

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION  
Washington, D.C. 20549

FORM 8-K  
CURRENT REPORT

Pursuant to Section 13 or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange  
Act of 1934.

Date of report (Date of earliest event reported) October 9, 1997

THE E. W. SCRIPPS COMPANY  
(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

Ohio 33-43989 31-1223339  
(State or other jurisdiction of (Commission File Number) (I.R.S. Employer  
incorporation or organization) Identification Number)

312 Walnut Street  
Cincinnati, Ohio 45202  
(Address of principal executive offices) (Zip Code)

Registrant's telephone number, including area code: (513) 977-3000

Not Applicable  
(Former name, former address and former fiscal year, if  
changed since last report.)

THE E. W. SCRIPPS COMPANY

INDEX TO CURRENT REPORT ON FORM 8-K DATED OCTOBER 9, 1997

Item No.	Page
5. Other Events	3

ITEM 5. OTHER EVENTS

The E. W. Scripps Company's third-quarter income from continuing operations moved up 16 percent to \$27.4 million, 34 cents per share, from \$23.7 million, 29 cents per share, in the year-ago quarter, excluding an unusual gain from 1997's results.

On August 24, Scripps traded its newspapers in Monterey and San Luis Obispo, Calif., for Knight-Ridder's paper in Boulder, Colo. The disposition of the two California papers resulted in an after-tax gain to Scripps of \$11.1 million, or 14 cents per share.

Consolidated operating cash flow (operating income before depreciation and amortization), excluding divested operations, increased 10 percent to \$67 million in the third quarter, and operating income moved up 12 percent to \$49.4 million.

Home & Garden Television, the company's wholly owned cable network, had a modest effect on third-quarter results, reducing net income by \$1 million, or 1 cent per share, compared to \$3.3 million, 4 cents per share, in the year-ago quarter. Now in its 34th month since launch, HGTV reaches 31 million U.S. homes and has commitments for carriage to an additional 4 million homes.

"Home & Garden Television's advertising growth continues to exceed our expectations, which translates into lower than expected hits to our bottom line," said William R. Burleigh, president and chief executive officer. "In the newspaper and television markets, the demand for advertising space and time continues to be strong.

"In the coming weeks, we expect to complete the purchase of six local newspapers, as well as the expansion of our cable network operations through acquisition of the controlling interest in The Food Network. These are key steps in our long-term plan for building shareholder value," Burleigh said.

As previously announced, Scripps will spend a total of approximately \$700 million to acquire six newspapers in Texas and South Carolina from Harte-Hanks Communications and 58 percent interest in The Food Network from Belo Communications.

#### NEWSPAPER RESULTS

(Excluding divested operations in Monterey, San Luis Obispo and El Paso; including the Boulder Daily Camera since Aug. 24, 1997.)

Operating cash flow increased 9.7 percent to \$44.4 million. Newsprint costs increased 4.2 percent to \$29.5 million. Newsprint prices were 7 percent lower, but the difference was more than offset by an 11 percent increase in usage. Year-over-year newsprint costs are expected to increase approximately 15 percent in the fourth quarter.

Total newspaper revenues moved up 9.8 percent to \$169 million. Assuming the Boulder newspaper had been owned for the full quarter in both years, revenues would have increased 8.1 percent. On that same pro forma basis, advertising revenues increased 8.1 percent to \$128 million. Broken down by category:

Local retail increased 4.6 percent to \$49 million;

Classified increased 11 percent to \$56.9 million;

National increased 12 percent to \$5.3 million;

Preprint increased 5.9 percent to \$16 million.

Circulation revenues were unchanged at \$30.6 million.

#### TELEVISION RESULTS

Revenues, at \$76.9 million, were up 3.5 percent over the year-ago quarter. Local advertising grew 6.2 percent and national grew 12.9 percent, together more than offsetting the sharp decline in political advertising, which totaled only \$400,000 compared to \$4 million in the third quarter last year.

Cash operating costs rose 6.9 percent and operating cash flow decreased 2.7 percent to \$25.7 million.

#### ENTERTAINMENT RESULTS

Revenues for the division moved up 22 percent to \$33.5 million and operating cash flow was \$900,000, compared to a loss of \$1.7 million in the year-ago quarter.

At Home & Garden Television, revenues jumped from \$5.4 million last year to \$13.5 million and cash operating losses were \$900,000, compared to \$4.9 million last year.

The network can be seen on cable television systems in all 50 states and is available to subscribers of DIRECTV, EchoStar and C-Band satellite packages.

Internationally, HGTV/Canada will launch Oct. 17 through a partnership with Atlantis Communications of Toronto. Additionally, HGTV's programming can be seen on host networks in Australia and Japan, and in Europe on NBC's Superchannel.

At United Media, licensing revenues decreased 4.7 percent in the quarter to \$12.5 million.

**YEAR-TO-DATE RESULTS**  
(Excluding unusual items.)

Net income improved 28 percent to \$96 million, \$1.19 per share, from \$75.1 million, 93 cents per share, in the first nine months of 1996.

Consolidated operating cash flow rose 20 percent to \$226 million, excluding divested operations.

The E. W. Scripps Company operates nine television stations; newspapers in 14 markets; a licensor and syndicator of news features and comics; two television production companies; and a 24-hour cable network. The company has also announced agreements to acquire the newspaper properties of Harte-Hanks Communications, Inc. and Belo Communication's interest in The Food Network.

THE E. W. SCRIPPS COMPANY

(in thousands, except per share data)

	Three months ended Sept. 30,			Nine months ended Sept. 30,		
	1997	1996	%	1997	1996	%
<b>Operating Revenues:</b>						
Newspapers	\$ 168,967	\$ 153,882	9.8 %	\$ 505,389	\$ 460,455	9.8 %
Broadcast television	76,905	74,325	3.5 %	236,730	230,250	2.8 %
Entertainment	33,455	27,455	21.9 %	113,107	77,274	46.4 %
Total	279,327	255,662	9.3 %	855,226	767,979	11.4 %
Divested operations	(a) 6,854	9,821		27,177	29,073	
Total operating revenues	\$ 286,181	\$ 265,483	7.8 %	\$ 882,403	\$ 797,052	10.7 %
<b>Operating Cash Flow:</b>						
Newspapers	\$ 44,433	\$ 40,522	9.7 %	\$ 144,689	\$ 117,463	23.2 %
Broadcast television	25,666	26,374	(2.7)%	88,683	87,470	1.4 %
Entertainment	851	(1,670)		4,468	(4,069)	
Corporate	(3,932)	(4,343)		(11,991)	(12,650)	
Total	67,018	60,883	10.1 %	225,849	188,214	20.0 %
Unusual item	(b)				(4,000)	
Divested operations	(a) 580	1,618		3,523	4,656	
Total operating cash flow	67,598	62,501	8.2 %	229,372	188,870	21.4 %
Depreciation and amortization	18,023	17,256	4.4 %	53,585	51,726	3.6 %
Total operating income	(c) 49,575	45,245	9.6 %	175,787	137,144	28.2 %
Interest expense	(2,300)	(2,713)		(7,350)	(6,350)	
Net gains and unusual items	(a) 20,981			20,981		
Miscellaneous, net	914	291		1,395	614	
Provision for income taxes	(29,668)	(18,331)		(80,873)	(56,603)	
Minority interests	(924)	(841)		(2,760)	(2,326)	
Income from continuing operations	38,578	23,651	63.1 %	107,180	72,479	47.9 %
Income from discontinued operation - Scripps Cable		12,268			34,645	
Net income	\$ 38,578	\$ 35,919		\$ 107,180	\$ 107,124	
<b>Per Share of Common Stock:</b>						
Income from continuing operations	\$ .48	\$ .29		\$ 1.32	\$ .90	
Net income	\$ .48	\$ .45		\$ 1.32	\$ 1.33	
<b>Weighted average common shares outstanding</b>						
	81,032	80,473		80,969	80,328	
<b>Excluding the effect of unusual items:</b>						
Income from continuing operations	\$ 27,431	\$ 23,651	16.0 %	\$ 96,033	\$ 75,079	27.9 %
Income from continuing operations per share of common stock	\$ .34	\$ .29	17.2 %	\$ 1.19	\$ .93	28.0 %

(a) In the third quarter the Company traded its newspapers in Monterey and San Luis Obispo, California, for the newspaper in Boulder, Colorado. The trade resulted in a gain of \$21.0 million, \$11.1 million after-tax (\$.14 per share). The Company's newspaper in El Paso will cease operations after October 11, 1997. Operating results for the Monterey, San Luis Obispo and El Paso newspapers are included in "divested operations."

(b) In the second quarter of 1996 the Company incurred an unusual charge of approximately \$4 million, \$2.6 million after-tax (\$.03 per share), the Company's share of certain costs associated with restructuring portions of the distribution system of the Cincinnati joint operating agency.

(c) Operating income by segment is as follows:

(in thousands)

	Three months ended Sept. 30,			Nine months ended Sept. 30,		
	1997	1996	%	1997	1996	%
Operating Income:						
Newspapers	\$ 34,255	\$ 30,789	11.3 %	\$ 114,813	\$ 90,303	27.1 %
Broadcast television	19,512	20,522	(4.9)%	70,359	67,999	3.5 %
Entertainment	(185)	(2,618)		1,337	(6,847)	
Corporate	(4,208)	(4,581)		(12,800)	(13,435)	
Total	49,374	44,112	11.9 %	173,709	138,020	25.9 %
Unusual item	(b)				(4,000)	
Divested operations	(a)	1,133		2,078	3,124	
Total operating income	\$ 49,575	\$ 45,245	9.6 %	\$ 175,787	\$ 137,144	28.2 %

(d) Operating results for HGTV, included in the Entertainment segment, are as follows:

(in thousands, except per share data)

	Three months ended Sept 30,			Nine months ended Sept 30.,		
	1997	1996	%	1997	1996	%
Operating revenues	\$ 13,497	\$ 5,429	148.6 %	\$ 36,092	\$ 15,428	133.9 %
Operating cash flow	(900)	(4,934)	81.8 %	(4,378)	(11,067)	60.4 %
Operating income	(1,405)	(5,335)	73.7 %	(5,844)	(12,207)	52.1 %
Net income effect	(1,002)	(3,287)	69.5 %	(3,891)	(7,520)	48.3 %
Net income effect per share	\$(.01)	\$(.04)	75.0 %	\$(.05)	\$(.09)	44.4 %

SIGNATURES

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities and Exchange Act of 1934, the registrant has duly caused this report to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned, thereunto duly authorized.

THE E. W. SCRIPPS COMPANY

Dated: October 9, 1997

By: /s/ D. J. Castellini

D. J. Castellini  
Senior Vice President,  
Finance & Administration