



RADIO YESTER YEAR



Don with a few of his radios

Not too many DXers have been in the hobby as long as Donald D. Dickey, of Minneapolis, Minnesota. His experience covers a period of fifty-eight years! Some of his memories of the early days may be of interest to our newer members. We'll let Don tell you his story in his own words. He is ANDEX member No. 2847.

"In 1921, at the age of twelve years, I constructed my first radio receiver with the aid of an older boy in our neighborhood who had previously entered the great hobby of radio listening. It was a crystal-detector radio with its 'cat whisker' and either a small piece of silicon or galena. The balance consisted of hardware, hook-up wire, and a set of inexpensive earphones. Most of this was available at the ten-cent store. My antenna was fifty feet of 14-gauge single-strand copper wire mounted externally between our house and the garage.

"The receiver components were mounted on a breadboard. The amazing thing about this set was not its appearance, but the fact that it actually worked. Picking up such local broadcasts as were on the air at that time, this crystal receiver had a listening range of about thirty miles.

"My next project was a one-tube single-circuit receiver with variable capacitance and inductive tuning. This receiver provided more distant reception. In fact, from my home in Minneapolis, I managed to hear broadcasts from Chicago, about 400 miles away, but not with a great deal of fidelity. Then I tried my hand at a three-tube job known as an 'Armstrong regenerative receiver.' It employed variable capacitance, variable inductance, a series of switch points, and a variable resistor known as a rheostat. In all, the operator of the regenerative radio receiver had five controls to adjust when tuning in a signal.

"The 'Armstrong regenerative' operated on the principle of controlled feedback. The control was adjusted by the rheostat, or what we would now call the volume control. If the operator of a regenerative receiver advanced the rheostat too far the set would break into oscillation and set up squeals and howls beyond description. In addition to annoying the person tuning the receiver, these howls and squeals were fed back to the input and from there to the antenna. They were then broadcast to other listeners in the neighborhood.

"My final experience in home-brew receivers was a five-tube configuration known as the neutrodyne circuit. This was neutralized by capacitive-voltage feedback. This proved to be a vast improvement over my previous attempts, but still had its own built-in evils to plague the listener. Reception was not stable nor was the fidelity very good. Tuning such a unit still required too many knobs and dials. These early receivers were limited to broadcast-band reception.

"I might mention another chronic complaint of early radio listeners. It was called body capacity. If one's hand approached the front panel of the set, the radio would go into oscillation and squeal. Early radio experimenters tried to solve this problem by various means. One was to line the inside

surface of the front panel with tin or copper foil and then connect this shield to ground. This helped, but did not solve the problem. Another method involved a remote tuning device which resembled a plumber's friend. It consisted of a long handle with a rubber suction cup attached to one end. This kept the hands and other parts of the body away from the control panel. When the superheterodyne circuit was introduced, radio had arrived. This circuit remains the basic design for most receivers today. In 1927, A.C. plug-in receivers became available and batteries were eliminated as the only power source.

"In the early 1920's, wireless communication was in the 'horse and buggy' stage, hardly looked upon as a practical medium of home entertainment. Radio was for the most part the concern of the hobbyist and experimenter. There were a few factory-made receivers available at that time but they were both massive and elegant. Price tags relegated their purchase to the affluent few. The performance of these professionally-constructed radios was rarely any better than those made at home. I recall one such receiver that sold for almost one-thousand dollars. It is ironic to note that any modern transistorized portable radio can outperform those early receivers in every respect, at a small fraction of the cost."

It is only fair to add that Don Dickey's DXing is much more enjoyable these days. His present listening post boasts six excellent receivers. Included are a Yaesu FRG-7000, a Panasonic RF-4800, a Collins 51-J2, a Drake SW-4A, a Drake SPR-4, and a Hallicrafter SX-100. He also has a choice of three fine antennas. What more could any serious DXer desire? Nevertheless, we wonder if perhaps he didn't have more fun and excitement back in those early pioneering days.

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HCJB



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NEED A FRIEND?

Do you ever wish you had a friend to help you out of life's difficulties? Perhaps you are discouraged. Your life has been filled with sorrow and loneliness and disappointment. You seem to have had more troubles than others. When you seek comfort from those around you, they do not understand or even care. You wish there were someone who could stand by your side and help you.

It may be that you are struggling with some habit that holds you in its grip. Time after time you have determined to cut loose from it, but find yourself powerless to resist. You long for a friend who has power to help you.

Perhaps you are among those who are burdened by a sense of sin and guilt. Voices from the past will not be silenced. Like angry bloodhounds, your sins refuse to let you escape. If only there were someone who could forgive you and let you make a clean start. Or it may be that you need a friend in your sickness. You are wearied by pain and suffering, and terrified at the thought of what might happen. How often, in your quiet moments, you have longed for some voice to speak peace to your heart, and some strong hand to help you face the future unafraid! Everyone feels the need of such a friend at one time or another. But where is he to be found?

The Bible gives the answer. The Friend you need is the Lord Jesus Christ. There is no one who can heal a broken heart like Jesus. Only he can snap the chains of habit and set you free. He is the Friend who alone has power to forgive sins. No one else can provide real comfort in time of sickness or death.

The best of all friends is the Lord Jesus. He is the "Friend who sticks closer than a brother" (Proverbs 18:24). He is always near when you need him. He is the Friend who loves at all times, in adversity as well as in prosperity. He is an unfailing Friend, one who will never leave you. The proof of his friendship is the Cross of Calvary. There it stands in majestic splendor, telling all the world that the Son of God shed his blood for sinful mankind so that he might save those who believe on him, and be their Friend forever.

You may say, "Christ lived 1900 years ago. How can he be my Friend today?" It is true that Christ

lived 1900 years ago, but it is just as true that he lives today. He rose from the grave three days after his death and later ascended into Heaven. That is where he is today. How can you make him your own Friend? Go to him by faith with all your needs. Confess your sins to him. Admit that you cannot save yourself, and that unless he saves you, you will be lost forever. Then receive him as your Lord and Savior.

When Christ becomes your Lord and Savior, he also becomes your Friend. He will comfort you, cheer you, help you, and then, when life is over, he will take you safely home to Heaven. He wants to be your Friend. Will you let him?

TROPICAL BAND PROJECT

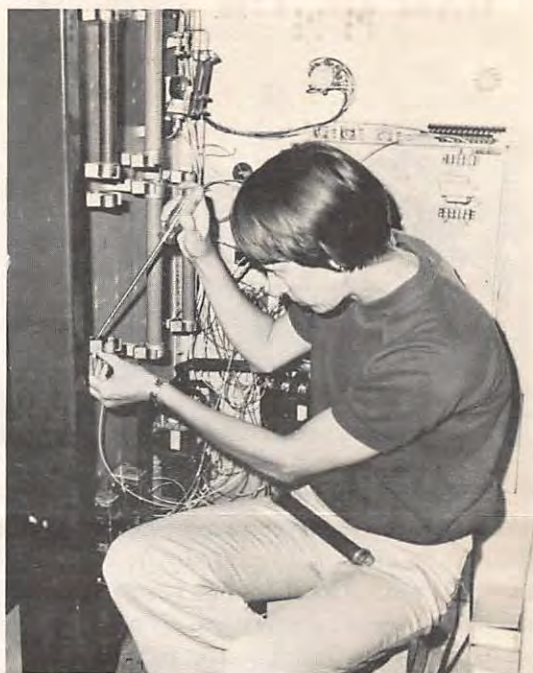
By John Stanley

Ask a broadcaster in any country what he considers prime time and he will refer to the evening hours when radio and television listening peaks. But ask the staff of the Quichua Language Service of HCJB and they will say 4:00 to 6:00 A.M. That is when the mountain Indians of Ecuador, and neighboring countries, rise and prepare breakfast before starting the day's work. It is also the time when they listen to their radios.

Several years ago HCJB engineers realized that no existing transmitter was serving that time slot effectively. The international shortwave bands were skipping out to distant targets, leaving closer listeners unserved. The AM service on 690 kHz was also limited by interference and equatorial static.

We therefore recommended building a transmitter for one of the tropical bands which lie between the medium-wave and the shortwave bands. This would serve the Quichua Indians during their prime time, and other times as well.

The Ecuadorian Quichua Church got behind the idea and things began to move. One 10,000 watt transmitter has been completed and is now in operation. This is operating in the 90-meter band and the frequency is 3220 kHz. A second 10,000 watt transmitter is under construction and will be used in the 49-meter band, 6180 kHz. This second unit should be on the air by the end of this summer. Both transmitters are being funded by Indian churches and individuals. Through HCJB the Indians will also produce the Gospel programming.



Ruth Stanley wiring transmitter

Both transmitters will use a pair of 4CX10,000D tubes in a screen-modulated, Doherty hybrid circuit. The antennas will be of high-incidence "Lazy H" type with a gain of about twelve decibels. The equipment was designed and is being built in Pifo by HCJB engineers. In fact, my wife, Ruth, has had a hand in a good share of the transmitter wiring. We are using surplus parts that we have on hand as much as possible to give the Christian Quichuas of Ecuador the best possible product for their hard-earned money. We praise God for allowing us to help the Quichuas reach their own people with the Gospel.

The first of these two transmitters should be an interesting station for DXers to look for. Listen for Quichua programming on the 3220 kHz frequency. The current schedule calls for this frequency to be on the air from 0900 to 1300 and again from 2130 to 0200 GMT. We will let you know when the second frequency goes into operation. We would welcome reception reports from DXers anywhere in the world and will be glad to confirm them with QSL cards. Since not too many DXers speak Quichua, we will not require you to name the program you hear. Simply send the following information when you write: Time in GMT, Date, Frequency, Signal report, and some program details. We'll look forward to hearing from you.

DXer OF THE MONTH



Michael's DX desk

This month we want you to meet a DXer who has lived all his life in the beautiful state of Washington. What better location for a young man who is not only interested in shortwave radio, but also enjoys camping, fishing, hunting, and photography. In Washington all these hobbies can be followed to an unusual degree. Michael Chinakos lives in the small town of Camas. Not very far from Portland, Camas is right on the Columbia River and near the foothills of the Cascade Mountains. We wonder if Camas lives up to its name. In Spanish Camas means beds. What a comfortable and delightful place for a DXer of the Month to reside!

Michael became hooked on shortwave listening back in 1969 when he built his first receiver, a Knightkit "Star Roamer." During these past ten years he has gradually worked his way up to his present receiving equipment. He now does his DXing on a Yaesu FRG-7. To make things even more convenient he has added a Gilfer GAR-7 digital readout to the receiver. For an antenna he uses a 102-foot trap dipole which is thirty feet off the ground. This antenna runs in a north-south direction. A second dipole is planned which will run east-west.

Other equipment used by this DXer includes a Realistic "Navaho" CB unit, a General Electric "Searcher" UHF scanner, a General Electric cassette recorder, and a digital clock. Michael has designed and built a switch box which allows him to connect either of two antennas to his receivers as needed. He will be glad to send complete plans to any ANDEX member. Just send a self-addressed stamped envelope to Michael Chinakos, Box 663, Camas, WA, 98607. Include a 20¢ stamp or cash to pay for the cost of reproduction.

Michael is employed by Radio Shack, but claims to be a part-time electrician and a full-time student. He is married and has a ten-year old son. He joined ANDEX about eighteen months ago and is member No. 2761. More recently he has also become a member of SPEEDX and NASWA. He finds membership in these clubs to be very helpful. He says, "Without them I would not have gotten as far as I have." He heard HCJB for the first time back in March of 1975 and HCJB is still one of his favorite stations. He especially enjoys DX Party Line and Passport. Other broadcasters he listens to frequently are Radio Nederland, Radio Australia, Radio Sweden, and Radio New Zealand.

During his years as a shortwave listener, Michael has logged around fifty stations and has received verifications from about thirty. To help in making out reception reports and keeping an accurate log, he has a copy of the SINPO code posted right above his receiver. An excellent idea for any DXer. We are glad to present Michael Chinakos to our other ANDEX members and wish him continued success in his chosen hobby.

VOICE PUZZLE SOLUTION

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