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CATALOG NO. 4550L 1/8

COMM.TV

BROADCASTING STATION LICENSE RECORD

Date first licensed 6-18-70 (Off. #673)

WOKR (Eff:1-8-70)

Gall letters I WAAR-IV

Station location ROCHESTER MEN WORK

Name of licensee FLOWER CITY TELEVISION CORPORATION

Transmitter location PINNACLE HILL, BRIGHTON, NEAR ROCHESTER, NEW YORK

4225 W. Henrietta Rd., Township of Henrietta, approx.3.5 miles S. of Rochester, N. Y.

17 Clinton Ave., S., Rochester, N. I. (MPCT 11-14-69) (BMLCT-703)

Main studio location To Be Determined, Rochester, New York

CONSTRUCTION PERMIT AND LICENSE RECORD

Appl.	Date			Time	Period
No.	Issued	Freq.	Power	Div.	From- To-
BPCT-2929	8-3-67	CH. 13	V-316 h	U	10-3-67
DOCKEE RO	14394	210-216	A-03.1	a particular and the	4-3-68
AH : 500'	ISL: 1035				
CP FOR A	IEN COMA.	IV BROAD	I DOWN THE WATER OF THE PARTY O	A PROPERTY AND ADDRESS OF THE PARTY.	
CONSTRUCT	ION PERMIT	ISSUED	MITHOUT	a differential to the same of	TERS
BPCT - 2929				GNED	
HIPCT-7020	A CONTRACTOR AND ADDRESS OF A STATE OF A STA	And the second second second	The second secon	N PARTICULAR PROPERTY NAMED IN	A RESIDENCE OF THE PROPERTY OF THE PARTY OF
LECTURY MADE COST OF STREET	11030.5	No. of Concession, Name of Street, or other Persons, Name of Street, or other Persons, Name of Street, Name of	FOR SHAPPING SALES	A STATE OF THE PARTY OF THE PAR	5-14-70
MP(BPCT-29	29), chg.	Aur, ERP	, TL, SI	, trans.	e ant.
BLCT-1955	6-18-70	LIC. (B	PCT-2929	as mod)	6-1-72
		for a n	w stati	on	
BMLCT-703	7-10-70	ML chg.	studio_l	ocation(S	6-1-72
ESBA	5=15-72_				
BRCT-673	12-17-75	Ch. 13	V. 316	MW U	6-1-78
	MSL: 1030.			and the second second	
Renewal o	flicense				
BTC_8341	8-15-77	Volunta	y_trans	or of con	tri.
	5-10-78	DESCRIPTION OF THE PARTY OF THE		ACCOUNT OF THE PARTY OF	
(1)			& AUX. I	AND DESCRIPTION OF THE PARTY OF	
BRCT-673	5-11-78	RENEWAL		THE PERSON NAMED IN	6-1-81
BRC1-0/3	3-11-70	AENEWA.			
BPCT-512	3 7-20-78	CH-13	V. 211.24	kw	9-20-78
AH; MSL:	GENCY, MAIN	210-216	A. 215.74	CNI V/ AIT	1-20-80
FUR EMER	GENCY, MALKI	MACE &	TEST FOR	. UNLICAUR	. IRANS)
		1			
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Comm TF 8/C APPLICATION RECORD - BROADCASTING *

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Call Letters

MEN-HAAE-TY

	Name Flant	R CITY THE	SYZETON CORPORATION	
	File No.	per Sibley Dated	Application for	Nature Date
TO STATE OF THE PARTY OF	R & F	9-21-61	CP for a new Comm TV B/C station Freqs Ch #13, 210-216 Mcs. ERP: Vis. 316 kw Aur. 158 kw Station Location: Rochester, New York S-L: Clinton-Bldgsy-17-Clinton-Avenue, South	GRANTED 8-3-67 DECISION IN Docket 14394 DECISION STAYED 9-18-67
			Rochester, New York T-L: Rond Bood, O.O male East of Pastaford Mendom Center Bood, Mendon, How York (Vis & Aur. RCA TT25CH) (500°) AH Hours of Operation: Unimited (Request for Special Temporary Authority or conditional Grant)	Memo. Opinion & Order adopted 11-22-67 reaffirmed grant
	AMERIDED R&F	10-9-61 10-10-61	Filed by Harold David Cohen, Pierson, Balla Dansell P. May-engr. Amended to change stockholders; corporate applicant; studio location from specified site to "To be determined, Rochester, New York"; additional financial data and programming. Pierson, Ball & Dowd-atty	RATION DISHUSSED Wd/3-21 62.ORDER ADOPTION

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION



WASHINGTON, D. C. 20554

6092
PUBLIC NOTICE - B

September 18, 1967

Report No. 4191

ACTION IN DOCKET CASES

COMMISSION STAYS ORDER ASSIGNING CHANNEL 13, ROCHESTER, N.Y. TO FLOWER CITY TV CORP.;
TO WEIGH PETITIONS FOR RECONSIDERATION

Motions to stay the assignment of a construction permit, to Flower City Television Corporation, for a television station on Channel 13, Rochester, N.Y., have been granted by the Federal Communications Commission. The assignment will be stayed until the petitions filed for reconsideration have been studied.

The request for the stay was filed by Community Broadcasting, Inc., Main Broadcast Company, Inc., The Federal Broadcasting System, Inc., and Citizens Television Corp. All were applicants for the CP for Channel 13.

In support of the stay request, the petitioners pointed out that service is now being provided for the Rochester area by an interim corporation operation of Channel 13 and that "serious questions" have been raised in the petitions for reconsideration. If the stay is not granted and the decision should be vacated or reversed it would be extremely difficult to reconstitute the interim operation without impairment of service to the public, they stated.

In granting the request the Commission noted that the public interest would be "better served by grant of a stay of our Decision until "we have an opportunity to fully consider and resolve the questions raised by the petitions for reconsideration..."

The Commission granted the Plower City application on August 3, 1967. The motions for stay were filed on September 5, 1967. The proceeding (Dockets 14394 etc.) involves nine mutually exclusive applications for construction permits for Channel 13.

The Commission granted the Flower City application on August 3, 1967. The motions for stay were filed on September 5, 1967. The proceeding (Dockets 14394 etc.) involves nine mutually exclusive applications for construction permits for Channel 13.

Action by the Commission September 18, 1967, by Order (Dockets 14394-5, 1--00-68). Commissioners Hyde (Chairman), Lee, Loevinger and Johnson; Commissioner Cox not participating.

FORM BC-121 Aug. 1955

APPLICATION RECORD - BROADCASTING

Call Letters May MARE-TV

Name FLOWER CITY TELEVISION CORPORATION Rechester, You York

		-		Agt	OD
1	File No.	Dated	Application for	Nature	Date
	EPCT-2929 ANEXDED R & F	10-31-61 10-31-61	Amended Articles of Incorporation and By-was change in Stockholders and Directors; amount of stock subscribed and issued; financial data and programming; change transmitter location from Pond Road, 0.9 miles East of Pittsford Mendon Center Road, Mendon, New York TO Pinnaele Hill, Brighton, New York and make changes in autenna structure.		
	Amended Received Filed	2-5-63 2-7-63 2-28-63	Amended to make change in officers		
	BLCT- R	12-20-67	License to cover CP(BPCT-2929) which authorized a new station.		
	AMENDED	12-28-67	Pierson, Ball & Doud, Atty. (Tohmas N. Doud) AMENDED to cover facilities authorized in BPCT-		

Aug. 1955

APPLICATION RECORD - BROADCASTING

Call NAAE-TV Lotters TO DE 160 TO THE

Hame Table	and the second land about the second	ALS TO E PORTURE OF THE	
CH-13 Roch	enter, lev		
File. No.	Dated	Application for	Nature Date
BFCT- Rec'd	12-28-67	Construction permit to change Aural ERP to 47.9 kw	
PROCEEDINS W	ILE A REQUES	TUDICIAL REVIEW IN ROCHESTER, N. Y., CH. 13 PRO ORDER ADOPTED 1-10-68 RELEASED 1-12-68 (FCC I FOR STAY OF THE DECISION (FEC 67-924, 9 FCC 2 TURT OF APPEALS ON OR BEFORE 1-19-68, THE DECISION ERMINATION OF THAT REQUEST.	68-29) 1E

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION



10810

WASHINGTON, D. C. 20554

PUBLIC NOTICE - B
January 11, 1968

Report No. 4321

ACTION IN DOCKET CASE

TV CHANNEL 13, ROCHESTER, NEW YORK, STAY OF GRANT DENIED

The Commission has denied a motion for stay pending judicial review of its grant of TV Channel 13 to Flower City Television Corporation of Rochester, New York, but if petitioners file a request for stay of the decision with the United States Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia on or before January 19, 1968, the Commission stated it will stay the proceeding until judicial determination has been made on that request (Dockets 14394-5, 14460-2, 14464-8).

The motion for stay was filed with the Commission by Genesee Valley Television Co., Inc., Star Television, Inc., Community Broadcasting, Inc., Heritage Radio and Television Broadcasting System, Inc., Main Broadcast Co., Inc., The Federal Broadcasting System, Inc., Citizens Television Corp., and Rochester Telecasters, Inc.

The petitioners said that appeals from the Commission decision will be filed, and that there would be enormous difficulties" in reconstituting the interim operation of Channel 13 if a stay were denied and the Commission decision ultimately reversed.

The Commission said, however, "...the mere pendency of judicial appeals is not considered sufficient justification for grant of a stay, since Flower City has been determined to be the best applicant and since the public interest will be best served by the commencement of service by Flower City at the earliest possible time....The Commission is confident that arrangements can be made for the continuation of the existing service if its Decision is ultimately reversed..."

This proceeding involves nine competing applications for construction parmits for a new television station on Channel 13. The Commission granted the application of Flower City in a decision of August 3, 1967. It granted a stay of the decision on September 18, 1967, in response to petitions for reconsideration, and denied the petitions for reconsideration in a Memorandum Opinion and Order of November 29, 1967.

Action by the Commission January 10, 1968, by Order. Commissioners Hyde (Chairman), Lee, Loevinger, Wadsworth, and Johnson, with Commissioner Cox not participating and Commissioner Bartley dissenting to denial under paragraph 4(a) of the Order.

B FCC 68-29 9763

In re Applications of

FLOWER CITY TELEVISION CORPORATION Rochester, New York

et al.

For Construction Permits for New Television Broadcast Stations (Channel 13) DOCKET NO. 14394 File No. BPCT-2929

DOCKET NOS. 14395 14464 14460 14465 14461 14466 14462 14467

ORDER Adopted: January 10, 1968; Released: January 12, 1968

By the Commission: Commissioner Bartley dissenting to the denial under paragraph 4(a); Commissioner Cox not participating.

1. The Commission has under consideration: (a) the Decision (FCC 67-924, 9 FCC 2d 249) granting the application of Flower City Television Corporation in this proceeding; (b) the Memorandum Opinion and Order (FCC 67-1276, released November 29, 1967) denying the petitions for reconsideration of that Decision; and (c) the notion for stay pending judicial review, Niled December 27, 1967, by Genesee Valley Television Co., Inc.; Star Television, Inc.; Community Broadcasting, Inc.; Heritage Radio and Television Broadcasting Co., Inc.; Main Broadcast Co., Inc.; The Federal Broadcasting System, Inc.; Citizens Television Corp.; and Rochester Telecasters, Inc. (hereinafter referred to collectively as petitioners).

2. Noting that appeals have or will be filed with respect to the Commission's Decision in this proceeding, petitioners contend that justice requires and that good cause exists for stay of that Decision pending judicial review. In view of the interim operation of the proposed television station, petitioners assert that there will be no delay of or disruption in the service to the public as a result of such a stay, but that there would be enormous difficulties in reconstituting that interim

on January 2, 1968, the petitioners filed a revised page 12 of their motion for stay to correct the inadvertent omission of the name of one of the parties to the motion. In addition, on January 4, 1968, the petitioners filed a supplement to their motion for stay consisting of an affidavit in support of certain statements of fact in the motion. On January 3, 1968, Flower City Television Corporation filed an opposition. In a letter, also filed on January 3, 1968, the petitioners indicated that they wished to prepare a reply to Flower City's opposition. That reply was thereafter filed by the petitioners on January 8, 1968.

operation if a stay were demied and if the Commission's Decision were ultimately reversed. Since petitioners believe that there is a substantial likelihood that the Commission's Decision will be reversed, they conclude that a stay is required to prevent irreparable injury to the public and to themselves.

3. While a stay was issued (FCC 67-1048, released September 18, 1967) until this administrative proceeding could be concluded and a regular authorization could be issued after full consideration of the petitions for reconsideration of the Commission's Decision, this administrative proceeding was in fact concluded by the Commission's Memorandum Opinion and Order denying those petitions for reconsideration, FCC 67-1276, released November 29, 1967. In view of this circumstance the mere pendency of judicial appeals is not considered sufficient justirication for grant of a stay, since Flower City has been determined to be the best applicant and since the public interest will be best served by the commencement of service by Flower City at the earliest possible time. See Grand Broadcasting Company, FCC 64-1132, released December 10, 1964, 4 RR 2d 205. The Commission is confident that arrangements can be made for the continuation of the existing service if its Decision is ultimately reversed, and, thus, petitioners' motion for stay pending judicial review must be demied. However, it would be consistent with the orderly disposition of the Commission's business and in deference to the Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit to stay this proceeding for a brief period to permit the petitioners to file a request for a stay with the Court of Appeals, if they should desire to do so, and to permit the Court to make a determination with respect to that request.

4. ACCORDINGLY, IT IS ORDERED:

- (a) That the motion for stay pending judicial review, filed December 27, 1967, by petitioners IS DEVISO, and
- (b) That, if patitioners file a request for stay of the Decision (FCC 69-924, 9 FCC 2d 249) in this proceeding with the United States Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia on or before January 19, 1968, the Decision herein SHALL BE STAYED until judicial determination of that request.

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

Ben F. Waple Secretary Form BC-121 CARD #4. September 1969

APPLICATION RECORD - BROADCASTING

Call W O E R(Eff:1-8-70)
Letters XWAAE-TV

CH-13 FLOWER CITY TELEVISION CORPORATION ROCHESTER, NEW YORK

-	File No.	Dated	Application for	Nature	Date
	EMPCT-7020 Received Filed #397550 \$30 FRESS:	12-27-67 12-28-69 5-19-69 12-28-69 5-22-69	MP(BPCT-2929), chg. Aur. ERP to 47.9kw; slight chg. in TL (43-08-07, 77-35-03); chg. SL to 17 Clinton Ave., S., Rochester, N. Y.; type trans. to RCA TT-35CH(LA); type ant. to RCA TW-12A-13P.		11-14-69
			Atty.: Harrison T. Slaughter (Pierson, Ball & Engr.: Applicant	Dowd)	
	ELCT-1955 Received Supplemental Supplemental Filed #397551 830 (See Order ad	12-18-67 12-19-67 12-28-67 5-19-69 5-19-69 12-19-67 12-28-67 ppted	Lic. (BPCT-2929 as mod.) for new station. Atty.: Harrison T. Slaughter (Pierson, Ball & Dowd)	GRANTED	6-18-70
	1-8-70)		OVERI		
			F.G.G WASHINGTON, B. G.		

CTR. FROM ATTY. 5-21-69 STATING US COURT OF APPEALS REACTIVATED THE STAY, HEICH WAS VACATED ON 4-14-69, UNTIL THE COURT'S MANDATE IS TRANSMITTED TO THE COMMISSION, OR UNTIL FURTHER ORDER FROM THE COURT.

COMMERCIAL TELEVISION

APPLICATION RECORD - BROADCASTING

Call Letters

WOKE

Rame FLOWER CITY TELEVISION CORPORATION ROCHESTER, NEW YORK

Form RC-121 CARD #5 September 1969

1	File No.	Dated	Application for	Nature 1	Date
R M60 PRE	CT-70) & F 9520 \$30 SS:	6-15-70	ML, chg. SL to 4225 W. Henrietta Rd., Townshi of Henrietta, N. Y. Atty.: William S. Green (Pierson, Ball & Doud)		7-10-70
R	RCT-673 & F N REC RESS	2-28-72 3-2-72 3-2-72 MAR 2 9 1972	RENEWAL OF LICENSE William S. Green (Pierson & Ball) Amended 6-7-72 re Sec. VI	GRAHTEI COMM. ACT	12-17-75 ION

BRCT-673
PETITION TO DENY AND TO INTERVENE filed 5-1-72 by Action for a Better Community, Inc.
Ltr. from William S. Green submitting ltr. from WOKR to Mr. Fred Schaeffer, Fileds-16-72
STATEMENT OF FLOWER CITY TELEVISION CORPORATION filed 5-16-72 by William S. Green on behalf of

OPPOSITION OF FLOWER CITY TELEVISION CORPORATION TO PETITION TO DENY filed 5-16-72 by William S. Green on behalf of WOKR.

S. Green on behalf of WOKR.

ERRATUM TO OPPOSITION OF FLOWER CITY TELEVISION CORPORATION TO PETITION TO DENY filed 5-18-72 by William Green on behalf of WORR.

Ltr. 5-31-72 from Action for A Better Community, Inc. submitting copy of letter from James
11 McCuller, Executive Director for Action for A Better Community to WORK.

MOTION FOR EXT. OF TIME TO FILE REPLY PLEADINGS filed 5-25-72 by Albert Kramer HOTIN FOR EXT. OF TIME TO FILE REPLY filed 6-9-72 by Action for a Better Community. OPPOSITION TO MOTION FOR EXT. OF TIME TO FILE REPLY filed 6-12-72 by WOKR

REPLY TO OPPOSITION TO MOTION FOR EXT. OF TIME TO FIEE REPLY filed 6-14-72 by Action for Better Community.

STATEMENT OF JAMES McCULLER ET. AL. RE OPPOSITION OF FLOWER CITY TO PETITION TO DENY AND REQ. FOR INFO. filed 6-16-72- -

AMENDMENT TO PETITION TO DENY LICENSE RENEWAL filed 10-26-72 by James McCuller on behalf of Action for A Better Community, Inc.

RESPONSE TO "AMENDMENT TO PETITION TO DENY LICENSE RENEWAL" filed 11-16-72 by William S. Green on behalf of Flower City.

REPLY TO FLOWER CITY'S OPPOSITION LETTER filed 12-29-72 be behalf of Action for A Better Community, Inc., et al

Form BC-121 September 1969 CARD#GA

APPLICATION RECORD - BROADCASTING

Call Letters WOK

FLOWER CITY TELEVISION CORPORATION

File No.	Dated	Application for	Nature Nature	Date
PETITION TO	TITIONS CON	INUED 2=13-73 by Robert Stein behalf of James McCull		Par
and David E	onig	McCuller requesting additional time to file	upplement	yn buwarus
Ltr. 8-22-	3 from Will	lam S. Green on behalf of Flower City Television lon to Deny: Marketwide and Individual Station	n Cornor	ton menturing
Rochester	proadcast St	ation Employment submitted by McCuller, Edwards	& Honig.	- Comy to shale
APPOSITATION	TO MOTION FU	TENSION OF TIME filed 4-28-75 by the Rochester OR IMMEDIATE EXTENSION OF TIME filed 4-29-75 by	Black Med: William S.	dreen on
PERFURSION	OPTUTON BUD	ORDER adopted 4-30-75, released 5-9-75 FCC 75-5 mediate Extension of Time filed by the Rochester	18 34980:	IT IS ORDERED,
is GRANTED	to the exter	at indicated, and that motions filed by WHEC, Inc. ARE DENIED. IT IS FURTHER ORDERED, That the time	and Flo	wer City
to Deny th	application is EXT	as for renewal of the above-captioned stations by	the Roche	ster Black
City Telev	TO OPPOSITION	N TO MOTION FOR IMMEDIATE EXTENSION OF TIME Cile	a 5-5-75 t	y Flower

REPLY TO FLOWER CITY'S OPPOSITION TO OUR "FURTHER AMENDMENT TO PETITION TO DENT" filed 4-19-73 by Robert Jay Stein on behalf of James McCuller, (and the other 2).

APPLICATION RECORD - BROADCASTING

Call Letters WOER

FLOWER CITY TELEVISION CORPORATION Rame ROCHESTER, NY Action Nature Application for Date File No. Dated BRCT-673 CONT'D PETITION TO DENY 1975 LIGHNSE REMEMAL, OR OPPOSITION TO AMENDMENT TO APPLICATION FOR 1972 CICENSE REMEMAL Ciled 6-2-75 by The Rochester (NY) Black Media Coalition
OPPOSITION OF FLOWER CITY TELEVISION CORPORATION TO PETITION TO DENY filled 7-2-75 by William S. Green on behalf of Flower City Television Corporation EQUEST FOR EXTENSION OF TIME filed 7-1-75 by The Bochester Black Media Coalition TDAY IT DE JOSE SERNA filed 7-22-75
POSETION TO REQUEST FOR EXTENSION OF TIME filed 7-18-75 by Flower City Television Corp. EPLY TO OPPOSITION TO REQUEST FOR EXTENSION OF TIME filed 7-21-75 by Rochester Black Media Coalition REPLY TO OFFOSITION OF FLOWER CITY TELEVISION CORPORATION TO PETITION TO DENY Filed 8-15-75 Rochester Black Media MEMORANDUM OPINION AND ORDER adopted 12-17-75 released 12-29-75 FCC #75-1397, 38484 Therefore, IT IS ORDERED, That the petition to Deny filed by Action for a Better Community, Inc. at al. IS DENIED, That the complaint filled by Metro Act of Rochester, Inc. IS DENIED That the Petition to Damy filed by Rochester Black Media Coalition IS DENIED, and that the license renewal application of Flower City Television Corporation for Station WOKE-TV 18 HEREBY GRANTED for the remainder of the regular license term, 1.e. until 6-1-78 402(b) appeal filed 1-28-76 (Ltrs. sent 2-3-76)

Form BC-121

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Reprember 1969

APPLICATION RECORD - BROADCASTING

Call WOKR Letters

FLOWER CITY TELEVISION CORPORATION

CH-13 Rochester, New York

- 1	CITED STATE TO STATE OF THE STA						
	File No.	Dated	Application for	Nature	Date		
	BRCT-673 R & F	1-28-75 2-3-75	Remewal of License Atty: William S. Green (Pierson, Ball & Down	GRANTED	12-17-75		
	PN Rec'd: PRESS:		Amended 5-19-75 re programming. AMENDED 12-12-75 re programming.		T. Trugg		
	BTC-8341 R&F PN RECD	5-16-77 5-19-77 6-2-77	Voluntary transfer of control of licensee	GRANTED EFF:	B-15-77		
	(Form 315)	Jun 1 13/	Atty.: William S. Green (Pierson, Ball & Doud) Amended 7-27-77 re additional information Amended 11-14-77 re programming				
			F.C.C. WARRING D.C.				

BTC-8341 Condition:

The grant of this application is subject to whatever action the Comm. may consider necessary regarding the final outcome of Action for a Better Community, Inc. v. FCC

Form BC-121 May 1976

APPLICATION RECORD - BROADCASTING

Call Letters

WOKR

Name FLOWER CITY TELEVISION CORPORATION Ch-13 ROCHESTER, NEW YORK

File No.	Dated	Application for	Nature 1	Date
RECD PRESS	11-23-77 11-28-77	CP to install an Auxiliary Trans. (RCA TT-10AH) at Main AntTrans. location. Atty.: None	GRANTED	7-20-78
BRCTV- 379 R&F PREES	11-23-77 11-28-77 JAN 5 1977	Request authority to operate Main & Aux. Transmitters by remote control from 4225 West Henrietta Rd., Rochester, New York, Amended 1-26-78 re correction to Exh. I(a), Pa	GRANTED Be 2.	5-10-78
BRCT-673 R&F FN RECD PRESS	1-26-78 1-31-78 1-31-78 FEB 2 3 1978	RENEWAL OF LICENSE Atty.: Willian Green	GRANTED	5-11-78
		F.C.C. WARRING B.C.		

APPLICATION RECORD - BROADCASTING

Call Letters WOKR

CH-13 FLOWER CITY TELEVISION CORPORATION
KOCHESTER, NEW YORK

	File No.	Dated	Application for	Natur	otion Date
-	REF PRESS	11-22-78	Lic. to cover CP(BPCT-5123) to install aux. trans. at main anttrans. location. Martin E. Firestone, atty.	NOT IS	D 1-12-81 SUED; NO NECESSARY.
	BRCT- R & F PN REC'D PRESS	1-27-81 1-30-81 1-30-81	REMAL OF LICENSE ATTY. WILLIAM S. GREEN (PIERSON, BALL AND DOWD)	GRANTE	5-29-61
,					
			A.C		,

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.

