

WIOD's Western Electric 5 KW transmitter. Associate equipment includes the 1126A Amplifier — new star performer in the broadcasting field.

On an Island Built to Order WIOD Installs a 5 KW Transmitter

BUILDING a transmitter for an island is nothing particularly unusual. But when an island is built for a transmitter that's a "man-bites-dog" story, likely to flash into print in any newspaper. Such a story broke not so long ago down in Miami, Florida, when WIOD engineers planned and supervised the building of a little jewel of an isle in Biscayne Bay.

The spot of bay bottom purchased by the Isle of Dreams Broadcasting Company lies in the northern portion of the bay adjacent to the 79th Street Causeway. Since sea water is known to be the best conductor of radio waves, WIOD's new Western Electric 5 KW transmitter and directional antenna rest upon as fine a foundation as can be found in the country.

Talk to any of the engineers who fashioned the man-made island and they will tell you that to sink steel into solid bedrock beneath water is no mean engineering feat. After constructing a retaining sea wall, over 10,000 cubic yards of fill were dumped to form what is now known as Cameo Island. On the island an ultra-modern transmitter building was erected, embodying all the

beauty peculiar to Florida architecture, yet strong enough to withstand the gale force of tropical storms likely to whirl around the Caribbean area.

Looking more like a tropical home than a broadcasting station in its setting of palms and shrubs, the new WIOD transmitter building belies its newness and the fact that it has been recently completed on land which did not exist so long ago. The screw pines, oleanders and yuccas surrounding the structure seem to have sprung up as miraculously as the island itself.

The 320-foot Blaw-Knox towers of the directive antenna array were placed off-shore on foundations resting on the bedrock of the bay. Here is the perfect take-off for radiated signals — five times the former power, say the engineering experts.

The designing of this "seagoing" broadcasting station presented a number of difficult engineering problems, but the competent engineering staff, headed by M. C. Scott, Jr., did a job that will be recognized as one of the country's best.

The installation of the ground system, for instance, touched on an un-

usual angle in that the radials were "plowed in" with a boat. Altogether 240 radials — 120 from each tower — were attached to sash weights and dropped overboard.

Another unique feature arising from the station's island position is that the operators taking meter readings at the towers must wear life preservers. They don't claim to have become deep sea divers as yet, but they certainly have gone a bit nautical since the station set up housekeeping at this unusual location.

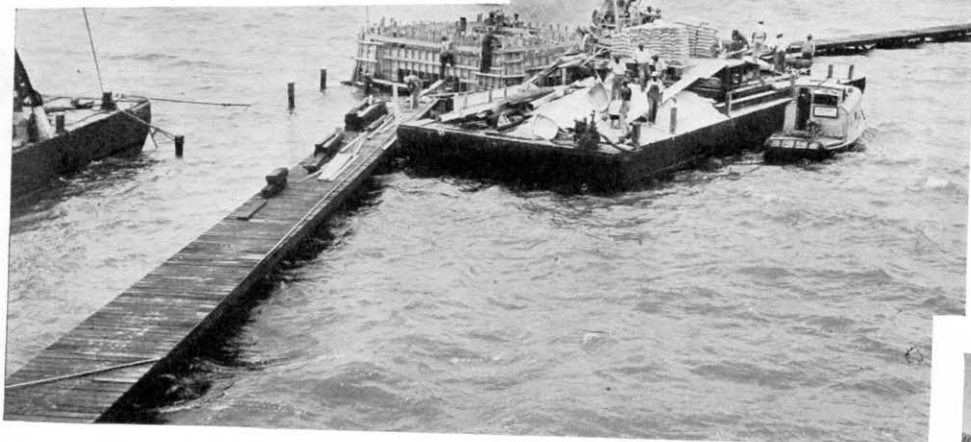
Practically 100 per cent Western Electric, the new transmitting system includes a 5 KW 405B-1 transmitter, 33 type control unit, 2A phase monitor and the 1126A program amplifier. This last named unit, although on the market but a comparatively short time, has already won a name for itself in the broadcasting field.

Organized in 1926, WIOD has been a recognized leader in the state of Florida since its inception. It was the first station in the State to raise power to 1000 watts and the first to bring listeners of this area a network program.

WIOD



miami



To build a foundation for WIOD's transmitter towers steel had to be sunk into solid bedrock beneath the waters of Biscayne Bay.

Upper right: Fishing? No indeed, they are plowing in radials — Engineer Fred Clark is about to toss one overboard attached to a sash weight. In this nautical manner 240 radials were laid.

Right: Scene behind the scenes in WIOD's new transmitter room showing set-up of Western Electric power supply equipment.

Left: The man-made isle in Biscayne Bay — it took 10,265 cubic yards of fill for the foundation. Miami skyline forms a backdrop.

Where the "Isle of Dreams Broadcasting Company" broadcasts from an Isle of Dreams — what a setting for the new 5 KW transmitter!

