

ANDEX



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EARTHQUAKE!

By Clayton Howard



One of Pelileo's main streets

It was about 2:30 in the afternoon when Helen and I, with our two small children, lay down for a welcome siesta. A few days earlier we had travelled by car, bus, and small plane to the jungle mission station of Pano, in the Ecuadorian Oriente. It was August, 1949, and we had been looking forward to a couple of weeks of vacation with eager anticipation. It was our first trip to a real jungle base. Henry and Vera Miller had been encouraging us to visit them for a long time.

We were staying in a small thatch-roofed cabin made of bamboo with a split-bamboo floor. The floor sagged and shook with every step we took. Suddenly our little vacation home began to shake violently. We knew it was an earthquake. However, having lived in Ecuador for several years, we had felt many similar tremors but none of them had been very serious. Things have changed a lot in the jungle areas of Ecuador in recent years, but in those days there was no electricity in Pano. It was before the days of small transistor receivers. The Millers did have a small radio that operated from an automobile storage battery. Power was

limited so they listened to their radio only a short time each day. The battery had to be flown out periodically for recharging. Each evening they tuned in to the Voice of America to get the day's news. Imagine our shock when we learned that Ecuador had suffered a major earthquake, the worst in recent history.

As news continued to reach us we learned that many cities had been damaged. The center of the quake had hit the city of Pelileo. We had driven through Pelileo just a few days earlier on our way to the jungle. The city no longer existed. Every building had fallen down leaving nothing but a huge pile of rubble. Since the quake came right after lunch when most people were resting, several thousand had been killed in that one town! Parts of the road we had travelled over no longer existed. How would we ever get back home to Quito?

HCJB had a large share in the relief work done after the devastating shake. A truck with radio equipment and power plant was sent within hours to help establish communications with the rest of the country. Galo Plaza, Ecuador's president, used HCJB's shortwave facilities to spread the word to the rest of the world and appeal for assistance. This remote equipment remained in the area for about three weeks. I had the privilege of spending more than two weeks with the team as we visited many of the fifty towns and villages that had been devastated. How did we get back to Quito from the jungle? The Shell Oil Company also had a transportation problem so chartered commercial DC-3s to carry personnel. We were able to get on one of these flights directly to Quito with no charge!

Our relief team included doctors and nurses. Medical care was given to those injured during the earthquake. Some food supplies were distributed as the needs were seen. We did all we could to en-



Pelileo after 1949 earthquake

courage and help the destitute people. Many were still in a state of shock. Films were shown in the evenings to the crowds that gathered. A message of God's love and concern was presented over the public-address system on the truck.

Thirty years have passed since this disaster took place. The damaged cities have been rebuilt. Pelileo, with the greatest damage, was moved to a new location nearby. Life now goes on much as it did before. No serious quakes have occurred during these thirty years. HCJB continues to serve the country of Ecuador in many ways and stands ready to help if another major earthquake or disaster should strike. Six-thousand people lost their lives on August 5th, 1949. Let's hope and pray that Ecuador will not be visited with another catastrophe of this magnitude again.

A RADICAL BOOK?

We all live in a fast-changing world. The life expectancy of most new books is less than six months. Government regulations that have been carefully thought out have a way of becoming obsolete very quickly.

Some of the rules governing the operation of aircraft in the 1920s sound ridiculous in today's world.

1. Don't take the machine into the air unless you are satisfied it will fly.
2. Pilots should carry handkerchiefs in a handy position to wipe off their goggles.
3. In case the engine fails on takeoff, land straight ahead regardless of obstacles.
4. If you see another machine near you, get out of its way.
5. Do not trust altitude instruments.

Sounds way out, doesn't it? There is something about today's sophisticated, 700-mile per hour planes that makes it all look a bit irrelevant!

Though the newest books of the Bible were written more than 1800 years ago, they still have a way of saying something to the man or woman, boy or girl, who studies them. How is one to account for the fact that the message of the Bible is so pertinent and applicable? One answer is that the character of God does not change. His character consists of absolutes—absolute holiness, absolute righteousness, absolute faithfulness, absolute love. The principles that are spelled out in the Bible are a reflection of those absolutes. That is why the Ten Commandments, written 3500 years ago, and the Sermon on the Mount, preached almost 2000 years ago, are meaningful today.

There are some things that are never right to do in any generation or in any culture. Other things are never right to leave undone. The Ten Commandments, like the invariable speed of light, will never become outmoded.

Another reason why God's Word is pertinent today is that the nature of man does not change. Customs and cultures vary, communication and education may improve or fail, and economic conditions fluctuate, but the moral nature of man remains the same. Lying, stealing, cheating, envying, and killing are not inventions of the 20th century. No generation has ever been without them.

The Bible, more than any other book, has a way of uncovering the character of both God and man. In it the sharp contrast between the two comes into focus, and man's greatest need lies naked and ex-

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posed before his eyes. Then the Bible has a way of putting it all together. In the Bible, man's need is revealed as God's opportunity, and the love of God in Christ Jesus solves the problems. A deep and radical change takes place in the life of the person who trusts in Christ as Savior and other books become comparatively irrelevant. Don't miss out on what God has to say to you. Read the Bible every day and you will be surprised how relevant it is and how much help and strength you receive from it.

DXer OF THE MONTH



Brendan uses two portable receivers

Nassau, the capital of the Bahamas, has a long and interesting history. It has been a rendezvous for pirates and smugglers. Blackbeard, probably the most famous of the pirates, used Nassau as a hide-out during the 18th century. Its location about 100 miles due east of Florida has made it an ideal spot for such activity. Its position also provides an ideal climate and has made Nassau a very popular resort and vacation spot. What an ideal place for a DXer to live and work. Brendan Cartwright has this enjoyable privilege.

Brendan is quite new to the shortwave hobby. He purchased his first shortwave radio, a Sharp FY410-A, last Christmas and one of the first stations he stopped to listen to was HCJB. He was attracted to HCJB because of the Christian programming. As a Christian he really appreciates this type of broadcasting. More recently he has purchased a second receiver, one of the popular Panasonic RF2200 models. He is now able to listen to many more shortwave stations the world over. He not only uses the built-in whip antennas but has installed a random-wire antenna between a couple

of poles outside his home.

To earn his living, Brendan works as a warehouse manager in Nassau. Other interests, in addition to DXing, include fishing and outboard motor repairing. Living where he does he should have the opportunity to do some mighty good deep-sea fishing. Fishing for difficult shortwave stations should also be excellent. He does most of his listening during the evening hours between 0000 and 0500 GMT and finds time to spend three to five hours a day enjoying his receivers. As a fisherman, he also purchased a Fisher stereo FM system. Many DXers living in a permanent vacation resort like Nassau might find it difficult to keep away from the ocean and beaches in order to do much short-wave listening.

Brendan joined ANDEX soon after becoming interested in DXing. He is member No. 3192. We are glad to be able to introduce Brendan Cartwright to other ANDEX members. As a newcomer to the hobby he can only have more interesting and exciting experiences ahead. ANDEX wishes the very best for Brendan in his work and hobbies.

DX REFLECTIONS

By Gerald W. Arrington

Part 2

Years later, after moving to California, my dream was materialized quite by accident. I had occasionally mentioned my interest in DXing to my wife but could not believe that I would become a serious DXer by actually being pushed into it! In 1962 my darling wife, Maifare, gave me a Zenith Royal 1000 transistor radio with bands for DXing. When I got the set and started listening, the only English I heard was from HCJB, Quito, Ecuador. I also heard a lot of Russian broadcasts from Moscow and numerous other broadcasts in foreign languages. These programs didn't interest me at all. I thought my wife had flipped her lid by buying me a radio that would get nothing but a bunch of jibberish!

All this was before I began to explore the world of antennas and their importance in obtaining the best in shortwave reception. With a considerable amount of patience, I erected one antenna after another. I'm sure you all know by now that a DXer is always on the lookout for another antenna that will hopefully do a better job. I am always hearing that the higher the antenna the better the reception. My first antenna was a simple inverted

"L" up about thirty feet. Right away I began to pick up more stations and some of them were broadcasting in English. At present a Moseley SWL-7 trap dipole is doing a beautiful job. However, in the back of my mind, I know that one of these days I will hoist the wire up a little higher. It is up forty feet right now but it might work better at sixty feet!

I soon found out about the excellent book, *World Radio TV Handbook*, the most comprehensive publication on the market for shortwave listeners. It contains everything the DXer needs for his hobby, such as a list of the stations of the world, English broadcast times, and many other special features. I got my first copy in 1962 and have one for each year since that date. With this wealth of information on where to find stations and when to tune for English programs, I was on my way. But there was one thing still to be desired. On the portable receiver I had to do a lot of searching for stations because of the poor calibration. Then in 1966 I heard about the first direct-dial type of shortwave receiver which was being produced by the R. L. Drake Company. This meant that you would be able to tune in on a frequency scheduled to carry English transmissions and, if conditions were good, you would be sure to get the desired station. I ordered my set right away. It took six months for delivery but the long wait was certainly rewarded.

I called the Drake SW-4 my dream receiver. During the past thirteen years I have been able to tune to stations around the globe. The wall in front of my receivers is covered with many QSL cards. A QSL is a beautiful card of verification sent by a station after receiving a reception report from a listener. My tape library, both cassette and reel-to-reel, contains recordings of English transmissions from approximately one-hundred countries. The tapes in my collection serve as proof that I heard these stations. However, the QSL cards make a very valuable addition to the listener's collection. Some of the stations heard are from countries that no longer exist. Other nations have changed their names. One example is Sri Lanka that was formerly known as Ceylon. This is the reason why I can tell people that I never have a boring day!

Each morning when I turn on my receiver I face a new challenge of perhaps receiving a country I have never heard before. Perhaps I will hear some important news item hours before it is released locally. In fact, I have heard of DXers being tuned to a station in a foreign country and actually hear that station being taken over by rebels or revolutionaries. So, that is all a part of the fascination of listening to shortwave radio!

From American Shortwave Listeners Club
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To be continued

CARTOON CORNER



*Cartoon idea by Terry Concannon
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