WTOM-TV

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Form BC 126 PROG.TEST AUTH.5-13-59
June 1954

4

COMM. TV B/C

BROADCASTING STATION LICENSE RECORD

MBSA

WTOM-TV EFF: 3-16-59

Date first licensed 6-19-59(Official No.480) Call letters X-WBUC-TV

Station location CHEBOYGAN, MICHIGAN

WPBN-TV & WTOM-TV, INC. (BALCT-626, grted. 4-14-77, EFF: 5-6-77)

Name of licensee XMIDWESTERN BROADCASTING COMPANY

Transmitter location U.S. Route 23, 6.7 miles east of center of Cheboygan, nr.Cheboygan,Michiga

Main studio location U.S.Route 23,6.7 miles east of center of Cheboygan,near Cheboygan,Michigan

CONSTRUCTION PERMIT AND LICENSE RECORD

Appl. No.	Date Issued	Freq.	Power	Time Div.	Period From- To-
BPCT-1992	7-23-58	CH #4	V-21.9kw	U	9-23-58
AH: 650'		66-72	A-11.2 kw		3-23-59
CP for a new Comm. TV B/C Station.					
BMPCT-5189	10-13-58	CH # 4	V-21.3kw	U	9-23-58
AH:660'		66-72	A-11 kw		3-23-59
Mod. of CP(BPCT-1992) chg. type ant. & other equip. ant. hght					
BMPCT-5272	3-19-59	CH # 4	V-21.3 kw	U	9-23-58
AH: 660'		66-72	A-11 kw		9-23-59
Mod. of CP (BPCT-1922,as mod)to extend completion date and change of call letters to WTOM-TV					
BMPCT-5293	4-23-59	CH #4	V-26.9 kw	U	9-23-58
AH: 620'		66-72	A-16.2 kw		10-24-59
Mod. CP (BPCT-1992, as mod) to chg. ERP,Antenna system, correct geographical co-ordinates,AH.					
WIRE	5-13-59	RELETATTY 8 & LIC. APPL. BLCT-934,AUTH.			
GR. OPR. WTOM-TV ON PROGRAM TEST ACCORD. SECTION 3.629 RULES & CP BMPCT-5293. ADVISE.					
BLCT-934	6-19-59	CH# 4	V-26.9kw	U	6-19-59
AH:620'		66-72	A-16.2kw	(MSL:1290')	10-1-61
Lic. to cover CP(BPCT-1992 as mod)Auth. a new Comm.TV.B/CStn					
BPCT-2717	12-9-59	CH#4	V-100kw	U	2-9-60
AH:620'		66-72mcs.	A-50 kw	MSL:1290'	8-9-60
CP to change ERP, type transmitters & equipment					
WIRE	6-28-60	RELETATTY 24 AND LICENSE APPLICATION			
BLCT-1047. AUTHORITY GRANTED OPERATE WTOM-TV ON PROGRAM TEST ACCORDANCE SECTION 3.629 RULES AND CONSTRUCTION PERMIT BPCT-2717 AND SUBJECT TO COMPLIANCE WITH SECTION 3.640 RULES. ADVISE WHEN OPERATION COMMENCES UNDER THIS AUTHOR.					
ACTION ON RENEWAL DEFERRED 9-27-61					
BTC-3920	12-22-61	VOLUNTARY Acquisition of positive control of licensee corporation by Low Biederman thru purchase of stock from Edward Biederman. EFF: 12-26-61.			
BRCT-480	2-14-62	same	same	same	2-14-62 10-1-64
RENEWAL OF LICENSE					
BLCT-1047	7-25-63	CH.#4	V-100 kw	U	7-25-63
AH:620' MSL:1290'		66-72	A- 50 kw		10-1-64
License to cover CP (BPCT-2717)which auth.an increase inERP chg. type of transmitte					

Form BC 126
June 1964
CARD #2

COMM. TV B/C

BROADCASTING STATION LICENSE RECORD

Date first licensed _____

Call letters WTOM-TV

Station location _____

Name of licensee MIDWESTERN BROADCASTING COMPANY

Transmitter location SEE CARD #1

Main studio location SEE CARD #1

CONSTRUCTION PERMIT AND LICENSE RECORD

WTOM-TV

Appl. No.	Date Issued	Freq.	Power	Time Div.	Period From- To-
BRCT-480	10-9-64	same	same	same	10-9-64
		RENEWAL	OF LICENSE		10-1-67
BMLCT-506	2-28-66	same	same A-20 kw	same	2-28-66 10-1-67
Mod of Lic. to reduce aural ERP					
BRCT-480 AH: 620'	9-15-67 MSL:1290'	CH-4 66-72	V-100 kw A-20	U	10-1-67 10-1-70
RENEWAL OF	LICENSE	RENEWAL OF NDEA			
BRCT-480	9-30-70	same	same	same	10-1-73
	NDEA	RENEWAL	OF LICENSE	(S)	
EBSA	5-15-72				
BRCT-480	9-27-73	RENEWAL	OF LICENSE	(S)	10-1-73 10-1-76
Wire difficulties auth. grtd. WTOM-TV remain silent temp. per. end. 6-21-74, subj. to subsequent filing written certification that tower lighting is being maintained. No objection operating WPBN-TV as requested during this per. Req. for extn. this auth. if nec. should be filed in accord with requirements of Sects. 1.542 & 1.513 of Rules. Advise when normal oper. resumed. (Resumed 5-28-74 per ltr.5-28-74)	5-22-74	Pending resolution personnel			
BRCT-480	9-22-76	RENEWAL	OF LICENSE	(L)	10-1-79
BALCT-626	4-14-77	Voluntary assignment of license.			
BSCT-480	7-18-77	Chg. type transmitter.			10-1-79
BRCT-790601KT	9-12-79	RENEWAL	OF LICENSE	(S)	10-1-82

Card # 1

Comm TV B/C

FORM A-170
FORMERLY FCC FORM 94

APPLICATION RECORD - BROADCASTING

Call Letters WBDG-TV

Name MIDWESTERN BROADCASTING COMPANY
(P.O. Paul Bunyan Building, Traverse City, Michigan)

File No.	Dated	(Station Location: Cheboygan, Mich.) Application for	Action Nature	Action Date
BPCT-1992 Recd & filed	6-17-55 6-20-55	CP for a new comm TV b/c station; Freq: Ch # 4, 66-72 Mcs. ERP: Vis. 5.16 kw, Aur. 2.58 kw Hours of Operation: Unlimited T-L: US Route # 23, 6.7 miles East of center of Cheboygan, near Cheboygan, Michigan S-L: US Route # 23, 6.7 miles East of center of Cheboygan, near Cheboygan, Michigan (Vis & Aur. RCA-TT-2AL) (434) Filed by Alfred C. Cordon, Jr. Atty. (Dual programming with WPEM-TV)	GRANTED Docket #	7-23-58 11508 DECISION
Amended 9-26-55 Recd & filed 9-26-55		Amended to change ERP from Vis. 5.16 kw, Aur. 2.58 kw, to Vis. 21.3 kw, Aur. 11 kw, change type of transmitters and antenna, antenna height above average terrain from 434' to 652' and make other equipment changes. (RCA-TT-5A) Filed by Alfred C. Cordon, Jr. Atty.		

F.C.C. - WASHINGTON, D. C.

WALTER L. DAVIS, ENGR.

FORM BC-121 #2
Aug. 1955

APPLICATION RECORD - BROADCASTING

COMM. TV B/C

Call Letters WTOM-TV off; 3-16-59 ~~WBDC-TV~~

Name MIDWESTERN BROADCASTING COMPANY
Cheboygan, Michigan

File No.	Dated	Application for	Action Nature	Action Date
BMPCT-5189 Recd.&filed	9-16-58 9-17-58	Mod. of CP (BPCT-1992,which auth. a new Comm TV B/C Sta.) to change type of antenna and other equipment and antenna height above average terrain to 659'. Filed by A.C. Cordon,Jr.Atty.	GRANTED	10-13-58
BMPCT- 5272 Received AMENDED Rec.& filed	not dated 2-5-59 2-28-59 3-3-59	Mod. of CP (BPCT-1992,as mod.,which auth. a new Comm. TV B/C Sta.) to extend completion date from 3-23-59 to 9-23-59. Filed by A.C. Cordon, Jr.Atty.	GRANTED	3-19-59
BMPCT-5293 Recd & filed	3-14-59 3-25-59	Mod. of CP (BPCT-1992 as modified, which authorized a new Comm TV broadcast station) to change ERP: from Vis. 21.3 kw, Aur. 11 kw to Vis. 26.12 kw, Aur. 15.63 kw, make changes in antenna system and other equipment, correct geographic co-ordinates and change antenna height above average terrain to 619' Filed by Al Cordon, Atty. F.C.C. Washington, D. C.	GRANTED	4-28-59
AMENDED Recd & Filed	4-9-59 4-10-59	AMENDED to correct geographical coordinates		

FORM BC-121 Card # 3 APPLICATION RECORD - BROADCASTING Comm TV B/C
Aug. 1955

Call Letters WKZM-TV

Name MIDWESTERN BROADCASTING COMPANY
Cheboygan, Michigan

File No.	Dated	Application for	Action Nature	Action Date
BLCT-934 Recd & filed	5-8-59 5-11-59	License to cover construction permit (BPCT-1992 as modified) which authorized a new comm TV B/C station Filed by Al Cordon, Atty.	GRANTED	6-19-59
BPCT-2717 Rec.& filed	11-5-59 11-10-59	Construction permit to change ERP from Vis. 26.9 kw, Aur. 16.2 kw TO Vis. 100 kw, Aur. 50 kw; and change type transmitters from RCA TT-5A TO Dumont , Series 9000 (Vis & Aur.) Al Cordon-atty George C. Davis-engr.	GRANTED	12-9-59(Comm)
BLCT-1047 Rec.&filed	6-23-60 6-24-60	License to cover construction permit (BPCT-2717) which authorised an increase in ERP and a change in type of transmitter Al Cordon-atty	GRANTED	7-25-63
BRCT-480 Recd.&Filed	6-24-61 6-30-61	RENEWAL OF LICENSE Alfred C. Cordon,Jr.	GRANTED	2-14-62
BRCT-480 Recd& filed	3-13-64 3-16-64	RENEWAL OF LICENSE Alfred C. Cordon,Jr.Atty.	Rec.before fee req. GRANTED	fee req. 10-9-64

FORM BC-121 #4
Aug. 1955

APPLICATION RECORD - BROADCASTING

COMM.TV

Call Letters WTOM-TV

Name MIDWESTERN BROADCASTING COMPANY
CHEBOYGAN, MICHIGAN zip 49684

File No.	Dated	Application for	Action Nature	Action Date
BTC-3920 Recd.&Filed	12-2-61 12-8-61	Voluntary acquisition of positive control of licensee corporation by Les Biederman thru purchase of stock from Edward Biederman. Filed by Alfred C.Cordon, Jr.	GRANTED EFF: 12-26-61	12-22-61
BMLCT-506 R & F	2-4-66 2-7-66	Mod. of License to reduce Aural ERP from 50 kw to 20 kw Alfred C. Cordon, Jr. Atty.	GRANTED	2-28-66
BRCT-480 R & F JUL 19 1967	6-29-67 7-3-67	RENEWAL OF LICENSE RENEWAL OF NDEA Dow, Lohnes & Albertson, atty.	GRANTED	9-15-67
Alfred C. Cordon, Jr. now atty. per ltr. 4-16-69 Engr.data filed 6-29-70				
BRCT-480 R & F #613902 $150 PRESS: PN REC'D:	6-2-70 7-2-70 7-2-70 JUL 28 1970 7-2-70	Renewal of license. Atty.: Cordon and Jacob Amended 8-13-70 re commercial practices	GRANTED	9-30-70

F.C.C. - WASHINGTON, D. C.

#5 COMM. TV

Form BC-121
September 1969

APPLICATION RECORD - BROADCASTING

Call Letters W T O M - T V

Name WPBN-TV & WTOM-TV, INC.
XMIDWESTERN BROADCASTING COMPANY
CHEBOYGAN, MICHIGAN zip 49684

C#4

File No.	Dated	Application for	Action Nature	Action Date
10-2-70 Annual fee $160. paid. Only one fee required for WTOM-TV--WPBN-TV. The latter is a satellite station of WTOM-TV.				
BRCT-480 R & F PN Recd. Press: JUL 1 9 1973	6-8-73 6-29-73 6-29-73	RENEWAL OF LICENSE Cordon & Jacob, atty. Amended 8-21-73 re other business interests	GRANTED	9-27-73
BRCT-480 R&F PN RECD PRESS	5-24-76 5-27-76 5-27-76 1 4 JUL 1976	RENEWAL OF LICENSE (Cordon & Jacob) (323's & Program logs filed with WPBN-TV) Amended 9-1-76 re problems & needs Amended 9-15-76 re programming	GRANTED [illegible]	9-22-76 9-22-76
BALCT-626 R&F PRESS (FORM 316)	3-3-77 3-7-77 MAR 1 4 1977	Voluntary assignment of license to WPBN-TV & WTOM-TV, Inc. Atty.: Alfred C. Cordon, Jr. (Cordon and Jacob) Ltr. 5-21-74 req. auth. remain silent - to Martin 5-24	GRANTED EFF:	4-14-77 5-6-77

F.C.C. - WASHINGTON, D.C.

Form BC-12 CARD #6
May 1976

COMMERCIAL TV

APPLICATION RECORD - BROADCASTING

Call Letters WTOM-TV

Name WPBN-TV & WTOM-TV, INC.
CH-4 CHEBOYGAN, MI

File No.	Dated	Application for	Action Nature	Action Date
BTCTV-790507KO R & F PRESS: PN REC'D: (Form 315)	5-4-79 5-7-79 6-1-79 6-8-79	Voluntary transfer of control of licensee corporation from Lester M. Biederman, William H. Kiker, Drew McClay and Gertrude M. Zierle, to United States Tobacco Company. Attys.: Transferor-Cordon and Jacob Transferee-Benjamin Griffin (Pierson, Ball & Dowd)	EFF:	1-4-80
BRCT 790601KT R & F PN REC'D PRESS	5-24-79 6-1-79 6-1-79 6-1-79 79 07 20	RENEWAL OF LICENSE ATTY: ALFRED C. CORDON (CORDON & JACOB)	g GRANTED	9-14-79 9-12-79

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.