

Jim Palleschi, one of WXXW's staff of at least six engineers, puts a few fingers on a patch bay cord plug to pose for this publicity shot. In fact, he and his colleagues all had their hands full trying to make WXXW's directional antenna pattern keep other stations on 850 kilocycles from complaining. The paper protruding from the typewriter (lower right) contained a record of all program matter—such as individual commercials—as logged by those busy technicians.



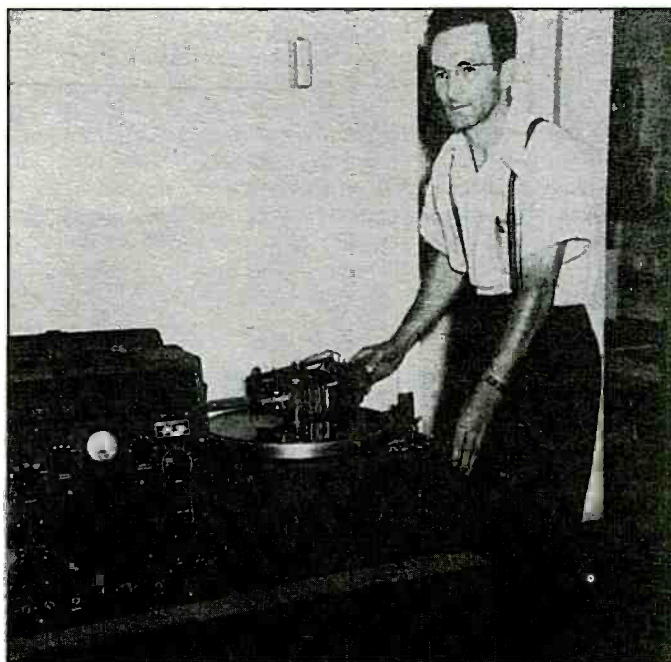
Host of WXXW's "850 Club," DJ Bill Chambrun spun pop tunes week-day afternoons. Using the era's vernacular, he called his program of recorded music a "platter show." Most disc jockeys of the late 1940s/early '50s strove for a "wild and crazy about playing lots of personally selected pop records" image. That's why Chambrun is mugging an incredulous look while posing with a lapful of an unrealistic number of "platters." Yes, those are 78-rpm discs!

the FCC citing (as indicated by *Broadcast Pro-File*) "chronic interference with WHDH Boston."

A TV CP Provides The Way Out

With no sister to provide lodging and programming, WRWR-FM (by then, WXXW-FM) bit the dust too. There was also the matter of an authorization for a yet unbuilt WXXW-TV. The Channel 23 UHF construction permit had recently been secured by Champlain Valley Broadcasting with high hopes for expansion, and it was earmarked by ABC to televise its fledgling video network shows. Even in the early 1950s, UHF frequencies were at a premium in the Albany market, as the FCC had only allocated a single VHF channel there, and that one was held by GE's WRGB-TV.

Fortunately, WXXW-TV provided WXXW principal Stephen Rintoul with a way to retrieve something from his sunken media venture. Another large and rather new Albany AM, WPTR, and a group it had been battling in order to acquire a mutually exclusive UHF-TV (Channel 35) construction permit, joined forces to offer Rintoul \$300,000 for WXXW's physical assets and the Channel 23 television CP. With the proposed WXXW-TV out of the way, that would give both of the previously warring Albany television applicants a channel. The resulting WPTR-TV 23 never hit the air, but WTRI-TV 35 evolved from the deal and eventually morphed into Albany's present day WNYT (TV) 13. Meantime, Mr. Rintoul quickly showed up as WPTR's new General Manager.



In a downtown Albany WXXW studio, engineer Paul Krutz runs a cutting lathe that is recording a program for later broadcast. A year or so after WXXW signed on, companies like Magnecorder and Ampex began marketing tape recorders that made radio station disc transcribing machines obsolete.