

# WCAU PLANS NEW STUDIO BUILDING

Plans for the first radio and television center to be erected in this country exclusively for television and sound broadcasting were announced recently by WCAU, the 50,000 watt CBS affiliate in Philadelphia. Costing \$2,000,000, the center is expected to be completed, even to a specially constructed landing field on the roof for helicopters which will be used for television broadcasting from outside points, in December, 1947. At this time the present building and facilities will be abandoned.

John G. Leitch, technical supervisor of WCAU since 1929, is in charge of plans for the new WCAU center. Mr. Leitch has just returned after four years with the Navy, where he served as a commander. In 1932 Mr. Leitch supervised the planning and construction of the present WCAU Building, which at the time of its completion was the finest and most modern radio station building in the world. The new building will dwarf the present one in size and facilities and will, of course, provide facilities for FM and Television—neither of which were even dreamed of when the present building was planned.

The plot on which the new WCAU building will be erected takes up 81,756 square feet, an entire city block, on Philadelphia's famed Broad Street with the main building of the center a four-story structure, 252 feet by 207 feet, built of limestone and stainless steel. Piercing the city's skyline will be a television and FM tower extending 612 feet above ground level, more than 70 feet above the famed William Penn statue atop Philadelphia's City Hall, the highest building in the city.

The main floor will have two large showrooms and a 500-seat auditorium for both sound and television broadcasting. The seating will be horseshoe style with two stages that will raise and lower by hydraulic pressure, one directly in front of the other. The first stage will be located in the center of the horseshoe and can be raised independently. This will enable television cameras to move all around it so that the action on the stage, as well as the audience, can be televised. The stage directly in back can also be raised independently and join the forward stage for larger settings when necessary.

(Right)—Architect's drawing of the radio and television center which will be erected by WCAU, the 50,000-watt CBS affiliate in Philadelphia.

There will also be a large television studio which will permit the setting up of several sets at one time so that action can be swung from one camera to another. This studio will have a sound-proof collapsible partition so that it can be divided into two sections if necessary. Also included are rehearsal studios for television, film projection rooms, dressing rooms, carpenter shop, paint shop and property storage space.



Commander John G. Leitch

The other part of the building will contain seven broadcasting studios, administrative offices and the latest facilities to be found in a modern radio and television center, including lounges for employees and artists, music library, news room, special writers' rooms and audition rooms, and many other facilities. All studios will have the latest development in acoustics with a combination of polycylindrical construction and adjustable vanes.

