

Pacific's New Microwave Relay Stations Commence Operations

A simple change over in "patching cords" at the Medford, Eugene, and Portland offices of Pacific Telephone and Telegraph company at midnight last night took television off the coaxial cable and put in into the air on microwaves.

The switch marked the beginning of operations of nine microwave relay stations constructed within the past year between Ashland and Oregon City.

From now on, the three channels of network television that are constantly broadcast up and down the coast carrying NBC, CBS and ABC programs, will be beamed through the air on microwaves from San Diego to Seattle.

Completes Link
Last night's switch putting Oakland-to-Portland television on microwave transmission completed the last link in Pacific Telephone and Telegraph's west

coast microwave television transmission system.

What this means to Medford is that there is now a small gray building and steel ribbed tower with four antennas on top of Baldy mountain, about 6.7 air miles southeast of the city.

The building and tower with equipment, the grounds, and the road to the structure represents an investment of approximately \$500,000.

Electrical Equipment
Inside the building are rows of gray panels of electrical equipment. The tower outside is a square, squat structure, on top of which are four microwave antennas.

The antennas are shaped like oversized television picture tubes. Two face south, and two north, a receiving and transmitting antenna for each direction. As far as local TV viewers are concerned, there probably

will be no noticeable difference in picture quality, and program scheduling will be unaffected.

Instead of being taken off the coaxial cable, KBES-TV programs will now be taken off the three microwave channels by a special, smaller fifth antenna at the Baldy mountain station and transmitted to the Medford office of Pacific Telephone and Telegraph.

Same Route
From there they will go the same route presently traveled—by video cable to KBES-TV studios on Crater Lake highway, by the television station's own small microwave system to the transmitter on Blackwell hill, and out to all the receiver sets in the valley.

Eight other relay stations constructed in Oregon bring the total cost of the overall project to \$4,000,000.

The coaxial cables which have transmitted television from Oakland to Portland, or at least two "tubes" of them, will now be put into service as long distance telephone lines. Each one will be a path for a maximum of 600 voices.

Operated Unattended
All the Oregon relay stations are operated unattended. Alarm systems allow persons in central offices, for instance the one at Sixth and Bartlett sts. in Medford, to know immediately if something goes wrong at a station.

Failure in one of the three channels causes automatic equipment to switch the TV picture to the single standby channel in 28/1000 of a second. Should commercial power fail, a diesel generator will be activated, standard equipment at all the stations.

Oregon relay stations are located at Siskiyou summit (Ashland), Baldy mountain (Medford), King mountain (Roseburg), Mt. Nebo (Roseburg), Harness mountain (Cottage Grove), Blanton Hill (Eugene), Peterson Butte (Albany), Silverton (Salem) and Carver (Oregon City).



MICROWAVE ANTENNA — Pacific Telephone and Telegraph company's new microwave relay station on top of Baldy mountain, southeast of Medford, was put into operation at midnight last night. It was the last link in the company's San Diego-to-Seattle system

for relaying network television programs along the west coast. The switch to the microwave relay stations relieved a coaxial cable which will be used for additional long distance telephone conversations. —(Brainard's Photo.)

\$50,000 Project Started On Coaxial Cable in State

A \$50,000 project along the coaxial cable route from Eugene south to the California state line is underway by the Pacific Telephone and Telegraph company, Medford Manager J. H. Creager said today.

The project is aimed at preventing damage to the vital long distance telephone route should next winter be severe.

Directing the preventive operations against a severe winter is Howard J. Boyd, Eugene district plant superintendent for Pacific Telephone.

Walk Every Mile
During the next two months telephone construction crews

will walk every mile of the cable route between Eugene and the summit of the Siskiyou. This will be in addition to regular patrols along the cable.

Enroute they will make sure the cable is buried deep enough to protect it from damage. They will also be rebuilding and repairing small drainage ditches and clearing debris, and watch for signs of slides or erosion.

"It is a rehabilitation job," Boyd said, "to take care of situations that developed as a result of last winter's heavy rains, and get ready for this winter."

Major Repairs
At the same time the telephone crews are checking the cable, Hamilton and Thoms, Eugene contractors, will be working at 14 locations along the route which require major repairs.

Crews and equipment will be burying the cable deeper, re-routing it around slides and installing new drainage systems where they are needed.

Locations in which contractors are scheduled to be working include Cedar creek on London mountain near Cottage Grove; the North Fork of the Umpqua river south of Sutherlin; on Gazley mountain near Myrtle Creek; near Canyonville; on the Fortune branch near Azalea; at Gall's creek near Central Point; and in the Siskiyou mountains south of Ashland.

Jackson Warns on Russian Strength

Washington — (U.P.) — Sen. Henry M. Jackson, firing back at Adm. Arthur W. Radford, said today the United States is in danger of underestimating, rather than overestimating, Russian military power.

The Washington Democrat took issue with a charge by Radford that critics of the administration's defense policies have been making "an almost hysterical assumption" about Soviet military capabilities.

Jackson denied that Democrats have been relying on any "hysterical assumptions" in claiming the United States is in danger of losing air supremacy to Russia. In fact, he said, in an interview, the tendency in the past has been to underestimate Soviet military developments.

"We underestimated the Soviets on the A-bomb, the H-bomb, and the Soviet rate of production of long range bombers," he said. One indication of this, he said, is that the United States recently stepped up B52 intercontinental bomber production over original plans.

Radford, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, made his charge in secret testimony before the Senate Armed Services Subcommittee on air power. The testimony was released Tuesday night.

Crown Zellerbach Reports on Income

San Francisco — (U.P.) — Crown Zellerbach Corporation has reported a record net income of \$25,000,000 for the first half of 1956, a 21 per cent increase over the same period of last year.

The company said the 1956 figure excludes a \$24,500,000 net gain of disposition of the firm's Fibreboard investment. The income for the first six months amounted to \$1.75 a share on common stock, compared to \$1.45 a share for the same period of 1955.

Lions President Sees 'Age of Fast Buck'

Charlotte, N.C. — (U.P.) — John Stickley, president of Lions International, said Tuesday he was living in the "age of the fast buck and mink coat."

"Many people have come to view with indifference immorality in government, business and life," Stickley told a civic club here.

He said maintenance of morality is a challenge facing all service clubs.

Two Salem Men Indicted on Sale Of Obscene Books

Salem — (U.P.) — Marion county grand jurors have indicted two Salem men for selling indecent literature in what District Attorney Kenneth Brown believes is the first such indictment in Oregon history.

Indicted after four days of hearings were Claude Cummings, 48, operator of the Salem News Agency and Jack H. St. Claire, 34, operator of the American News Agency.

The men are the chief distributors of magazines and paper-back books in Marion county. They were released on \$500 bail.

"We have been greatly shocked and amazed," the grand jury report said, "by the indecent and obscene publications sold to the youth of our various communities over the counters of many news stands throughout the county."

The grand jury said the problem was also state and national in scope, but that they wanted to make a start by enforcing present laws in the county.

The investigation resulted from complaints of Salem-area citizens led by Mrs. John Pfeifer, a Silverton housewife and the mother of two sons.

Following the grand jury hearing, Mrs. Pfeifer announced plans for the formation of a citizens committee to control the decency of publications sold in the county.

Kefauver's Backers Surprised at Action

Portland — (U.P.) — Oregon backers of Sen. Estes Kefauver's bid for the Democratic presidential nomination today expressed surprise at the senator's withdrawal from the race.

Head of Kefauver's campaign in Oregon have been County Commissioner Jack Bain and Attorney William L. Josselin. They immediately predicted that Adlai Stevenson, the man to whom the Tennessee senator threw this support, would be elected on the first ballot and that Kefauver will be chosen for the vice presidential slot on the party ticket.

Bain, an Oregon delegate to the national convention, said he will actively work on the convention floor to secure the vice presidential nomination for Kefauver.

The Tennessee senator's withdrawal will not affect the voting of Oregon's 16 delegates at the Democratic national convention. In the Oregon May primary, Stevenson's decisive victory over Kefauver assured him the state's votes.

Artificial dairy breeding association members in North Dakota have produced nearly 50,000 artificially sired heifers that are or soon will be producing milk.

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