

ANDEX



INTERNATIONAL

Vol. 7, No. 12

December 1980

HCJB COMPLETES FORTY-NINE YEARS

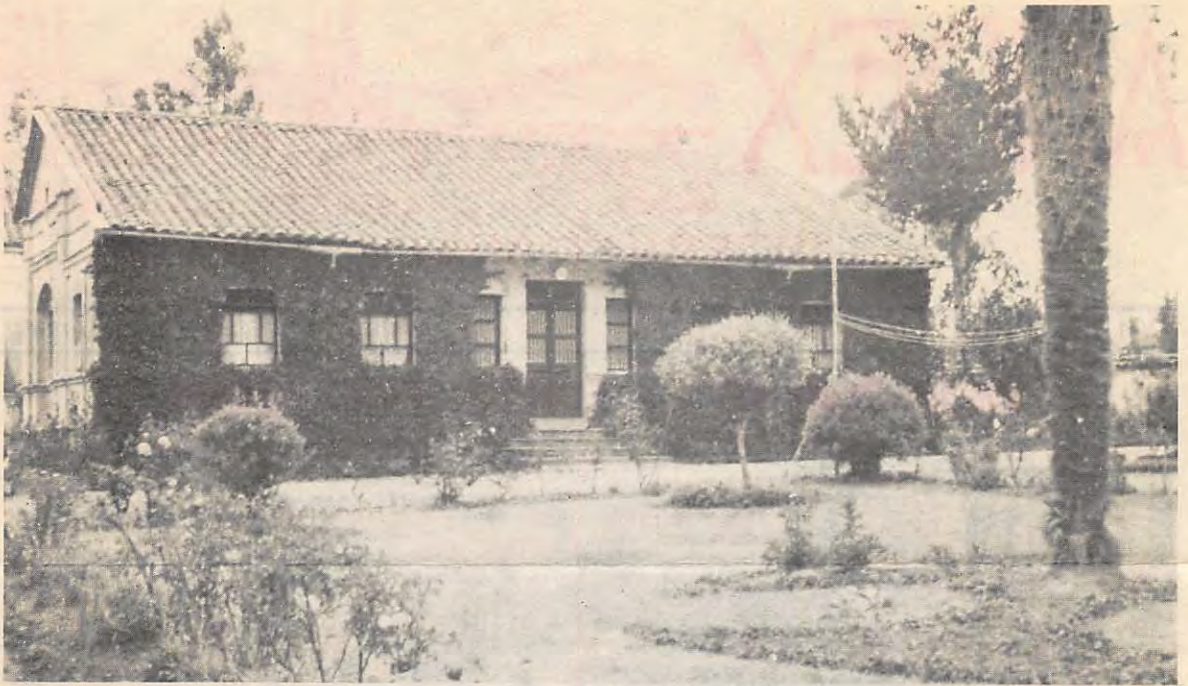


On behalf of the entire staff of HCJB, ANDEX wishes each of its members a Merry Christmas. The people you see in the picture above are those who make the programs you hear on your short-wave receivers a reality. Many of those involved are seldom heard on the air. Some are engineers, others are secretaries or accountants. Doctors and nurses are included in the group as well. Some broadcast in languages that you can't understand. However, all are essential to the operation of HCJB, The Voice of the Andes.

HCJB's first broadcast was aired on Christmas Day of 1931, so we will launch our Jubilee celebrations on the occasion of our 50th Christmas on the air — December 25, 1980. We will continue to observe this special anniversary throughout 1981 and climax the celebrations on Christmas Day of that year. You will be hearing much more about our Golden Anniversary during the coming months.

Things were a lot different back in 1931. An ivy-covered English-style home on Quito's northern edge had been rented as the home for Clarence and Kathryn Jones. Dr. Jones was one of the co-founders of the radio station. The house had been built by a lonely Scotsman. It was surrounded by four square blocks of property with a formal garden in front. Behind the home was the old sheep shed where the first 200-watt transmitter was located. The property and house could have been purchased for \$16,000, but those were depression days. Instead, the home was rented for about ten years until the present studio and office location was obtained. Today the old property has been subdivided into many small home sites, any of which would be worth many times the original price for the entire four blocks.

A small group gathered in the Jones' living room which was the first HCJB studio, on Christmas afternoon in 1931. Reuben Larson, the other co-



The living room of this lovely home was HCJB's first studio

founder, was the man who arranged with the Ecuadorian government for a twenty-five year permit to operate a missionary radio station in the country. The first program lasted only about thirty minutes and was broadcast in both Spanish and English. There was no other station in Quito, or even in Ecuador. Only a few people were known to have radio receivers, perhaps as many as six to eight in the city of Quito.

HCJB's first broadcast almost didn't take place. After the small transmitter had been tested and everything seemed to be in order for the first official program on Christmas Day, a mercury

vapor rectifier tube, an 866, burned out. No spare was available in Quito! What could be done! Then someone remembered that in the city of Riobamba, several hours drive to the south of Quito, was a well-known radio amateur operator, Carlos Cordovez. Carlos operated his amateur station on Sunday afternoons as Radio Prado. Maybe he could help. A rush trip was made to Riobamba, Carlos had a spare tube he could loan to HCJB and it arrived back in Quito just in the nick of time. HCJB's inaugural program went out on schedule.

This Christmas, as we start our 50th year of broadcasting, HCJB is known around the world by shortwave listeners or DXers. Many hours of programming will go out in most of the world's major languages over a complex of about a dozen high-powered transmitters. The programs will be heard by countless individuals in all parts of the world. A missionary staff of more than two hundred is here to serve you. What a change has taken place in nearly fifty years!

Perhaps the only service we have today that can compare with the first broadcasts is the small 100-watt transmitter operating on 26,020 kHz. This, to some extent, ties those early days of pioneering with the huge operation which HCJB has now become. Once again, a Merry, Merry Christmas to each ANDEX member!

ANDEX International—

is the official publication of Andes DXers International, a DX Club operated in conjunction with DX Party Line broadcast over Radio Station HCJB and sponsored by the World Radio Missionary Fellowship, Inc. It is mailed bimonthly to all members.



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HCJB's second transmitter, 1,000 watts, built about 1935

DXing HIGHLIGHTS

It is interesting to know what different DXers consider to be the highlight of their experiences in the fascinating hobby. Shane Mercer, ANDEX member No. 3750, who lives in Tyler, Texas, tells us his story. Shane is a student and a relative newcomer to shortwave radio.

"I got my start in shortwave listening from my grandfather who occasionally does a bit of DXing. It was in March of 1980. I was at my family's cabin by the lake at Alto, Texas. Fishing was slow, so I decided to walk down to my granddad's cabin and borrow his portable radio which has one shortwave band. I had just purchased a magazine about shortwave radio and was very interested in the subject.

"I pulled up the telescopic antenna and turned on the radio. I remember hearing the BBC and Voice of America almost immediately. A little later I picked up Swiss Radio International and Radio Moscow. I sent off for QSL cards from these stations and received them promptly.

"I saw HCJB mentioned in a magazine article as

the Voice of the Andes. I was especially interested in hearing the Andean stations and others from the Caribbean area. For this reason, I was particularly eager to hear HCJB. However, I wasn't able to locate HCJB until later.

"I didn't become a real DXer until I started listening on a receiver that I had built myself. Then I bought a Realistic DX-160 and began going after the QSLs. I now have twenty-three cards and more will be on the way. My grandfather is still listening occasionally and once or twice has come over and listened on my DX-160. He listens to the FM band on his radio more than any other. I'm hoping I can talk him into becoming a serious DXer!"

If you enjoyed hearing about Shane Mercer's start in DXing, his highlight, why not send along your story. Perhaps you have had some interesting or exciting moments that other ANDEX members would like to read about. In return, we'll send you a little prize if we use your article in the club bulletin.

MERRY CHRISTMAS

DXer OF THE MONTH



Paul tuning his FRG-7000 receiver

This month we want to introduce a young DXer from New Zealand. Actually his start in the shortwave hobby began a few years ago in Canada. We'll let him tell you about his experiences in his own words.

"My name is Paul J. Stringer. I first started to listen to shortwave when I was sixteen, almost seventeen. I had a Telefunken portable radio at the time and we were living in Toronto, Ontario, Canada. It was just a simple set with AM, FM, and two shortwave bands. I picked up stations only in foreign languages. I don't think I heard any stations with English programs.

"Then we left Toronto and toured around the United States for eight months. It was a terrific trip and the places I liked best were Florida and California. When we completed our travels we ended up in Vancouver. Next we flew over to New Zealand and stayed with my grandmother in Christchurch for a year. Christchurch is a town of nearly 200,000 population on the east coast of South Island. It is beautiful country. When you travel two or three miles out of the city you are in the country. The city itself is well-planned and full of beautiful parks.

"In Christchurch I began to use my grandmother's portable Sony receiver which also had two shortwave bands. This was when I first heard HCJB.

It was between 0600 and 1030 GMT on July 13, 1978. The frequency I tuned to was 6,130 kHz. I was just eighteen at the time. Now I listen to HCJB every chance I have.

"I now have my own Yaesu FRG-7000 receiver but I can't do much DXing. I do a lot of studying since I am attending night school. I plan to go on to the university so I can become an accountant one day. I also work at Noah's Hotel in Christchurch where I am employed as a kitchen hand. This keeps me busy. I am also interested in CB radio and would like to become a ham operator some day. I enjoy recording and putting electronic kits together. My CB number is CH3964.

"ANDEX is the first club I have joined. I am member No. 3687 and feel very honored. If any DXers decide to come to New Zealand for a holiday, I would recommend a trip to Queenstown. I made a trip there and loved it. It is in a very hilly area and is the oldest gold-mining city in the country. I learned a lot down there. They showed us a movie in one of the museums which depicted what it was like back in the gold rush days."

We are happy to have Paul Stringer as a member of ANDEX and wish him every success during the coming years.

JUST SUPPOSE

Suppose that Christ had not been born
That far away Judean morn . . .

Suppose He counted all the cost,
And never cared that we were lost,
And never died for you and me,
Nor shed His blood on Calvary
Upon a shameful cross. Suppose
That having died, He never rose,
And there was none with power to save
Our souls from death beyond the grave.

As far as many people know,
These things that we've supposed are so.

Those last words are tragic, aren't they? Yet they are all too true. Nevertheless, we can rejoice in the fact that salvation is available to us through faith in Jesus Christ, God's Son. "For God so loved the world that He gave His only-begotten Son, so that whoever believes in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life" (John 3:16).