### UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION WASHINGTON, D.C. 20549

FORM 10-Q

Quarterly Report Under Section 13 or 15(d) of the [ x ] Securities Exchange Act of 1934 For Quarter Ended March 31, 1998

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

Commission File Number 1-6227

Lee Enterprises, Incorporated

A Delaware Corporation

I.D. #42-0823980

215 N. Main Street, Davenport, Iowa 52801

Phone: (319) 383-2100

Indicate by a check mark whether the registrant (1) has filed all reports required to be filed by Section 13 or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 during the preceding 12 months (or for such shorter period that the registrant was required to file such reports), and (2) has been subject to such filing requirements for the past 90 days. Yes [ x ] No [ ]

Indicate the number of shares outstanding of each of the issuer's classes of common stock, as of the latest practical date.

Class

Outstanding at March 31, 1998

Common stock, \$2.00 par value Class "B" Common Stock, \$2.00 par value 32,909,821 11,931,324

# PART I. FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Item. 1.

LEE ENTERPRISES, INCORPORATED

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF INCOME (In Thousands Except Per Share Data)

|                                                                                                                             | Three Months Ended<br>March 31, |                                             | Six Mont<br>March          |                            |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|
|                                                                                                                             |                                 | 1997                                        | 1998                       |                            |
| Operating revenue: Publishing: Daily newspaper: Daily advertising                                                           | \$ 43,224                       | \$ 40,035                                   | \$ 95,229                  | \$ 88,328                  |
| Circulation                                                                                                                 | 20,227<br>25,337<br>30,947      | 19,826<br>14,306<br>26,039<br>1,581         | 41,018<br>50,396<br>62,202 | 40,020<br>28,194<br>61,420 |
| - <del></del>                                                                                                               |                                 | 101,787                                     |                            |                            |
| Operating expenses:     Compensation costs     Newsprint and ink     Depreciation     Amortization of intangibles     Other | •                               | 40,466<br>6,936<br>3,974<br>2,702<br>28,709 | •                          |                            |
|                                                                                                                             | 97,597                          | 82,787                                      | 198,758                    | 170,043                    |
| Operating income                                                                                                            | 23,748                          | 19,000                                      | 53,846                     | 51, 412                    |
| Financial (income) expenses, net Financial (income)                                                                         | `4,344                          | (1,454)<br>2,027                            | `8,050´                    | 3,769                      |
|                                                                                                                             | 3,156                           | 573                                         | 6,332                      |                            |

| Income from continuing operations before taxes on income                                          | 7,981                | 18,427<br>7,187            |                        | 19, 293                        |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------|----------------------------|------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Income from continuing operations Income from discontinued operations, net                        |                      |                            | 29,195                 |                                |
| of income tax effect                                                                              |                      | 1,000                      |                        | 1,000                          |
| Net income                                                                                        | \$ 12,611<br>======= | \$ 12,240<br>=======       | \$ 29,195<br>=======   | \$ 31,348                      |
| Average outstanding shares: Basic                                                                 | 44.990               | 46,467                     | 45,153                 | 46,668                         |
| Diluted                                                                                           | 45,783               | 47,354                     | 45,904                 | 47,555                         |
| Earnings per share: Basic: Income from continuing operations Income from discontinuing operations | \$ 0.28              | \$ 0.24<br>0.02            | \$ 0.65<br>            | \$ 0.65<br>0.02                |
| Net income                                                                                        | \$ 0.28              | \$ 0.26                    | \$ 0.65                |                                |
| Diluted: Income from continuing operations Income from discontinuing operations  Net income       | \$ 0.28<br>          | \$ 0.24<br>0.02<br>\$ 0.26 | \$ 0.64<br><br>\$ 0.64 | \$ 0.64<br>0.02<br><br>\$ 0.66 |
| Dividends per share                                                                               | \$ 0.14<br>========  | \$ 0.13                    | \$ 0.28                | \$ 0.26                        |

# LEE ENTERPRISES, INCORPORATED

# CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEETS (In Thousands)

| ASSETS                                  | 1998      | September<br>1997 | 30, |
|-----------------------------------------|-----------|-------------------|-----|
|                                         |           |                   |     |
| Cash and cash equivalents               | \$165,727 | \$ 14,163         |     |
| Accounts receivable, net                | ,         | ,                 |     |
| Newsprint inventory                     |           | ,                 |     |
| Program rights and other                | 12,372    | 17,691            |     |
| Total current assets                    | 239,478   | 93,967            |     |
| Investments                             | 25,220    | 24,691            |     |
| Property and equipment, net             | 123, 210  | 120,026           |     |
| Intangibles and other assets            |           | 412,279           |     |
|                                         | \$791,529 | \$650,963         |     |
|                                         | ======    | =======           |     |
| LIABILITIES AND STOCKHOLDERS' EQUITY    |           |                   |     |
| Current liabilities                     | \$234,727 | \$248,908         |     |
| Long-term debt, less current maturities | 185,546   | 26,174            |     |
| Deferred items                          | ,         | ,                 |     |
| Stockholders' equity                    | 314,687   | 319,390           |     |
|                                         | \$791,529 | \$650,963         |     |
|                                         | =======   | =======           |     |

# LEE ENTERPRISES, INCORPORATED

# CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF CASH FLOWS (In Thousands)

|                                                                                                                         | 1998            |                      |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------|----------------------|
| six Months Ended March 31:                                                                                              |                 |                      |
| Cash Provided by Operations:                                                                                            |                 |                      |
| Net income                                                                                                              | \$ 29,195       | \$ 31,348            |
| Depreciation and amortization                                                                                           | 18 249          | 14 637               |
| Distributions in excess of earnings of associated companies Adjustment of estimated loss on disposition of discontinued |                 | 14,637<br>1,643      |
| operations                                                                                                              |                 | (1,000)              |
| Other balance sheet changes                                                                                             | (245)           | (1,000)<br>7,122     |
| Net cash provided by operations                                                                                         |                 | 53,750               |
| Cook Provided by (Peguired For) Investing Activities.                                                                   |                 |                      |
| Cash Provided by (Required For) Investing Activities:  Purchase of property and equipment                               | (12,518)        | (7 727)              |
| Proceeds from sale of subsidiary                                                                                        |                 | 55,000               |
| Other                                                                                                                   | (629)           | (939)                |
| Net cash provided by (required for) investing activities                                                                |                 | 46,334               |
| Cash Provided by (Required For) Financing Activities:                                                                   |                 |                      |
| Purchase of common stock                                                                                                | (32,888)        | (16,833)             |
| Cash dividends paid                                                                                                     | (6, 383)        |                      |
| Proceeds from long-term borrowings                                                                                      | 185,000         |                      |
| Principal payments on long-term debt                                                                                    | (25,000)        | (20,000)<br>(15,000) |
| Principal payments on short-term notes payable, net                                                                     |                 |                      |
| Other                                                                                                                   | 496             | 1,101                |
| Net cash provided by (required for) financing activities.                                                               | 116,225         | (56,836)             |
| Net increase in cash and cash equivalents                                                                               | 151 56 <i>1</i> | 13 218               |
| ·                                                                                                                       | 101, 004        | 70,240               |
| Cash and cash equivalents:                                                                                              |                 |                      |
| Beginning                                                                                                               | 14,163          | 19,267               |
| Ending                                                                                                                  | \$165,727       |                      |

#### Note 1. Basis of Presentation

The information furnished reflects all adjustments, consisting of normal recurring accruals, which are, in the opinion of management, necessary to a fair presentation of the financial position as of March 31, 1998 and the results of operations for the three- and six-month periods ended March 31, 1998 and 1997 and cash flows for the six-month periods ended March 31, 1998 and 1997.

#### Note 2. Investment in Associated Companies

|                                                                             | Three Months<br>Ended March 31, |          | Six Months<br>Ended March 31, |          |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------|----------|-------------------------------|----------|
|                                                                             | 1998 1997                       |          | 1998                          | 1997     |
| Revenues Operating expenses, except                                         | \$20,242                        | \$19,029 | \$42,027                      | \$38,806 |
| depreciation and amortization  Income before depreciation and amortization, | 14,427                          | 13,469   | 28,672                        | 26,658   |
| interest, and taxes                                                         | 5,815                           | 5,560    | 13,355                        | 12,148   |
| Depreciation and amortization                                               | 717                             | 502      | 1,430                         | 1,003    |
| Operating income                                                            | 5,098                           | 5,058    | 11,925                        | 11,145   |
| Financial income                                                            | 291                             | 237      | 623                           | 554      |
| Income before income taxes                                                  | 5,389                           | 5,295    | 12,548                        | 11,699   |
| Income taxes                                                                | 2,169                           | 2,132    | 5,030                         | 4,710    |
| Net income                                                                  | 3,220                           | 3,163    | 7,518                         | 6,989    |

- a. Madison Newspapers, Inc. (50% owned)
- o. Quality Information Systems (50% owned)
- c. INN Partnership, LC (an effective 50% owned)

#### Note 3. Cash Flows Information

The components of other balance sheet changes are:

|                           | Six Months<br>Ended March 31,          |
|---------------------------|----------------------------------------|
|                           | 1998 1997                              |
|                           | (In Thousands)<br>Unaudited)           |
| (Increase) in receivables | \$(3,035) \$(1,762)<br>3,986 3,809     |
|                           | (1,689) 4,473<br>433 1,244<br>60 (642) |
|                           | \$ (245) \$ 7,122<br>=======           |

# Note 4. Change in Accounting Principles

In 1997, the Financial Accounting Standards Board issued Statement of Financial Accounting Standards No. 128 "Earnings per Share". Statement No. 128 replaced the previously reported primary and fully diluted earnings per share with basic and diluted earnings per share. Unlike primary earnings per share, basic earnings per share excludes any dilutive effects of options, warrants, and convertible securities. Diluted earnings per share is very similar to the previously reported fully diluted earnings per share. All earnings per share amounts for all periods have been presented, and where necessary, restated to conform to Statement No. 128 requirements.

The American Institute of Certified Public Accountants issued Statement of Position (SOP) 98-1 "Accounting for the Costs of Computer Software Developed for Internal Use". In accordance with SOP 98-1, the Company has capitalized the costs of certain software developed for internal use.

#### Note 5. Earnings Per Share

The following table sets forth the computation of basis and diluted earnings per share (in thousands except per share amounts):

|                                                                                                                     | Three Months<br>Ended March 31, |      | Ended Ma           | March 31, |  |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------|------|--------------------|-----------|--|
|                                                                                                                     | 1998                            |      | 1998               | 1997      |  |
| Numerator income applicable to common shares: Income from continuing operations Income from discontinued operations |                                 |      | \$29,195<br>       |           |  |
| Net income                                                                                                          | •                               | •    | \$29,195<br>====== | •         |  |
| Denominator:  Basic-weighted average common shares  outstanding  Dilutive effect of employee stock options          | 793                             | 887  | 45,153<br>751      | 887       |  |
| Diluted outstanding shares                                                                                          |                                 |      | 45,904<br>=======  |           |  |
| Basic earnings per share: Income from continuing operations Income from discontinuing operations                    |                                 | 0.02 | \$ 0.64            | 0.02      |  |
| Net income                                                                                                          |                                 |      | \$ 0.64<br>======= |           |  |
| Diluted earnings per share: Income from continuing operations Income from discontinuing operations                  | \$ 0.28                         |      | \$ 0.64            |           |  |
| Net income                                                                                                          |                                 |      | \$ 0.64            |           |  |

# Note 6. Subsequent Event

On March 31, 1998 the Company received \$185,000,000 in proceeds from a private placement of long-term debt. On April 6, 1998 the Company repaid \$140,000,000 borrowed under a \$200,000,000 unsecured revolving loan agreement associated with the Pacific Northwest Publishing Group acquisition and the revolving loan credit facility was reduced to \$50,000,000. The debt has an average maturity of nine years and a weighted average interest rate of 6.36%. Covenants under the loan agreement are not expected to be restrictive to operations or stockholder dividends.

Item 2. Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations

Operating results (dollars in thousands, except per share data):

|                                                                                       | Three Months Ended March 31, |           | Six Mo      | onths Ended                | March 31, |             |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------|-----------|-------------|----------------------------|-----------|-------------|
|                                                                                       | 1998                         | 1997      | 1997        | 1998                       | 1997      | 1997        |
|                                                                                       |                              |           | (Pro Forma) |                            |           | (Pro Forma) |
| Revenue  Percent change  Percent change, pro forma                                    | \$121,345<br>19.2%<br>6.4%   | \$101,787 | \$114,006   | \$252,604<br>14.1%<br>2.2% | \$221,455 | \$247,087   |
| Income before depreciation and amortization, interest and taxes                       |                              |           |             |                            |           |             |
| (EBITDA)                                                                              | 32,921<br>28.2%<br>14.6%     | 25,676    | 28,728      | 72,095<br>11.3%<br>0.2%    | 64,772    | 71,979      |
| Operating income                                                                      | 23,748<br>25.0%<br>20.0%     | 19,000    | 19,787      | 53,846<br>4.7%<br>(0.8)%   | 51,412    | 54,261      |
| Income from continuing operations  Percent change  Percent change, pro forma          | 12,611<br>12.2%<br>27.9%     | 11,240    | 9,862       | 29,195<br>(3.8)%<br>2.9%   | 30,348    | 28,365      |
| Net income  Percent change  Percent change, pro forma                                 | 12,611<br>3.0%<br>16.1%      | 12,240    | 10,862      | 29,195<br>(6.9)%<br>(0.6)% | 31,348    | 29,365      |
| Earnings per share: Basic:                                                            |                              |           |             |                            |           |             |
| Income from continuing operations Percent change Percent change, pro forma            | \$ 0.28<br>16.7%<br>33.3%    | \$ 0.24   | \$ 0.21     | \$ 0.65<br>%<br>6.6%       | \$ 0.65   | \$ 0.61     |
| Net income  Percent change  Percent change, pro forma                                 | 0.28<br>7.7%<br>21.7%        | 0.26      | 0.23        | 0.65<br>(3.0)%<br>3.2%     | 0.67      | 0.63        |
| Diluted: Income from continuing operations . Percent change Percent change, pro forma | \$ 0.28<br>16.7%<br>33.3%    | \$ 0.24   | \$ 0.21     | \$ 0.64<br>- %<br>6.7%     | \$ 0.64   | \$ 0.60     |
| Net income  Percent change  Percent change, pro forma                                 | 0.28<br>7.7%<br>21.7%        | 0.26      | 0.23        | 0.64<br>(3.0)%<br>3.2%     | 0.66      | 0.62        |

Operations by line of business are as follows (dollars in thousands,  $% \left( \frac{1}{2}\right) =0$  except per share data):

|                                                                                      | Three Months Ended March 31,                   |                       |                     | Six Months Ended March 31,     |                          |                                |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------|-----------------------|---------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------------|
|                                                                                      | 1998                                           | 1997                  | 1997                | 1998                           | 1997                     | 1997                           |
|                                                                                      |                                                | (                     | Pro Forma)          |                                |                          | (Pro Forma)                    |
| Revenue: Publishing Broadcasting                                                     | \$ 90,398<br>30,947                            | \$ 75,748<br>26,039   | \$ 87,967<br>26,039 | \$190,402<br>62,202            | \$160,035<br>61,420      | \$185,667<br>61,420            |
|                                                                                      | \$121,345                                      | \$101,787             | \$114,006           | \$252,604                      | \$221,455                | \$247,087                      |
| Income before depreciation and amortization, interest and taxes (EBITDA): Publishing | \$ 27,132<br>8,394<br>(2,605)                  | \$ 24,016             | \$ 27,068<br>4,863  | \$ 61,838<br>16,817<br>(6,560) |                          | \$ 61,342<br>17,788<br>(7,151) |
|                                                                                      | \$ 32,921                                      | \$ 25,676             | \$ 28,728           | \$ 72,095                      | \$ 64,772                | \$ 71,979                      |
| Operating income: Publishing Broadcasting Corporate                                  | \$ 21,110<br>5,579<br>(2,941)<br><br>\$ 23,748 | 2,012<br>(3,349)      | 2,012<br>(3,349)    | \$ 49,720<br>11,259<br>(7,133) | 12,134<br>(7,446)        | 12,134<br>(7,446)              |
|                                                                                      | =======                                        | ========              | . ,                 | . ,                            | ========                 | . ,                            |
| Capital expenditures: Publishing Broadcasting Corporate                              | \$ 5,696<br>1,755<br>720                       | \$ 2,120<br>1,305<br> |                     | \$ 8,327<br>3,205<br>986       | \$ 3,708<br>3,833<br>186 |                                |
|                                                                                      | \$ 8,171<br>=======                            | \$ 3,425<br>======    |                     | \$12,518<br>=======            | \$ 7,727<br>======       |                                |

#### PUBLITSHING

The following daily newspaper revenue information is presented on a pro forma basis to include The Pacific Northwest Group as if the acquisition had occurred October 1, 1996.

Pro forma wholly-owned daily newspaper advertising revenue increased \$1,535,000, 3.7%. Advertising revenue from local merchants decreased \$(119,000), (.5%). Local "run-of-press" advertising decreased \$(471,000), (2.9%), as a result of a (3.1%) decrease in advertising inches. Local preprint revenue increased \$352,000, 5.0%. Classified advertising revenue increased \$1,647,000, 11.7%, as a result of higher averages rates and a 4.3% increase in advertising inches. The employment category was the biggest contributor to the increase. Circulation revenue decreased \$(100,000), (.5%), as a result of a 1.1% decrease in volume.

Other revenue consists of revenue from weekly newspapers, classified and specialty publications, commercial printing, products delivered outside the newspaper (which include activities such as target marketing and special event production) and editorial service contracts with Madison Newspapers, Inc.

Other revenue by category and by property is as follows:

|                                                                                              | 1998               | 1997              |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------|-------------------|
|                                                                                              | (In The            | ousands)          |
| Weekly newspapers, classified and specialty publications: Properties owned for entire period | \$ 6,370<br>10,393 | \$ 6,160          |
| Commercial printing:                                                                         | 10,000             |                   |
| Properties owned for entire period                                                           | 3,157<br>203       | 3,384             |
| Properties owned for entire period                                                           | 2,826<br>5         | 2,511             |
| Editorial service contracts                                                                  | 2,383              | 2,251             |
|                                                                                              | \$25,337<br>====== | \$14,306<br>===== |

The following table sets forth the percentage of revenue of certain items in the publishing segment.

|                                                                                            | 1998                 | 1997                |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------|---------------------|
| Revenue                                                                                    | 100.0%               | 100.0%              |
| Compensation costs                                                                         | 36.1<br>10.6<br>23.3 | 34.7<br>9.2<br>24.4 |
|                                                                                            | 70.0                 | 68.3                |
| Income before depreciation, amortization, interest and taxes Depreciation and amortization | 30.0<br>6.6          | 31.7<br>4.9         |
| Operating margin wholly-owned properties                                                   | 23.4%                | 26.8%               |

Exclusive of the effects of acquisitions, costs other than depreciation and amortization increased \$2,046,000, 4.0%. Compensation expense increased \$1,312,000, 5.0%, due primarily to increase in average compensation. Newsprint and ink costs increased \$1,076,000, 15.5%, due primarily to higher prices for newsprint. Other operating costs exclusive of depreciation and amortization decreased \$(342,000), (1.9%), due to favorable insurance claims experience and reduced losses on an alternative publishing venture which was terminated.

## BROADCASTING

Revenue for the quarter increased \$4,908,000, 18.8%, as local/regional/national advertising increased \$4,525,000, 20.8%, primarily due to Winter Olympics advertising on our CBS-affiliated stations. Political advertising increased \$39,000, 41.5%, and production revenue and revenues from other services increased \$511,000, 22.0%. Advertising revenue growth may be favorably affected later in the year due to primary elections.

The following table sets forth the percentage of revenue of certain items in the broadcasting segment.

|                                                                                            | 1998                | 1997                |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| Revenue                                                                                    | 100.0%              | 100.0%              |
| Compensation costs                                                                         | 42.2<br>6.7<br>24.0 | 47.5<br>7.1<br>26.7 |
|                                                                                            | 72.9                | 81.3                |
| Income before depreciation, amortization, interest and taxes Depreciation and amortization | 27.1<br>9.1         | 18.7<br>11.0        |
| Operating margin wholly-owned properties                                                   | 18.0%               | 7.7%                |
|                                                                                            |                     |                     |

Compensation costs increased \$700,000, 5.7%, due to incentive compensation on higher revenue and to increases in average compensation. Programming costs for the quarter increased \$223,000, 12.1%, primarily due to accelerated amortization on new programming. Other operating expenses, exclusive of depreciation and amortization, increased \$454,000, 6.5%, due to increased costs for Winter Olympics coverage, audience research and helicopter rental.

#### CORPORATE COSTS

Corporate costs decreased by \$(408,000), (12.2%), primarily as a result of the capitalization of computer software developed for internal use which was previously expensed as incurred. Reductions in community development contributions and incentive compensation offset other cost increases.

#### FINANCIAL EXPENSE AND INCOME TAXES

Interest expense increased due to short-term borrowings to finance The Pacific Northwest Group acquisition.

Income taxes were 38.8% and 39.0% of pretax income for the quarters ended March 31, 1998 and 1997, respectively.

SIX MONTHS ENDED MARCH 31, 1998

#### **PUBLISHING**

The following daily newspaper revenue information is presented on a pro forma basis to include The Pacific Northwest Group as if the acquisition had occurred October 1, 1996.

Pro forma wholly-owned daily newspaper advertising revenue increased \$3,391,000, 3.7%. Advertising revenue from local merchants decreased \$(238,000), (.4%). Local "run-of-press" advertising decreased \$(1,181,000), (3.1%), as a result of a (4.3%) decrease in advertising inches. Local preprint revenue increased \$943,000, 5.6%. Classified advertising revenue increased \$3,504,000, 12.4%, as a result of higher averages rates and a 4.8% increase in advertising inches. The employment category was the biggest contributor to the increase. Circulation revenue was even as a result of higher rates which offset a 1.4% decrease in volume.

Other revenue consists of revenue from weekly newspapers, classified and specialty publications, commercial printing, products delivered outside the newspaper (which include activities such as target marketing and special event production) and editorial service contracts with Madison Newspapers, Inc.

Other revenue by category and by property is as follows:

|                                                           | ===========    |          |
|-----------------------------------------------------------|----------------|----------|
|                                                           | \$50,396       | \$28,194 |
| Editorial service contracts                               | 4,502          | 4,297    |
| Acquired since September 30, 1996                         | 9              |          |
| Properties owned for entire period                        | 5,400          | 4,893    |
| Products delivered outside the newspaper:                 |                |          |
| Acquired since September 30, 1996                         | 444            | ´        |
| Properties owned for entire period                        | 6,736          | 7,382    |
| Commercial printing:                                      | 21,120         |          |
| Acquired since September 30, 1996                         | 21,120         |          |
| Properties owned for entire period                        | \$12,185       | \$11,622 |
| Weekly newspapers, classified and specialty publications: | •              | ,        |
|                                                           | (In Thousands) |          |
|                                                           | 1330           |          |
|                                                           | 1998           | 1997     |

The following table sets forth the percentage of revenue of certain items in the publishing segment.

|                                                                                            | 1998                 | 1997                |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------|---------------------|
| Revenue                                                                                    | 100.0%               | 100.0%              |
| Compensation costs  Newsprint and ink Other operating expenses                             | 34.4<br>10.6<br>22.5 | 33.3<br>9.3<br>23.6 |
|                                                                                            | 67.5                 | 66.2                |
| Income before depreciation, amortization, interest and taxes Depreciation and amortization | 32.5<br>6.4          |                     |
| Operating margin wholly-owned properties                                                   | 26.1%                | 29.2%               |

Exclusive of the effects of acquisitions, costs other than depreciation and amortization increased \$3,785,000, 3.6%. Compensation expense increased \$2,487,000, 4.7%, due primarily to increase in average compensation. Newsprint and ink costs increased \$1,990,000, 13.4%, due primarily to higher prices for newsprint. Other operating costs exclusive of depreciation and amortization decreased \$(692,000), (1.8%), due to favorable insurance claims experience and reduced losses on an alternative publishing venture which was terminated.

#### BROADCASTING

Revenue increased \$782,000, 1.3%, as local/regional/national advertising increased \$5,289,000, 11.0%, primarily due to Winter Olympics advertising in the second quarter. Production revenue and revenues from other services increased \$422,000, 9.0%. Advertising revenue growth may be favorably affected later in the year due to primary elections. Political advertising decreased \$(4,810,000), (88.1%), principally in the first fiscal quarter.

The following table sets forth the percentage of revenue of certain items in the broadcasting segment.

|                                                              | 1998   | 1997    |
|--------------------------------------------------------------|--------|---------|
|                                                              |        |         |
| Revenue                                                      | 100.0% | 100.0%  |
|                                                              |        |         |
| Compensation costs                                           | 41.5   | 40.6    |
| Programming costs                                            | 6.9    | 6.3     |
| Other operating expenses                                     | 24.6   | 24.1    |
|                                                              | 73.0   | 71.0    |
|                                                              |        |         |
| Income before depreciation, amortization, interest and taxes | 27.0   | 29.0    |
| Depreciation and amortization                                | 8.9    | 9.2     |
| Operating margin wholly-owned properties                     | 18.1%  | 19.8%   |
|                                                              | ====== | ======= |

Compensation costs increased \$870,000, 3.5%, due to increases in average compensation. Programming costs for the period increased \$442,000, 11.4%, primarily due to accelerated amortization on new programming. Other operating expenses, exclusive of depreciation and amortization, increased \$441,000, 3.0%, as previously discussed.

## CORPORATE COSTS

Corporate costs decreased by (313,000), (4.2%). The decrease occurred in the second quarter as previously discussed.

### FINANCIAL EXPENSE AND INCOME TAXES

Interest expense  $\,$  increased due to short-term  $\,$  borrowings to finance The Pacific Northwest Group acquisition.

Income taxes were 38.6% and 38.9% of pretax income for the six months ended March 31, 1998 and 1997, respectively.

## LIQUIDITY AND CAPITAL RESOURCES

Cash provided by operations, which is the Company's primary source of liquidity, generated \$48,486,000 for the six month period ended March 31, 1998. On March 31, 1998 the Company received \$185,000,000 of proceeds from new long-term borrowings. At that date, the Company had \$140,000,000 borrowed under a \$200,000,000 unsecured revolving loan agreement. The borrowings under the revolving loan agreement were repaid in full by April 6, 1998 and the revolving loan credit facility was reduced to \$50,000,000. Available cash balances and cash flow from operations provide adequate liquidity. Covenants related to the Company's credit agreement are not considered restrictive to operations and anticipated stockholder dividends.

#### SAFE HARBOR STATEMENT

This report contains forward-looking statements and includes assumptions concerning the Company's operations, future results and prospects. These forward-looking statements are based on current expectations and are subject to risks and uncertainties. In connection with the "safe harbor" provisions of the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995, the Company provides the following cautionary statements identifying important economic, political, and technological factors which, among others, could cause the actual results or events to differ materially from those set forth or implied by the forward-looking statements or assumptions.

Such factors include the following: (i) changes in the current and future business environment, including interest rates and capital and consumer spending; (ii) prices for newsprint products; (iii) the availability of quality broadcast programming at competitive prices; (iv) the quality and ratings of network over-the-air broadcast programs; and (v) legislative or regulatory initiatives affecting the cost of delivery of over-the-air broadcast programs to the Company's customers. Further information concerning the Company and its businesses, including additional factors that potentially could materially affect the Company's financial results, is included in the Company's annual report on Form 10-K.

## LEE ENTERPRISES, INCORPORATED

#### PART II. OTHER INFORMATION

- Item 4. Submission of matters a vote of security holders
  - (a) The annual meeting of the Company was held on January 20, 1998.
  - (b) Andrew E. Newman and Ronald L. Rickman were re-elected directors of three-year terms expiring at the 2001 annual meeting. Lloyd G. Schermer and Richard W. Sonnenfeldt were re-elected as directors for one-year terms expiring at the 1999 annual meeting. Directors whose terms of office continued after the meeting include: J.P. Guerin, Charles E. Rickershauser, Jr., Mark Vittert, Rance E. Crain, Richard D. Gottlieb, and Phyllis Sewell.
  - (c) Votes were cast, all by proxy, for nominees for director as follows:

| Ronald L. Rickman 114,542,634 1,644,<br>Lloyd G. Schermer 114,576,460 1,610, |                                        | Vote<br>For                | Withheld                            |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------|----------------------------|-------------------------------------|
|                                                                              | Ronald L. Rickman<br>Lloyd G. Schermer | 114,542,634<br>114,576,460 | 1,664,734<br>1,644,754<br>1,610,928 |
| Z,247,                                                                       | Richard W. Sonnenfeldt                 | 113,939,445                | 2,247,943                           |

- (d) Abstentions and broker non-votes were not significant.
- (e) Not applicable

## Item 6. Exhibits and Reports on Form 8-K

(a) Exhibits:

Exhibit 27 - Financial Data Schedule

(b) There were no reports on Form 8-K required to be filed during the quarter for which this report is filed.

# SIGNATURES

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

LEE ENTERPRISES, INCORPORATED

| DATE | May 14, 1998 | /s/ G. C. Wahlig                       |  |  |
|------|--------------|----------------------------------------|--|--|
|      |              | G. C. Wahlig, Chief Accounting Officer |  |  |

THIS SCHEDULE CONTAINS SUMMARY FINANCIAL INFORMATION EXTRACTED FROM THE MARCH 31, 1998 FORM 10-Q OF LEE ENTERPRISES, INCORPORATED AND IS QUALIFIED IN ITS ENTIRETY BY REFERENCE TO SUCH FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

1,000

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6-M0S
       SEP-30-1998
            MAR-31-1998
                      165,727
                 12,885
                64,601
                  4,600
                   1,378
            239,478
                      284,766
              161,556
              791,529
       234,727
                     185,546
             0
                     89,670
                  225,017
791,529
                     248,845
            252,604
                             0
            198,758
                  0
            8,050
              47,514
                 18,319
          29,195
                    0
                   0
                 29,195
                   . 65
                   .64
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THESE SCHEDULES CONTAIN SUMMARY FINANCIAL INFORMATION EXTRACTED FROM THE 10-Q'S AND 10-K'S OF LEE ENTERPRISES INCORPORATED AND ARE QUALIFIED IN THIER ENTIRETY BY REFERENCE TO SUCH FINANCIAL STATEMENTS.

1,000

YEAR

| 3-MOS             |                    | 3-MOS YEAR         |          | YEAR               |              |                |        |
|-------------------|--------------------|--------------------|----------|--------------------|--------------|----------------|--------|
| SEP-30-1997       | SEP-30-1996        |                    |          |                    |              | SEP-30-1996    |        |
| SEP-30-1997       |                    | DEC-31-1996        |          |                    |              | SEP-30-1996    |        |
| 14,163            | 30,10              |                    | 30,590   |                    | LO,883       | 19,267         |        |
| 12,506            | 9,877              | 11,105             | •        | 8,946              |              | 10,668         |        |
| 62,997            | 69,597             | 58,752             |          | 62,684             |              | 52,773         |        |
| 4,600             | 4,300              | 4,398              |          | 4,100              |              | 4,000          |        |
| 3,716             | 16,848             | 1,44               | +1       | 18,355             | )            | 3,668          |        |
| 93,967            | 127,592            | 159,457            | 0.46 110 | 104,509            | 2 462        | 146,708        | 1 007  |
| 272,441           | 257,48             |                    |          |                    | 53,463       |                | 1,887  |
| 152,415           | 148,720<br>579,426 | 141,084<br>537,913 |          | 145,267            |              | 137,182        |        |
| 650,963           | 126, 253           | 103,387            | 1        | 559,929<br>.16,527 | 0.7          | 527,416<br>777 |        |
| 248,908           | 75,109             |                    | 52,103   |                    | 97,<br>5,511 |                | 2, 290 |
| 26,174            | 0                  | 0                  | 72, 103  | 0                  | ,, 511       | 0              | , 290  |
| 0                 | 0                  |                    | 0        | 0                  | n            | 0              | 1      |
| 0                 | 94,796             |                    | 3,381    |                    | . 732        |                | 044    |
| 91,017            | 225,910            | 235,9              |          | 216, 31            |              | 230, 91        |        |
| 228,373<br>579,42 | •                  | •                  | 559,929  | ·                  | 527,416      | 200,02         |        |
| 650,963           | 108,860            |                    | 17,756   |                    | 375, 463     |                | , 361  |
| 439,110           | 110,781            | 119,668            | ,        | 383,740            | ·            |                | ,      |
| 446,686           | ·                  | 0                  | 0        | ·                  | 0            | ·              | 0      |
| 0                 | 0                  | 0                  |          | 0                  |              | 0              |        |
| 0                 | 84,718             | 87,256             |          | 292,335            |              | 332,628        |        |
| 342,535           | 0                  | 0                  |          | 1,525              |              | 2,560          |        |
| 2,934             | 2,555              | 1,742              |          | 11,902             |              | 9,648          |        |
| 8,321             | 24,035             | 31,214             |          | 83,207             |              | 87,708         |        |
| 101,222           | 9,343              | 12,106             | 5        | 30,975             |              | 34,032         |        |
| 38,477            | 14,692             | 19,108             |          | 52,232             | 5            | 3,670          |        |
| 62,745            | 1,248              | Θ                  |          | 6,227              |              | (8,223)        |        |
| 1,485             | 0                  | 0                  |          | 0                  |              | 0              |        |
| 0                 | 0                  |                    | 0        |                    | 0            |                | 0      |
| 64 230            | 15,940             | 19,108             | 3        | 58,459             |              | 45,447         |        |
| 64,230<br>1.38    | .34                | .41                |          | 1.27               |              | .97            |        |
| 1.36              | .33                | .40                |          | 1.25               |              | .95            |        |
| 1.30              |                    |                    |          |                    |              |                |        |