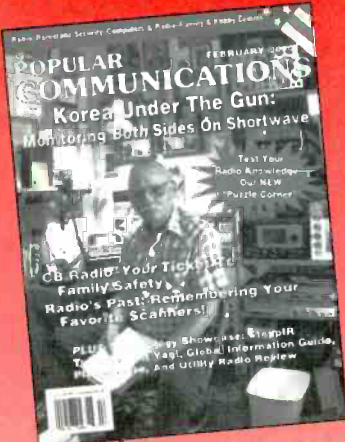


If you enjoy radio communications you'll love....

POPULAR COMMUNICATIONS



The World's most authoritative monthly magazine for Shortwave Listening and Scanner Monitoring. Read by more active listeners world-wide.

SUBSCRIBE TODAY!

POPULAR COMMUNICATIONS

25 Newbridge Road, Hickville, NY 11801

SAVE UP TO 58%

Get fast home delivery of *Popular Communications* and save \$30.93 a year over the newsstand price. Save even more on 2 or 3 year subs.

- 1 year - 12 issues **\$28.95**
(Save \$30.93)
- 2 years - 24 issues **\$51.95**
(Save \$67.81)
- 3 years - 36 issues **\$74.95**
(Save \$104.69)

Canada/Mexico—One year \$38.95, two years \$71.95, three years \$104.95; Foreign Air Post—one year \$48.95, two years \$91.95, three years \$134.95.

Payable in US dollars only

Name _____

Street _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

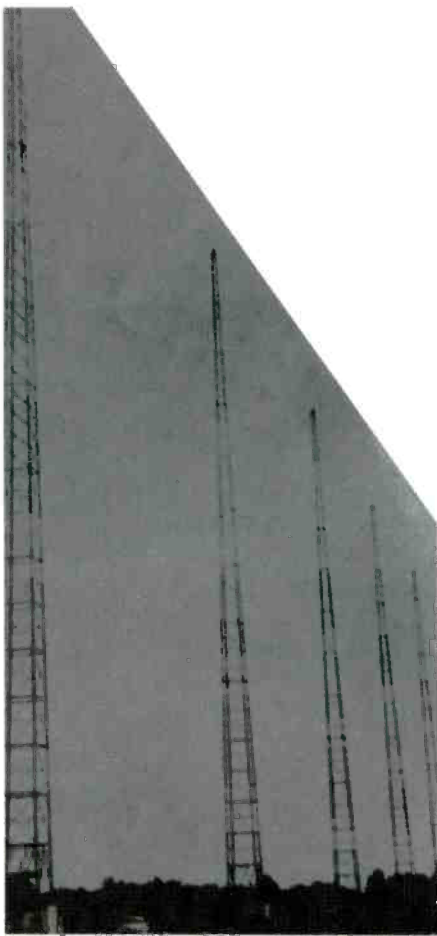
Bill to Mastercard • VISA
• AMEX • Discover

Account number: _____

Exp. date: _____

Note: Allow 6-8 weeks for delivery of first issue.

FAX 516-681-2926



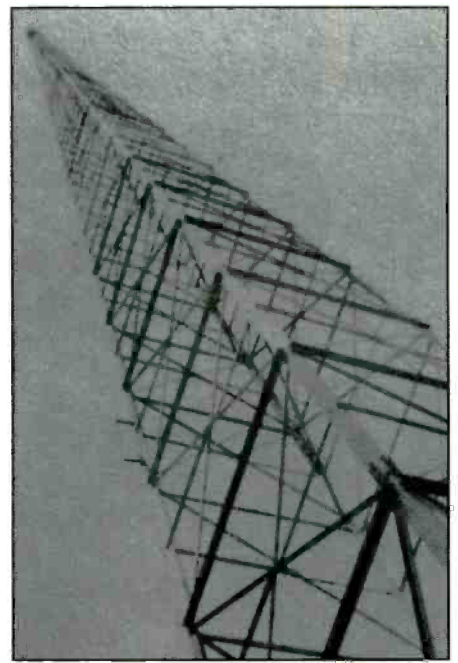
Here are the culprits! Six square-base Blaw-Knox towers were erected to properly distribute WXXW's 10 kW signal. Because they failed to keep from affecting the coverage of Boston's WHDH, they were only allowed to be active for a short time. In the "doghouse" of tower #3 was a flea-power (15-watt) transmitter that the FCC required WXXW to briefly substitute for its main transmitter several times daily.

main [10-kW] carrier for 10 seconds and switch on a 15 watt transmitter at the base of the #3 tower. Battery-powered receivers at the three monitoring points were then switched on by timers, and a battery powered strip chart recorder at each point ran off a tracing of the [main] 10 kW and then of the 15 watts non-directional."

Understandably, all the testing and resulting antenna phasing trial and error adjustments added up to a frustrating procedure that never seemed to satisfy the accusing stations and really annoyed listeners and advertisers who wondered why WXXW kept cutting out everyday.

On The Critical List

Though KOA's Schenectady-instigated complaints presented problems,



Simply labeled "tower number six," this picture from the WXXW 850 files was probably proudly snapped shortly after the big Albany station's antenna array was erected circa 1947. An eagle eye can spot something that looks like a towel rack about one-quarter of the way up the "stick's" left leg. That's one of the "sampling loops" used for antenna current measurements.

WXXW's most ardent detractor was obviously the closest co-channel "neighbor": WHDH. It kept Commission officials from upgrading the WXXW "Program Test Authority" Construction Permit to an actual station license.

Such a stressful limbo ultimately took the wind out of the WXXW ownership's sails. By late 1952, rumors began spreading through the Albany region broadcast community that 'XKW was technically on its last legs. Some remember hearing that, in order to quit throwing good money after bad, the station had abandoned its swanky downtown digs and set up in a small transmitter site studio.

Still the Capitol District's ABC Network outlet, WXXW must have surprised its remaining listeners on the last day of July, 1953, when an announcer indicated that the station was about to cease operation. Seconds later, a disappointed WXXW engineer clicked off the big RCA transmitter for a final time. Seldom had such a major AM broadcasting facility given up the ghost in such a short time.

Included with the returned WXXW authorization was an explanatory letter to