletcher on behalf of Production 70's, Incorporated requesting withdrawal of Petition to Deny.

#9A

APPLICATION RECORD - BROADCASTING

COMMERCIAL TV

Call
Letters WATL-TV

BRIARCLIFF COMMUNICATIONS GROUP, INC.

Name U.S. COMMUNICATIONS OF GEORGIA, INC.
CH-36 ATLANTA, GEORGIA

File No.	Dated	Application for	Action	
			Nature	Date
BAPCT-494	(AMENDMENTS CONTINUED)	AMENDED 1-8-73 re prosped study of tower. AMENDED 4-23-73 re financial AMENDED 5-13-74 re balance sheet and financial AMENDED 5-30-74 re fianncial AMENDED 6-20-74 re transfer of equipment. Amended 7-9-74 re programming.		
BLCT-2500	3-5-76	Lic. to cover (BPCT-1513, as mod.) for a new station.		
R&F	3-8-76			
#540150\$100	3-8-76	Atty.: John R. Wilner (Wilner & Scheiner)		
AC: 001				
PRESS	8 SEP 1976			
		Contours filed 5-25-76		

P
WPA 12-4-80
3386

BAPCT-494 - conditions: (a) Prior to issuance of operating authority for the construction permit authorized, the permittee shall file information with the Commission indicating that its proposal for detuning the tower has been completed in accordance with the representations contained in its letter of April 20, 1973, and that field intensity measurements of standard broadcast stations WPLO and WQXI have been made which show the effect of the detuning upon the radiation patterns of the two standard broadcast stations. Minimum required measurements shall include at least ten (10) consecutive points, including the measured field intensity at the monitoring point locations, for each of the radials included in the last complete proof of performance on file with the Commission. Measurement shall be made for both directional and non-directional modes of operation. These measurements, together with their ratios (DA/DNA) shall be submitted in tabulated form. Also measurement data shall be certified by all parties involved before submission to the Commission. The engineer selected by the permittee to make the measurements shall be acceptable to all parties, and the cost of making the measurements, and any corrective measures that may be required to restore the patterns to the conditions prior to this construction shall be borne by the permittee herein. Also, permittee shall be responsible for maintenance and repair of any detuning circuits installed on the antenna supporting structure of WATL-TV which are necessary to restore the radiation patterns of stations WPLO and WQXI. (b) This grant is made without prejudice to any action the Commission may deem necessary as a result of the final determination on the application seeking renewal of license for television station WPHL-TV, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

APPLICATION RECORD - BROADCASTING

COMM TV

Call
Letters WATL-TV

Name BRIARCLIFF COMMUNICATIONS GROUP, INC.
Ch. 36 Atlanta, Georgia

File No.	Dated	Application for	Action	
			Nature	Date
BRCTV-337 R & F W 627180 \$100 AC: 001 Press: 8 NOV 1976	10-18-76 10-20-76 10-20-76	Request for authority to operate transmitter by remote control from 1800 Peachtree Road, Atlanta, Georgia Atty: John R. Wilner (Wilner & Scheiner)	GRANTED	2-24-77
BSTV-39 R & F PRESS: APR 18 1978 PN REC'D:	11-7-77 11-11-77	Request authority to install Subscription Television equipment. Atty.: Brown, Cahill, Kaswell, Bernstein & Effros	GRANTED	6-11-80
BRCCT-810722KG		Req. for auth. to oper. trans. by RC from SL at 575 Ponce de Leon Ave., NE, Atlanta, Ga.		granted 8-17-81

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 12th 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.

