

# THESE YOU CAN HEAR



PRICE 2/-







STATION HCJB, QUITO, ECUADOR.

#### Location.

SOUTH AMERICA now claims our attention as the location of our station description. This time we take our readers to the famous "Voice of the Andes," HCJB of Quito, Ecuador.

The station itself is located among the snow-peaked Andes—the "Switzerland of South America"—and the station buildings are built on the lower slopes of Mount Pichincha, an extinct volcano. Since the equator bisects Ecuador, the climate is mainly tropical, though the cool mountain areas allow a change of atmosphere.

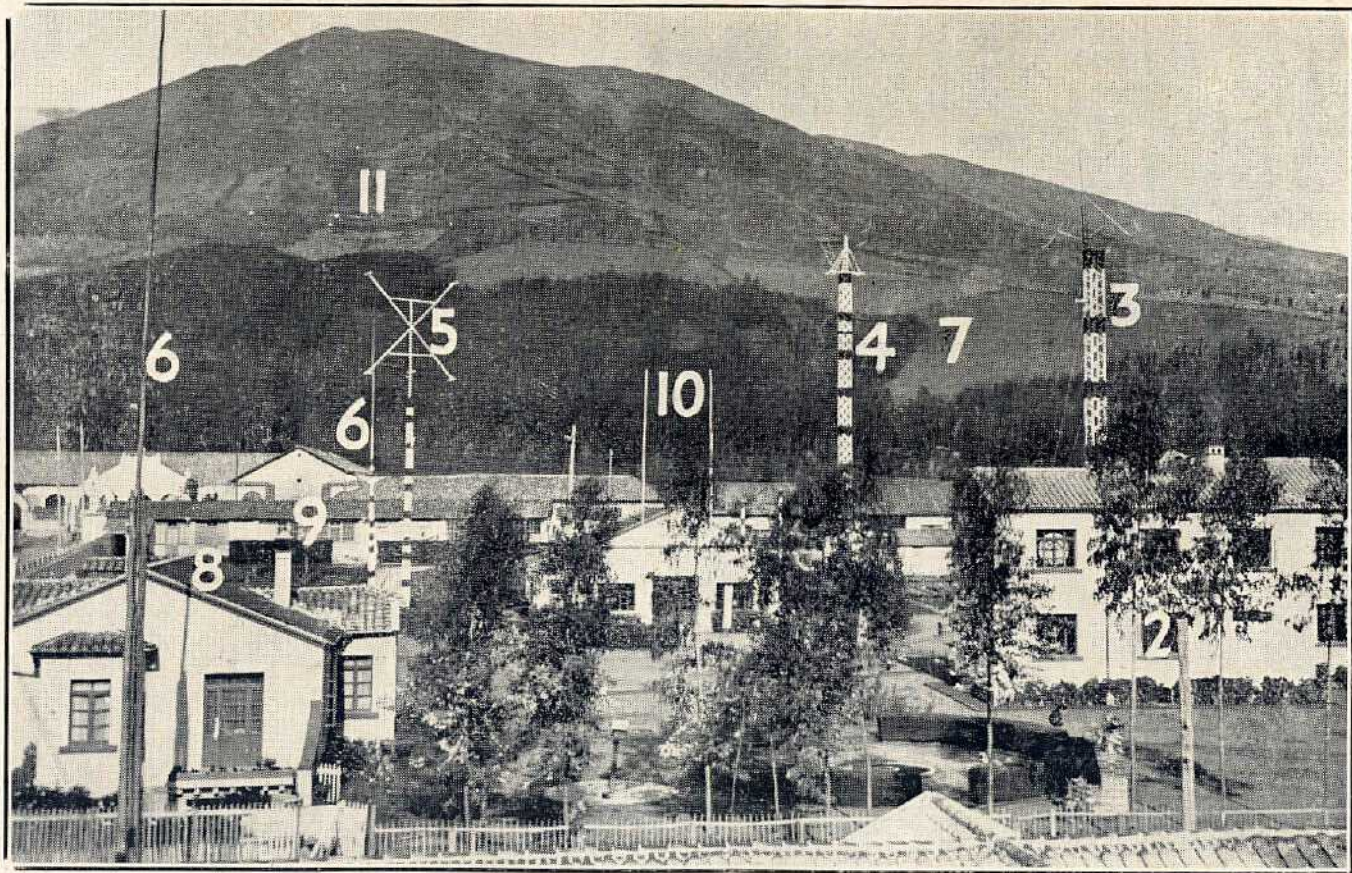
The remoteness of some parts of the country may be judged by the fact that the exact boundary with Peru is still not fixed. Many peaks of the Andes in Ecuador are still actively volcanic, notably Mount Chimborazo (alt. 20,500 feet). Other notable features are plateaux 9,000 feet above sea-level and vast forest-covered plains.

Products are many and varied. Cocoa is the staple product, and sugar, coffee, tobacco, rubber, petroleum, minerals (including gold) and vegetables are largely exploited. The famous "Panama Hats" are actually an Ecuadorian innovation. The population is 2,000,000 with the capital city—Quito—accounting for 84,000.

#### History.

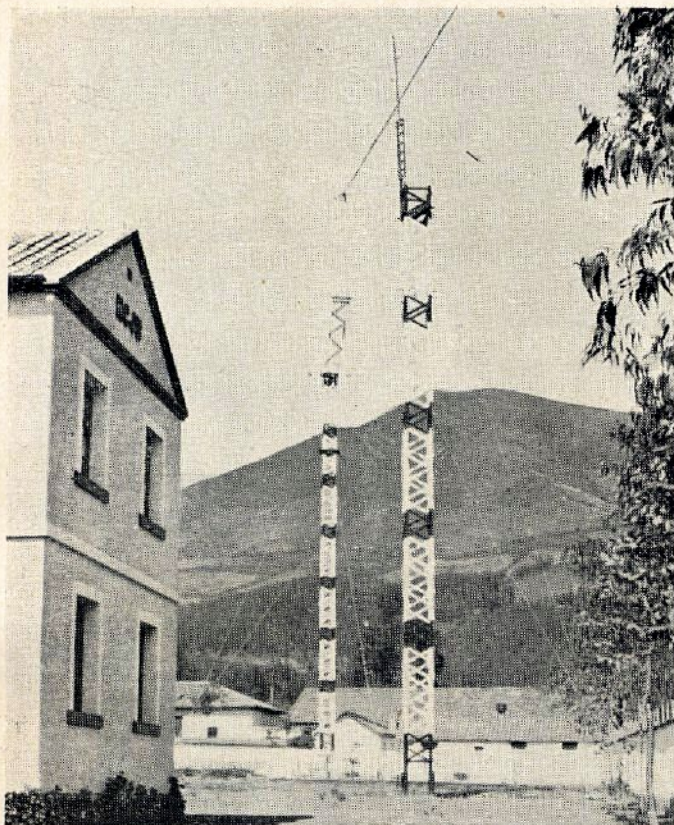
HCJB is a real pioneer station, the first programmes being aired on Christmas Day, 1931, the year of the Incorporation of the World Radio Missionary Fellowship, who operate the stations. In 1932 a portable transmitter-loudspeaker system was installed in trains for special broadcasts in connection with a 25th railroad anniversary. The first HCJB Central Studio and office in Quito was opened in 1933, and the following year saw the beginning of the Radio Circle idea by which radio receivers were loaned to communities to hear HCJB. The next two years saw the purchase of a new transmitter for 73 metres, to replace the original one, and also the inauguration of mobile transmission systems. In 1937 the first 1,000 watt short wave station was installed and the first transmissions in English began. The intervening years were taken up mainly with plans for newer and better equipment, and in 1940, on Easter Sunday, the President of Ecuador opened officially the present 10,000 watt short wave station. During the next few years many changes were made and powers increased. Transmissions were now being given in the additional languages of Swedish, Russian, French, Dutch, Czech, Yiddish and Quechua.





General view of the HCJB Group. (1) Transmitter building (2) Studio and office building (3) 24-metre tower (4) 30-metre tower (5) 19-metre tower (6) Long wave aerial (7) 78-metre aerial (8) Co-director's residence (9) Staff members' apartment (10) Flagpole (11) Mount Pichincha.





*A corner of HCJB showing some of the transmitter buildings, the 24 and 30 metres towers with Mount Pichincha in the background.*

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In 1931 there was a staff of three—this has now risen to many dozens. A board of trustees, elected by members of the W.R.M.F., vesting authority in the co-directors administers the affairs of HCJB. The organisation includes Regional Co-ordinators and a Home Advisory Council, composed of representatives in the U.S.A., Canada and Great Britain.

#### **Equipment.**

The studios are at Inaquito in a two story office and studio building near the transmitters. The transmitters themselves are built entirely by the HCJB engineering staff. Three different types of aerials are in use, a five-element rotary beam, a box-type beam, and "L" type.

#### **Organisation.**

The control of HCJB is in the hands of the World Radio Missionary Fellowship, Inc., a non-profit organisation founded in 1931. Although the station is the Quito outlet of the NBC chain, it is entirely an independent concern. The objective of HCJB, known sometimes as the Pioneer Missionary Broadcaster, is to radiate Gospel programmes to the far corners of the earth. This type of programme is not the only broadcasting from the station, however, and many fine musical, topical and special transmissions are also radiated.

#### **Future Plans.**

Clarence W. Jones, one of the HCJB Co-directors, tells us that the station is planning to secure larger grounds (to increase the size and power of the stations), and to construct more adequate beam aerial arrays. Though no tangible steps have been taken towards the actual visible accomplishment of these plans, it is hoped that it may not be long before they are put into effect.

