CATHOLIC RADIO UPDATE #941

Ex quo omnia, per quem omnia, in quo omnia: ipsi gloria in saecula **February 4, 2019**





Monday - Saturday, 11 AM ET.

"This program adds so much to my daily life. It is informative, hopeful and fun. I have returned to saying a rosary each day, in large part due to this program and the encouragement it offers. God bless you for this ministry. Like a delicious healthy meal that contributes to a healthy body, this program enriches my soul! No empty calories here!"

Sharon

"Women of Grace is wonderful. It's a five star show. Thanks
Johnnette!"

"Johnnette is a beautiful, grace-filled woman of God. May our Lord continue to bless her in her wonderful ministry of bringing us closer to Him. I, too, want to be a Woman of Grace."

Maryann

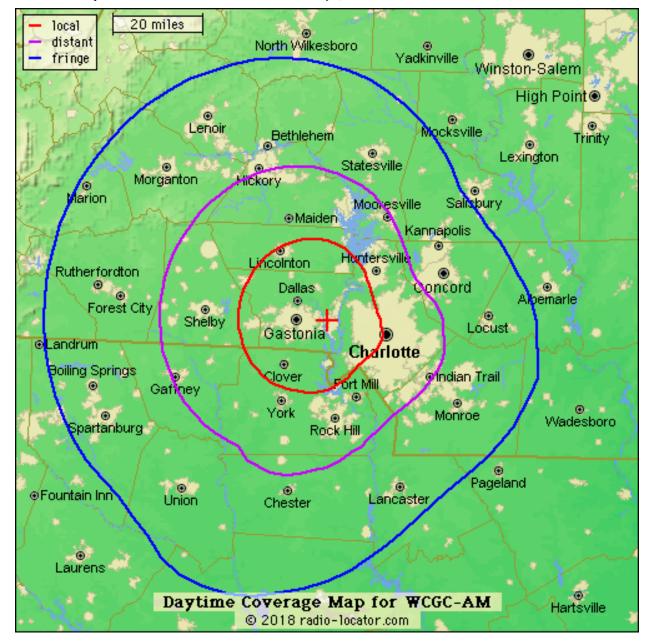
Johnnette Williams hosts
Women of Grace, EWTN Radio's
program for women—and all
who want to know women
better! She embraces the essence
of feminine spirituality as she
informs, instructs and inspires
listeners with the truth of the
Catholic faith.



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CAROLINA CATHOLIC RADIO ON THE AIR IN CHARLOTTE

Charlotte, North Carolina, Jan 31 (CRU)— Two years of dreams, rallying support, miles of travel, and hard work came to fruition today as Carolina Catholic Radio began broadcasting EWTN programming over leased WCGC 1270 AM in suburban Belmont, David Papandrea announced in a widely disseminated email. Charlotte is the 22nd largest metro area in the country with 3.8 million and a 7.37% growth.

WCGC runs 10,000 watts day and 500 watts night and puts a city signal over much of Charlotte daytime. The station is owned by WHVN, Inc., based in Atlanta and owner of WHVN (AM) Charlotte.

"Today, after 4 years of preparation, discernment and a lot of prayers from a lot of people, we are signing on AM 1270 Catholic Radio Charlotte," wrote Mr Papandrea. "Our new website is available now at https://www.carolinacatholicradio.org where you can listen live on your smartphone, computer or tablet."



The station is being programmed from the flagship of Carolina Catholic Radio at Belmont Abbey College, attached to this Benedictine monastery, WBAC-LP 101.5 FM. "Later today we will send an e-blast to share the news with nearly 300 advocates of EWTN/Carolina Catholic Radio to the Charlotte Diocese and Upstate SC these past 4 years," he added. "On behalf of our board of directors, we would like to thank you for the role you have played to help get us on the air. Now the real work begins!"

Mr Papandrea, a veteran broadcaster and member of the Knights of Columbus, has been working on the project of Carolina Catholic radio. In April 2017, he leased WSTP 1490 AM Salisbury, North Carolina, as a first effort to inaugurate the network (*Catholic Radio Update* #851 & #859). That city proved too small and the coverage area too small to elicit a great deal of support, and in October 2017 he dropped the lease (*Catholic Radio Update* #877, October 16, 2017).

He hopes that WCGC will be the first of several stations covering the Tar Heel state (*Catholic Radio Update* #877). Soon the first full-power station, WETC 540 AM in Wendell-Zebulon, just outside Durham, will begin broadcasting when it is newly permitted transmitting and antenna facilities are built out. Currently there are two LPFM stations in the Raleigh-Durham area, WSHP-LP 103.3 FM Cary and WFNE-LP 103.5 FM Wake Forest, while four other LPFM construction permits were allowed to expire because of the forthcoming WETC (*Catholic Radio Update* #882, December 4, 2017).

Although North Carolina is part of the traditionally Protestant Bible Belt, the growth of commercial enterprises from banking to regional corporate headquarters to high-tech firms in places such as Raleigh-Durham-Chapel Hill and Charlotte are considerably increasing the Catholic population.

Charlotte has seen a remarkable growth including Catholic population. The diocese covers 4.8 million people, says Wikipedia, using 2010 statistics, and has a population of 174,689 Catholics, 3.6% of the total population, in 63,000 households. Undocumented Hispanic and Latino Catholics are not included and are estimated at 230,000. Charlotte includes the "Triad Cities" of Greensboro, High Point, and Winston-Salem and extends over 20,700 square miles comprised by 46 counties.

At its website, St Joseph Seminary in Charlotte updates those figures. "Today, there are over 340,000 known Catholics in the diocese, ten times larger than when the diocese was first created less than 45 years ago. And this number is expected to continue its swift rise in the decades to come." St Joseph Seminary was founded in 2016 and is now in a fundraising campaign to meet the number of vocations that are showing up at its doors.

Looking at the phenomenal growth that shows no signs of attenuating, Mr Papandrea ended, "We ask for your continued prayers for our mission that every ear will hear EWTN/Carolina Catholic Radio across the Charlotte Diocese and Upstate SC!"

WCGC went on the air on December 11, 1954, as a 500-watt daytimer with the same call sign, which has never changed. Licensed to Central Broadcasting Co., Robert A. Hilker, president, general manager, and chief engineer, WCGC remained as Mr Hilker's station until he sold it in April 1998 for \$250,000. By

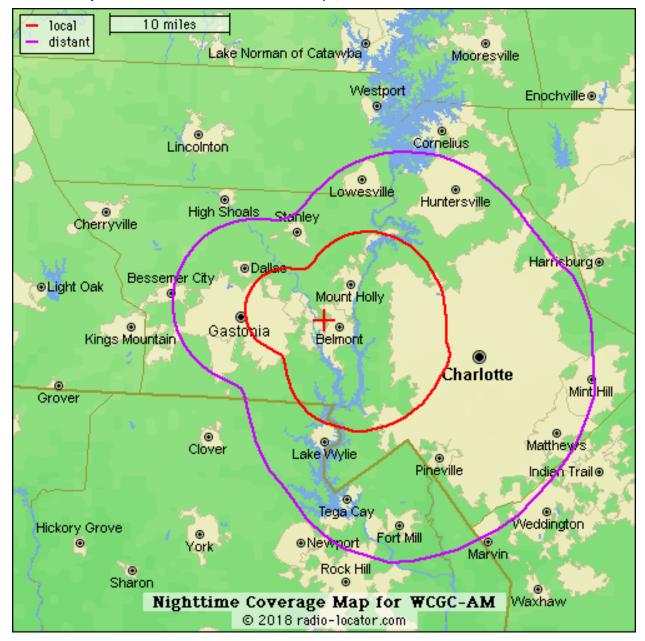


1963, Mr Hilker had upgraded the station to 1000 watts day and 500 watts night, carrying programs from the ABC and Mutual networks. By 1978, the Mutual network had been dropped, and the station format was contemporary music. By 1982 he had switched to country and western. In 1989, James B. Minze acquired the station for \$330,000, but apparently did not hold onto the station. It reverted to Mr Hilker, who changed the format to NBC and Mutual networks and news-talk. In June 1998, Hilker sold WCGC to WHVN, Inc., the Atlanta licensee of Christian radio ("WHeaVeN") 1240 AM Charlotte for \$250,000.

WHVN, Inc. sought authorization to raise the daytime power to 10,000 watts daytime, retaining the 500 watts night, using two towers at a new site. This was granted in September 2002. Program Test Authority (PTA) was granted in May 2004 and a license for the new facility was granted in early September 2004.

—Nighttime coverage of WCGC map on next page

Rank	Call Sign *Known active interest	Top 100 Metropolitan Statistical Areas (MSA) No Local English Language Catholic Radio	2014 Census Estimate	Growth
8	*	Miami-Fort Lauderdale-Pompano Beach, FL	5,929,819	+6.56%
22	WCGC	Charlotte-Concord-Gastonia, NC-SC	2,380,314	7.37%
41	*	Memphis, TN-MS-AR	1,343,230	1.39%
44		Richmond, VA	1,260,029	4.30%
53		Tucson	1,004,516	2.47%
54		Honolulu	991,788	4.05%
57	WNLK†	Bridgeport-Stamford-Norwalk, CT	945,538	3.12%
65		Knoxville, Tenn.	857,585	2.39%
66		Oxnard-Thousand Oaks-Ventura, Calif.	846,178	2.78%
68	*	McAllen-Edinburg-Mission, Texas	831,073	7.27%
69		Allentown-Bethlehem-Easton, PaN.J.	829,835	1.05%
74	*	Greensboro-High Point, N.C.	746,593	3.15%
75		Little Rock-North Little Rock-Conway	729,135	4.20%
79	KFEL KLIM†	Colorado Springs	686,908	6.40%
83		Winston-Salem	655,015	2.25%
90		Deltona-Daytona Beach-Ormond Beach, Fla.	609,939	3.33%
99		Chattanooga	544,559	3.11%



FCC DENIES PETITIONS FROM PROMETHEUS, COMMON FREQUENCY, AFFIRMS GRANTS OF TRANSLATOR PERMITS

Washington, Jan 30 (CRU)— The FCC today dismissed objections from LPFM advocacy groups Prometheus Foundation and Common Frequency and affirmed the grant of almost a thousand AMparalleling translators. This was the second time the groups had filed objection; the first time even more grants were listed; the FCC dismissed those objections as too universal. With this last filing, the groups narrowed the list to 994 and claimed that the grant of these translators would prevent the licensing of more LPFM stations and any moves of existing LPFM stations to improve their facilities.

This time the entire Commission affirmed the Media Bureau's earlier dismissal, saying, "We agree with the Bureau that objectors lacked standing. Their claimed injury is conjectural and general, relating to possible industry-wide effects of the Commission's alleged non-enforcement of statutory standards, and is not imminent, concrete, or specific to the challenged applications," the Commission order stated.

A good many Catholic translator grants were in abeyance until this order. Here is the list, the Catholic licensees appearing in the order in which they first appear in the list attached to today's order:

Real Presence Radio in Bemidji, Minnesota, and Fargo, North Dakota.

Holy Family Communications in Chili, New York.

El Sembrador Ministries in Moreno Valley, California

Delta Media Corporation in Lafayette, Louisiana, leased to Christ the King Radio (KSLO Opelousas). **Immaculate Heart Media** in Cloverdale, Illinois; Green Bay, Wisconsin; Lake Forest, Illinois; Minnetonka, Minnesota; Naples, Florida (2 translators for 2 stations); Pewaukee, Wisconsin; Punta Gorda, Florida; Rocklin, California; Round Rock, Texas; Wilmington, Delaware.

Sacred Heart University in Norwalk, Connecticut, for WNLK, which it is selling to a local Catholic group.

Catholic Community Radio in New Orleans.

Salt & Light Radio in Twin Falls, Idaho.

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RADIO CATOLICA WPUC PUERTO RICO REESTABLISHES SUPER TRANSLATOR TO WESTERN PART OF ISLAND

WPUC 88.9 FM Ponce, Puerto Rico, licensed to the Pontifical Catholic University of Puerto Rico, suffered serious damage after two hurricanes, the worst being Maria, struck the islands. Oman Pimentel, the station manager, said that "the hurricanes affected us in 80% of the coverage area of our principal station, WPUC. The Department of Engineering and our management have not tired in reestablishing both signals. W216AF, 89.1, broadcasts from Bosque Mountain in Maricao state, where it is situated on the [tower of] a sister station licensed to SBS [Spanish Broadcasting System]. Thanks to our colleagues there we have established an alliance that guarantees greater coverage, security, and benefits. Our radio listener brethren in the west are now once again to enjoy all the programming 24/7 on the principal frequency, WPUC. For the management of PCUSA [the university] it is very important to return to the air and fulfill our evangelizing and educational mission." he said.

Our translator has the same coverage as or principal frequency, and so it was that from Day Zero we were working with haste to return the signal. We have to consider the great number of Catholic faithful that our Diocese of Mayaguez has and emphasize that, in all our fundraising efforts, it is one of the principal dioceses that most helps us most. Our translator on 89.1 FM reaches a quarter of all the island and urges the return of the station for our faithful listeners.

CATHOLIC RADIO ACTIVITY BEFORE THE FCC

The following actions took place this past week concerning Catholic radio.

- W277AO 103.3 FM Edon (Dayton), Ohio—Bradlee J. Beer, who licenses the translator to Radio Maria for its WULM 1600 AM Springfield, Ohio, seeks ML to specify 102.1 FM, 250 watts ERP, antenna 68 m HAAT.
- WSGR 88.3 FM New Boston, Ohio— FCC granted license for changes to recently purchased station, to St Gabriel Communications: raise the power to 1700 watts ERP, antenna 233 m HAAT (Class B1), change TL and COL to Portsmouth, Ohio. St Gabriel bought station as WUKV from Educational Media Foundation.
- W221BX 92.1 FM Pittsfield, Illinois— Covenant Network seeks ML for paralleling translator to WRMS Beardstown, seeking new TL atop local grain elevator, 170 watts ERP, antenna 59 m HAAT.
- KLIM 1120 AM Limon, Colorado— Catholic Radio Network, Inc., granted change of call sign to KCRN.
- KODC-LP 102.1 FM Dodge City, Kansas— The Cathedral of Our Lady of Guadalupe filed to donate station to the Kansas Sacred Heart Corporation, which will maintain its Spanish format. Kansas Sacred Heart recently donated its KQSH 90.7 FM to La Promesa Foundation and a new Sacred Heart board has since been appointed.
- WHYF 720 AM Shiremanstown (Harrisburg), Pennsylvania— Holy Family Radio, Inc., (of Pennsylvania) filed for an STA extension to operate with a temporary longwire antenna. The group recently came to an agreement with the owners of a newly granted WXPA 850 AM Enola, Pennsylvania, to construct together and diplex together into an antenna. Construction is expected to start within 180 days. Holy Family had previous authorization to diplex into the antenna of WHP Harrisburg.

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Ramblings of an Old Curmudgeon

On July 1, 1942, commercial television as we know it began in the United States. That means commercials, and sure enough, on that first day of the summer of 1942, WNBT, the National Broadcasting Company (NBC) station in New York, broadcast the first TV commercial, a 10-second long one for Bulova Watches!

The rush was on by broadcasters who wanted a television license and by consumers who wanted a television set in their living room. If you read through the back issues of *Broadcasting* magazine during the postwar, you will find issue after issue carrying detailed listings of the horde of applicants for new television stations, successful applicants who were granted licenses, channel availabilities, and lengthy articles and even many-paged sections dealing with all aspects of television. In fact, in the first half of the decade of the fifties, *Broadcasting* issued separate yearbooks for television, and changed its name to *Broadcasting-Telecasting*.

The Federal Telecommunications Act of 1934 required the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) to ensure that every city of size capable of supporting a broadcast radio station got at least one. That is, frequencies must be licensed not just on the basis of demand but on the basis of justice to all parts of the country, including rural areas.

The FCC carried out that mandate in portioning vacant television channels. The early postwar television table assigned channels for America's largest metropolitan areas (and not necessarily to specific cities), and only those channels could be sought by an applicant. These channels were assigned to each metro area with consideration of stated, regulatory technical standards to prevent interference of one station with another. Stations on the same channel could not be assigned closer than 170 miles apart in the Northeast, 190 miles elsewhere in the Nation, 220 miles along the Gulf Coast in consideration of atmospheric conditions that carry the signal much farther because of a phenomenon known as tropospheric ducting.

Not only that, but stations on adjacent channels—for an example, for a station on Channel 3, these would Channels 2 and 4—must also be protected, but at much shorter distances. I believe the distance from an adjacent station had to be 60 miles, 55 miles for UHF stations.

There was another consideration: Adjacent channels could not be assigned to the same city. A particular city could not have vacant channels assigned when these were Channels 2, 3, and 4; or 5 and 6; or 7 through 13. One could have a local station on Channel 4 and another on Channel 5 because these were not adjacent but separated by several megacycles dedicated to some two-way service. But if you had a local Channel 3 station, for example, you could not have a local station on Channels 2 and 4, which are Channel 3's adjacent channels. If you have a Channel 6 local station, you cannot have a local Channel 5 station, and vice versa. In simple terms, you cannot have a television station on every one of the dozen VHF television channels in any city because they would technically interfere with each other and make viewing impossible.

Why that is so, is this: The FCC requires radio and television stations to stay inside their assigned channels; they cannot "splash over" into adjacent channels. Channel 3, for example, cannot "splash over" into Channels 2 and 4, even by a small bit. To keep stations within their channels, transmitting equipment uses "filters" to cut off any "splash over."

However, the powers required to transmit analog television signals—we are talking hundreds of thousands and even millions of watts—are such that no filter exists that can completely cut off all "splash over" from *analog* television stations. Some signal, even in the best engineered, best run stations, will splash over, and that is why in analog television there can be no full-power television stations on adjacent

channels in the same city. The exceptions are for Channels 4 and 5, which we have seen are separated by a gap, and between Channels 6 and 7, which are in two different VHF bands separated by a million megacycles. (This requirement does not hold for digital television, which permits adjacent channels.)

When you take into consideration these separation requirements, trying to crowd enough stations to serve any city of size into a dozen VHF channels becomes very difficult, and the difficulty increases when you have to consider that a channel had to be assigned to every city with a radio station, which means every city of size. Obviously, the FCC took into consideration (and still does) the amount of population that each city has when it assigns vacant channels to a locality. For example, Cedar Rapids, Iowa, has a far smaller population than Los Angeles or Chicago, and therefore the number of commercial stations that can be supported by advertising will be fewer in cities such as Cedar Rapids. Cedar Rapids did not get the same amount of vacant channels as did New York.

All that considered, it was still a monumental job of finding enough channels for every city of size, even lowering the bar. The FCC was criticized for not providing cities with more channels, but it was doing the best it could. On one hand, there was the demand from broadcasters and the public for more television stations; on the other hand there was the demand for VHF spectrum from everybody from government agencies at all levels to railroads to aviation to lumbering interests to fleets of commercial trucks, and so on. Technically, the FCC did what it could do and it did it very well. Still, this shortage of available television channels would remain a severe problem for decades to come, as we shall see.

Only in New Orleans---and Peoria, Where It Didn't Play, Either

In the course of doing a little research years ago into early New Orleans television, I was flabbergasted to find that New Orleans, along with Peoria, Illinois, is the only city in the United States where licensees *turned back* to the FCC their licenses for new VHF stations without even bothering to construct them.

Here's the story: The FCC in the original 1941 table of channel assignments assigned channels to what it called "metropolitan areas," which meant not only the designated city but any city within, say, 150 miles. New Orleans was assigned channels 2, 4, 6, 7, and 10.

- 2—Channel 2 was applied for by the owners of WJBO 1150 AM, the NBC station in Baton Rouge, which city is not listed in the table of assigned channels and is thus considered inside the New Orleans metropolitan area. They got it, and their station, WBRZ, is still on the air. Channel 2 is a highly desirable channel because, being the lowest in frequency, it gets out the farthest.
- 4—Channel 4 was applied for by the Maison Blanche department store, one of the joint owners of WSMB 1350 AM, then the NBC affiliate and New Orleans' second oldest radio station. They got the license but never built the station. The new station would have been WRTV.
- 6—Channel 6 would be applied for and granted to the owners of WDSU 1280 AM, then the ABC affiliate. Of the three 1948 grants, it was the only one that was ever built, and WDSU-TV went on the air around Christmas Day 1948, with microscopic studios, transmitter, and antenna atop the Hibernia Bank Building, then the city's highest skyscraper. WDSU-TV has just celebrated its 70th anniversary. If the enterprising and community-minded owner hadn't built WDSU-TV, New Orleans would not have had a single television station until well into the 1950's—no exaggeration, as we shall see in a few days.
- 7—Channel 7 was sought for and granted to The Times-Picayune Publishing Company. The Picayune had just put on the air WTPS on 95.7 FM; shortly it would get a license for a daytime (sunrise to sunset) radio station on 940 AM, also WTPS. The call sign was WTPS-TV. Not a year later, the Picayune would return the license to the FCC, saying that "given the economic expense and the uncertain future of television, building a television station at this time would be unwarranted."
- 10—As far as I know, there were no applicants for Channel 10, which was later assigned to Lafayette,

Louisiana, and Mobile, Alabama, both considered in the New Orleans metro area, I assume that since neither city is listed in the Table of Channel Assignments. In Lafayette, the local ABC station, KLFY 1420 AM, and the local NBC station, KVOL 1330 AM, sought Channel 10 there and were granted each a license to share time. KVOL later sold its half-interest in the channel to KLFY, and KLFY-TV endures to this day. In Mobile, I believe the channel went to WALA, the NBC affiliate and a local and important radio station, and WALA-TV operates to this day.

Bottom line: Neither Maison Blanche department store nor the Times-Picayune saw much prospect for economic success of this newfangled television and consequently returned their licenses. Years ago, *New Orleans* magazine carried an extended interview with an elderly New Orleans businessman who had achieved a great deal of success in life. The magazine asked him if he had any regrets at opportunities he missed and he replied right off that he had a license to build a television station in the postwar but didn't think there was much chance it would; he thought television to be a novelty and would never amount to much, and he returned the license. He said, and I paraphrase, "It was the biggest mistake I ever made and I regret it to this day. If I had kept that license it would be worth millions today."

I don't remember his name, which is just as well because I didn't know of him, so I have no idea which station it was—WRTV Channel 4 or WTPS-TV Channel 7.

If these two licensees had had the smarts, they'd have been quite wealthy today and New Orleans would have had at least three full-power VHF television stations from 1948 on:

WRTV Channel 4, which would have been ABC WDSU-TV Channel 6, which would have been NBC WTPS-TV Channel 7, which might have been CBS.

Interestingly, there is no record of the Jesuits' Loyola University applying in 1948 for a television station, at least I've never found it reported in *Broadcasting*. If they had applied, it could have been only Channel 10, and if they had received it, WWL-TV would have been the CBS station. (The Jesuits would later apply for the vacated Channel 4, and go head to head in a battle lasting years before the FCC with James A. Noe's WNOE 1060 AM, the Mutual affiliate, and the Times-Picayune, which had realized its egregious error of a few years before in returning a permit to build Channel 7.) That meant that WTPS-TV, if it had gotten on the air, would have been a DuMont Television Network affiliate. (DuMont was a pioneer in television and owned a handful of important stations; it died, however, in 1956 for reasons we shall see another day.)

Very, very few licensees returned their licenses without building a VHF television station. In only two cities, New Orleans and Peoria, did *two* licensees return their VHF permits because they didn't think television would be a success!

I don't know about Peoria, but those decisions back then in 1948 were a sign of what New Orleans was and is, a provincial city more Latin in social and economic matters than Anglo-Saxon.

Every television station in every city had to be crowded into 12 VHF channels. That might be of little interest to many readers, but the upshot was that in those early days people had only one or two channels to watch unless they lived in the biggest cities. If you lived in New York or Los Angeles, you had a whopping seven stations from which to choose; in Chicago, five. In many cities two or even three. If you lived in New Orleans, however, between 1948 and 1956 you had for practical reasons only one—WDSU.

There was no cable television. There were no satellite-delivered channels. What you could pick up off the air was what you watched, period.

This problem of (1) few channels available for stations was matched by two more major problems:

- (2) Most television stations ran only very few tens of kilowatts, if that many. An ad in the *Broadcasting Yearbook* for 1948 showed WDSU-TV in New Orleans boasting over 5,000 watts! That was more powerful than many AM radio stations, but many other radio stations matched or exceed that power. Low wattage meant the signal didn't get out very far. Add to that the fact that most towers were at best only a few hundred feet high. Powers today are greater by a minimum of 20 times up to 100 times.
- (3) Television sets of the day were inferior, far inferior to today's. They were not very good at picking up signals and even worse in separating one channel from another, and FM stations operating between 88 and 92 megacycles, just above channel 6 often caused them interference. To remedy this, people who lived relatively close in the city to the station's transmitter and antenna could pick up the signal more or less well with the famous old rabbit-ear antennas set atop their sets. But even these had to have their extension rods slid in and out to match the channel wavelength of the station watched, and often the "ears" had to be swiveled around with each channel change. Those living in suburbs and exurbs had to mount rooftop antennas, which is a difficult and dangerous task because the antenna atop a pole is exceedingly top heavy, and one had to avoid being pulled over the edge of the roof onto the ground or, worse, hitting power lines with the antenna. As to the top heaviness, I have had personal experience more than once! Trying to mount an antenna on a mast is a terrific challenge—and dangerous.

In many cities such as New Orleans, where two licensees returned their licenses after deciding not to build out their television stations because of the expensive undertaking and the thinking that television would never amount to much, the public would be stuck with one VHF channel for seven years and then, when the second came on the air, it was an educational station with insipid programs and a schedule than ran only six hours a day, 4 p.m. to 10 p.m.! (WYES then Channel 8). No, I am not making this up or exaggerating.

Some interesting facts about this time, back in 1948 through 1953.

—CBS and NBC had the bucks to build and experiment, and in cities like New York and Los Angeles, they built stations in the 1930's and so were well positioned to open up their stations to regular commercial programming on July 1, 1948.

New York: CBS channel 2, NBC channel 4 Los Angeles: CBS channel 2, NBC channel 4

Chicago: NBC channel 5. (CBS affiliation was picked up by an independent, pioneer operator, WBKB Channel 4; CBS would acquire the channel in 1953; the FCC at that time moved it to Channel 2.)

These low channels are in the low VHF band and because they are lower in frequency, get out farther than higher channels with the same power and antenna heights. Once again, money wins out.

—ABC (formerly the NBC Blue network) had seen the FCC move around frequencies, channels, and services across the spectrum, and because the demand for VHF frequencies for various two-way mobile radio services was so great, ABC expected that sooner or later the FCC would delete Channels 2 through 6, the entire low band VHF television spectrum, and give it to two-way mobile services. For that reason, ABC applied and got licenses only for the upper VHF band. Because these higher channels were not applied for right away in the rush for channels, they usually got Channel 7:

New York; WABC-TV channel 7 Los Angeles: KECA-TV channel 7 Chicago: WENR-TV channel 7

—Because of mileage separations required between stations on the same channel and stations on adjacent channels, the maximum amount of television stations that any metropolitan area could have was seven.

Only two cities had all seven possible channels assigned to them, and they had these early:

New York: 2, 4, 5, 7, 9, 11, 13 Los Angeles: 2, 4, 5, 7, 9, 11, 13

Chicago was originally assigned 2, 4, 5, 7, 9, 11, and 13, but the FCC would decide to remove channel 13 to Rockford, Illinois, in far north central Illinois, and that left the nation's perennial third largest market and metropolitan area with only 6 channels, and one of them would be designated for educational television (Channel 11). Commercial applications on file for Channels 11 and 13 were therefore dismissed. If I remember correctly, the Archdiocese of Chicago was one of the applicants for Channel 13.

- —Only in the very largest cities and not always there was the FCC usually able to assign three VHF channels so that the three major television networks—ABC, CBS, and NBC—would be available to viewers over local stations. In other cities, there could be only two such network affiliates and in smaller cities only one. You can see that the problem of a dire shortage of channel choices was acute. Viewers could only read about and hear about programs on the network(s) that weren't available locally. Many stations where one or two of the networks were not available would pick the best programs of each and transmit them either in prime time or off hours, but that required recordings, which were of poor quality back then. The video tape recorder did not appear on the scene until about 1962.
- —There was a fifth small network, Dumont Television Network, a pioneer in television and owner of important stations in New York, Washington, and Pittsburgh. In cities where Dumont was already situated, they continued, but it was difficult to enter new cities because of the shortage of channels. This proved a problem, too, to ABC-TV, then the very much junior of the networks. The two primary networks in viewer choices and ratings were NBC and CBS, and new stations preferred to affiliate with one or the other, even if their owned-and-operated local radio station was affiliated with another network. Thus, a local ABC radio affiliate if granted a television license would opt for either NBC or CBS if no other local television station was around. For some years ABC struggled to get into markets.
- —Many of us old-timers will remember the Mutual radio network. Unlike the other networks, which were owned by corporations (NBC, CBS) or a wealthy individual (ABC), Mutual was owned by the stations that put it together in 1935. The principal owners were therefore WOR New York, WGN Chicago, and the Don Lee Network in Los Angeles, based at KHJ. All three had their own television stations—WOR-TV channel 9 in New York, WGN-TV channel 9 in Chicago, and KHJ-TV channel 9 in Los Angeles. Was the fact that these potential Mutual TV stations were all on Channel 9? It's an intriguing question!

But Mutual television never got off the ground. A short article buried deep within the pages of a 1948 *Broadcasting* magazine reported Mutual executives saying that Mutual had plans for television "and these were well underway." Nothing, however, ever came of it.

Why did Mutual fail to enter television, which ultimately would lead to its lingering death a half-century later, when Mutual was so well positioned in the three major markets of New York, Los Angeles, and Chicago? I think the answer lay in the shortage of channels around the nation. If there was no way that the FCC could assign three channels for the other networks in every city of size, there was even less way that it could assign four channels in every city of size for Mutual's applications. In fact, in most cities it was impossible to find a fourth VHF channel. And, there was simply no way, José, for them to assign major cities *five* channels, for the five networks NBC, CBS, ABC, Dumont, and Mutual.

Remember, there were no cable television and no satellite television back then. It was over-the-air with rabbit ears or a rooftop antenna, or no television at all. That left at least one television network out in the cold in many a city, often two networks out in the cold. If there weren't enough vacant channels for would-be affiliates for operating networks to be granted a license, then there was no point in proceeding with a network.

The FCC had to come up with a solution. A dozen channels for all of America's television stations, actual, under construction, proposed, and planned, just wouldn't work. Hamstrung as it was by the lack of available VHF spectrum—everybody and his brother wanted to get in on mobile radio in the VHF spectrum—it eyed what then was a new frontier, a virgin wilderness fraught with all kinds of technical challenges: the Ultra High Frequencies, or UHF.

Back in 1941, when the FCC authorized commercial telecasting to the public, it designated, as we saw, 18 VHF channels and authorized experimental television in the UHF spectrum. (Later it took away 6 of those 18 channels, leaving only channels 2 through 13.)

Even though only a rather small number of television stations were on the air in 1948, the hundreds of applications filed for new stations by fall that year, often as many as four or five for each channel in the remaining big metropolitan areas, made it clear to everyone that twelve VHF channels weren't going to cut it. Therefore on September 30, 1948, the FCC announced that it would take no more applications for television stations until further announcement. It would use the ensuing interval to "freeze" existing applications, too, granting no new licenses, until it decided what to do.

That "freeze" ran from September 30, 1948, until April 14, 1952—a whopping three and a half years!

Why so long? Well, the FCC had to decide after consultation with various broadcasters, applicants, electronics equipment manufacturers, other government agencies, civic groups, and the like, how it was going to solve the problem. Mind you, there were not the sophisticated technologies we have today, such as multiplexing many signals atop a main signal.

Electronic equipment was not sophisticated, either. Everything ran off vacuum tubes, and though these had been brought to high efficiency, they still consumed great amounts of electricity, still gave off great amounts of heat, boiling their cathodes, grids, and anodes slowly into duds, baking everything inside the cabinetry and under the metal chassis into failure. Their efficiency and performance met the challenges of VHF operation with difficulty. There were no such things as transistors; the labs of AT&T were working on the idea, but nobody outside research heard of them and nobody could afford the terrific prices these would require back then if they had been available.

The solution that the FCC came up with after three and a half years was this: Add more channels, but add them in the UHF band. So, the FCC created Channels 14 through 83 over-the-air (OTA) UHF channels for new television stations. These channels would run from 470 megacycles to 890 megacycles, all the way up to the very frontier itself.

This was an enormous chunk of spectrum, but at the time nobody wanted it. Today that's not the case, but to go into this and the reasons would be tangent to what is at hand.

But "How come," you ask, "it took the FCC three and a half years to come up with this solution?"

The answer is simple. It had to be sure that the equipment—processors, transmitters, coaxial cable, television antennas—would be available and past the test stage. Remember, back in the late forties and early fifties UHF was virgin territory; no one had ever been there before except a few intrepid experimenters.

But what really would take all this time, almost four years, was the fact that the FCC had to assign each channel to each town in a meticulous, hand-done way. Today, once the program is written, this would take at best a few hours on a computer. Back then, each calculation had to be made by hand and checked and checked again. This was the age of the slide rule, not the computer.

What the FCC was taking into consideration in these calculations was avoiding mutual station

interference. This included

- (1) adequate separation between new UHF stations on the same channel in this new UHF band.
- (2) adequate separation between new UHF stations on immediately adjacent channels. For example, if Channel 26 is assigned to Big City, there can be no adjacent stations on Channels 25 and 27 for 55 miles.
- (3) And if this were not enough, the Commission had to take into consideration the internal frequency (IF) strip signal and the signals of the various picture and sound oscillators. Putting stations too close to each other would cause their signals "to beat together" inside every television receiver, creating spurious signals that made viewing and listening impossible. Explaining this is technical, but basically these internal oscillators generated internal frequencies inside television receivers that made it possible to tune each station without having to re-tune the local oscillators inside the set every time one changes the channel—as had to be done with primitive tube radio receivers back in the 1920's and early 1930's.

Taking all this into consideration had to be a monumental headache for the FCC staff that had to assign channels to every city of size. Just how complex it was can be seen in the back pages of the *Broadcasting Yearbook for 1953*, where the regulations and calculated technical mileage separation channels were produced in a table. (You can see this table at the excellent website www.americanradiohistory.com, and on page 338 at https://www.americanradiohistory.com/Archive-BC-YB/1953-TV/301-456-TV-YB-1953.pdf The preceding pages reproduce the entire 1953 Table of Channel Assignments.)

To take one channel for an example, supposing the FCC decided to assign UHF channel 39 to a given city. That eliminated assigning channels 47 and 31 because of the IF strip beat; channels 34-37 and 41-44 because of intermodulation, requiring a separation of 60 miles; channels 38 and 40 because they are adjacent (separation required of 55 miles), channels 46 and 32 because of the internal receiver oscillator (60 miles separation); channels 53 and 25 because of the audio oscillator (60 miles), and channels 54 and 24 because of the picture oscillator (also 60 miles). This meant that in that same city in which channel 39 was assigned, there could be no UHF stations on channels 24, 25, 31, 32, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 46, 47, 53, and 54! Try assigning UHF channels for every city of size just in your home state!

So it was that on April 14, 1952, the Commission, having done all the tedious calculations, announced the new Table of Channels that now included assigned UHF channels for any town or city of size, and opened it up to applications for new stations. That 1952 table contained some 2,000 vacant television channels assigned to 1,300 communities (some cities got more than one UHF channel). Included in those 2,000 channels were 242 educational channels, which is a topic we'll take up late.

The scene was set for spectacular growth of television in America. The solution had been found. But it hadn't.

 $A\Omega$

CATHOLIC BLOW TORCHES: 50,000 WATTS OF AM POWER

This past week, I was asked if I knew offhand how many 50,000-watt Catholic radio stations there were. Offhand I did not know, but I went over the list of stations I keep current. I found eight. These are all 50,000-watts daytime; there are no 50,000-watt day and night Catholic stations. The licensee is indicated.

KCRN Colorado Springs (Limon); testing KIHU Salt Lake City KRCN Denver KYES Rockville (St Cloud), Minnesota WCFO Atlanta WMET Washington WQOM Boston WWJZ Philadelphia Catholic Radio Network, Inc.
Immaculate Heart Media
Catholic Radio Network, Inc.
Immaculate Heart Media
Atlanta Catholic Radio, Inc.
La Promesa Foundation
Holy Family Communications (Buffalo)
Immaculate Heart Media

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