COLOR TELEVISION

The first organized work of Zenith engineers on color television started in 1940, at which time all necessary VHF transmitter, receiver and studio equipment, including direct pickup cameras, were constructed in the Zenith laboratories. Experimental work continued with this equipment until all experimentation ceased because of the war. The first color broadcasts in Chicago were transmitted over Zenith's VHF station in 1940 and 1941.

In November, 1945, experimental work was resumed on the pre-war color equipment, and color broadcasting was resumed in 1946 on the new UHF transmitter equipment built in the Zenith laboratories. Before the National Television Standards Committee was established in 1950, Zenith's color equipment utilized the field sequential system. Other Chicago manufacturers used Zenith's color transmission for their own color experiments, no other color signals being available in Chicago up to then.

Zenith built several sets of color signal generating equipment in 1950. One set was delivered to The Rauland Corporation for use in testing color picture tubes which they were developing. Another set of equipment also utilized the multiplexing equipment and was later used by the NTSC for developing color television standards. These standards ultimately incorporated many of the principles of Zenith's multiplexing equipment.

In the fall of 1950 Zenith was transmitting the NTSC type color signals. By then it had become apparent that the CBS field sequential system was not practical and Zenith's entire efforts were thereafter devoted to the
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Courtesy of Al Anderson