



HIGH-POWER TRANSMITTER INAUGURATED AT HCJB



Ing. Francisco Saa Chacón speaking during the inaugural ceremony

Just a few minutes before 2100 GMT on the afternoon of February 18th, 1981, Ing. Francisco Saa Chacón, Ecuador's Minister of Public Works, picked up a pair of scissors and cut the ribbons that had crisscrossed the front control panel of HCJB's new 500-kW shortwave transmitter. He then pushed the start button which began the process of firing up the new high-power equipment. The new transmitter was officially inaugurated! This was the final act of a very impressive ceremony that lasted nearly an hour. It was also one of the highlights of HCJB's 50th-Anniversary Year.

There had been a great deal of activity at our Pifo transmitter site for days prior to the inauguration. A large number of the HCJB staff traveled to Pifo on Saturday, February 7th, to spend the day helping to clean up the grounds and get everything in order. A large tent was erected just outside the transmitter building where refreshments and

entertainment could be provided following the official ceremony within the transmitter building. During the rainy season in Ecuador protection was needed in case of rain. However, the weather held and it was a lovely afternoon. Stakes and ropes had been placed along the walks and paths to help control the many visitors expected.

Inside the transmitter building chairs had been placed in front of the large transmitter. Due to lack of space the number permitted inside had to be limited to about 200. At 2000 GMT all the shortwave transmitters were turned off and the ceremony began. Lenin DeJanon, one of HCJB's top Spanish announcers, was the master of ceremonies. Chema Reinoso, Director of Spanish Programs, opened the activities with a prayer of dedication. Following this there were several speakers. These included Thomas Fulghum, Director of Communications for HCJB, Stephen Hunter, Director of Project 500, Eduardo Cevallos,



TV camera tapes the activities

Vice President of the Ecuadorian Association of Radio Stations, and Dr. Abraham Van Der Puy, President of the World Radio Missionary Fellowship, Inc. Interspersed among these talks, Lenin read numerous telegrams of congratulation that had been received from many other radio stations and individuals in Ecuador. The climax came when Ing. Saa gave the final speech and turned on the transmitter.

The new transmitter has been dedicated to the memory of Clarence C. Moore, one of HCJB's early engineers. Clarence, with his family, spent several years in Quito between 1939 and 1944. He built and installed the first 10-kW transmitter which was inaugurated on Easter Sunday of 1940. He also invented the quad antenna during the early 1940s while still in Ecuador. These two achievements helped HCJB establish its place as a well-known voice on the shortwave bands. Clarence Moore provided facilities at his Crown International factory in Elkhart, Indiana, for the con-



Pifo school children take part in the festivities

struction of the new transmitter. Due to his death about two years ago, he was not able to see the completion of the project. During his years in Ecuador he had envisioned a high-power transmitter and a hydroelectric power plant for HCJB. Both of these dreams have now become reality. Ruby Moore, his widow, and his two sons, Edwin and Clyde, made the trip to Ecuador to be present at the special activities. Accompanying them was the president of Crown International. Their presence was recognized during the ceremony and a plaque bearing a picture of Clarence was placed on the transmitter. This was an exciting day for the Moore family. Only a younger daughter, Kay, had found it impossible to attend.

As the ceremony neared its conclusion, the sound of drums was heard outside. It was an unexpected surprise to find that several-hundred school children from the nearby town of Pifo had appeared on the scene dressed in their uniforms. As the ceremony ended, and the guests came outside for a time of refreshment, the school children paraded by and added a colorful atmosphere that was enjoyed by all. Two or three drum and bugle bands, with their majorettes, were a part of the parade.

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Throughout the afternoon, many photographers were busy filming the event. Not only did HCJB record the activities on video tape, but other TV stations in Quito sent their camera crews to provide material for their news bulletins later in the day. The actual ceremony was also broadcast live on HCJB's 50-kW medium-wave transmitter in Quito as well as on FM. During the social time that took place outdoors where the tent had been erected, three musical groups took turns entertaining the hundreds of people who had congregated in the area. Then the cavalcade of cars began heading back to Quito, and life gradually became normal once more in Pifo.

The inauguration of HCJB's new 500-kW transmitter is now history. On March 1st the transmitter began regular operation on a limited schedule. We are all looking forward to great things as this new powerful voice takes its place, alongside our other shortwave transmitters, in helping to Herald Christ Jesus' Blessings to the world.

HISTORY OF RADIO

By Kenneth Vito Zichi

Part 9

In this last installment of our series on the history of radio we want to take a quick look at the future of shortwave broadcasting. There have been many changes in radio technology in recent years and this trend is bound to continue. Of course, the development of the transistor has been the biggest news of the recent past. Even so, there are still a few of us die-hards around who bemoan the loss of vacuum-tube technology! It is true that developments such as communications satellites and related things such as computers would not be the same without the transistor. This has also been the driving force behind developments such as the video tape recorder and modern stereo components. These in turn have affected the way VHF/FM stations and TV networks and stations have approached their markets.

The largest effect of technology on communications has been in speed. Signals that once had to depend on the ionosphere for transmission can now be sent by satellite. The inconsistencies of shortwave propagation can thus be eliminated. The term "information explosion" has been applied to current affairs. The wide-spread introduction of television has brought the immediacy of radio and the impact of the moving picture to a proportion of the world's population.

For many years shortwave radio has held a peculiar spot in the world's media. In fact, this has

been true ever since broadcasting began. It is the only form of mass communication that allows one organization, no matter where it is, to directly talk to listeners around the world. There is no need for a third party as is the case with transcriptions and tapes broadcast over local stations. There is no need to rely on sometimes unfaithful broadcasting facilities to get your message across. You can do it yourself!

Although there are problems with propagation, and often the signal is not audible in the target area, this direct access to residents of another nation far outweighs the disadvantages inherent in the media. There simply was no other way to reach such an audience. However, this is no longer the case. The technology now exists to allow direct satellite broadcasting to home receivers rather than to a central ground station. However, there are many political problems keeping such a system of broadcasting from becoming a reality. Many nations simply do not want their population having such direct access to ideas from other countries. The feeling is that shortwave radio is bad enough, but television from other countries would be much worse! In addition, there are other matters concerning the amount of money that would be necessary to develop such a complicated communication system and the long-term effects of such a system on society.

As you can see, there are a number of complicated questions that need answers before such technologies can be put to use. As throughout the history of radio and communications, the problems are social and political in nature. How does our technology affect the way we live? We are a product of not only our genes, but also of our environment. Radio has become an important part of our environment! Hertz and Marconi would be amazed if they could see the technical developments in the field of their study, but they would not be surprised by the political hassles involved. After all, Marconi's "black box" which he took to England to patent was destroyed at the border. The guard was suspicious of it. Marconi would understand today's political problems.

As it is, shortwave is the only method of direct international communication on a mass scale available today. This places a great burden on it. While the exposure to it is limited in the United States, its effects in other areas of the world is far greater. If international understanding is to ever be a reality, shortwave will play a part in it. There is no way to achieve that understanding without communication. In short, that is what I see as the role of shortwave radio in the future.

It will be a medium of understanding. There will continue to be propaganda on the bands just as there has been. I think the intelligent listener can tell when he is being handed a line. He will discriminate between information and propaganda. Anyone who listens long enough can tell the difference between the two.

From American Shortwave Listeners Club
16182 Ballad Lane, Huntington Beach, CA
92649, Used by permission

DXer OF THE MONTH



Antoon Schut uses two receivers

We return to the Netherlands this month to meet one of our DXers. Antoon Schut lives in Arnhem, one of the larger cities in Holland. Arnhem is located about 60 miles east of Rotterdam and it lies among wooded hills on the banks of the Rhine River. It is not too far from the German border. Arnhem is famous for its town hall which has weird figures supporting the entrance gate and bay windows. One of Arnhem's most interesting parks is the 75-acre Netherlands Open Air Museum. It shows the country's national culture with exhibits of rural architecture, traditional costumes, windmills, and ancient means of transportation. Arnhem is also famous since it was the site of a major Allied paratroop landing in 1944, during World War II.

Antoon does his DXing with two receivers. He started out in 1976 with a Philips model 774. This is a stereo-FM receiver with some other bands, one of which is shortwave. The coverage is limited to a range of 6 to 15 MHz. The receiver has no bandspread dial so it was difficult to tune to exact frequencies. After that he used a Sanyo

RS-8700-SS for a short period of time. This set did not have a digital read-out but it did have the advantage of covering up to 30 MHz. More recently Antoon replaced the Sanyo receiver with a Panasonic DR-26. This same set is known as the RF-2600 in some countries. He now uses both the 774 and the DR-26. He has an outdoor random-wire antenna in addition to the built-in whip antennas.

The first time Antoon heard HCJB was about three years ago. He joined ANDEX a little less than a year ago and is member No. 3734. He is also an active member of the Benelux DX Club. He listens to his shortwave receivers for an hour or two each day. This is usually between the hours of 0700 and 0900 GMT, and again between 2200 and 2300 GMT. He also uses a tape recorder as an adjunct to his radios.

Antoon is employed by the Netherland's government as a civil servant. He works as a technical assistant in an English-language laboratory in Arnhem. In addition to shortwave listening, he enjoys photography as a second hobby.

Our best wishes go to Antoon Schut as he continues his DXing from the beautiful country of the Netherlands.

POINTS TO PONDER

If you can't hear God speaking, check the volume control on your conscience!

A person is young and useful at any age if he is still planning for tomorrow!

Bibles that are falling apart usually belong to people who aren't!

Man may whitewash himself, but only God can wash him white!

If Jesus Christ is not the Son of God, He was the biggest fraud in history!

Whatever makes men good Christians also makes them good citizens!

It is better to be rich in God than rich in gold!

Make sure that the things you're living for are worth dying for!