

66. KAWARTHA DAYS. 1990 +

Our move to Peterborough was made in the month of April; a cool but clear day, memorable for the usual chaos accompanying any uprooting of one's home possessions! It was to be quite a long time before everything was unpacked, and I could start to take advantage of our new property, with a 130' long garden (the latter obviously giving rise to dreams of long-wire antenna systems, although somewhat impeded by large trees and two hydro power lines close to the area!)

Most of my listening in the summer of 1990 was done at the lakeside cottage, with excellent reception from P.N.G., Indonesia, and Asian countries. A 200' long wire was put up at home, but not in regular use until the end of October. This gave good all-round reception, but the noise level was (and continues to be) a nuisance. Nevertheless, some excellent DX has been logged, such as the Indonesians - Padang, Sibolga, Bengkulu, Pekanbaru, Tanjung Pinang, China - PBS at Nanning, Xining, Guangzhou, Nei Monggol, to name a few. An occasional new country has surfaced, especially Bhutan (but NO veri!!) and of course the "subdivisions" due to war and political upheaval in the former Yugoslavia.

A special station has been ZHH St. Helena, which I first heard on October 23rd 1992; it was audible in Peterborough but not too strong; so I put the Kenwood 1000, my current receiver at that time, in the car and rushed over to the cottage where I enjoyed a long period of excellent reception! It was fortunate that the weather was quite fair, or I would not have been able to reach the lake because of the primitive road sloping down the hill! Their nice QSL card just capped this enjoyable experience; and I'm sure many readers will also have a soft spot for the annual broadcasts of ZHH.

From the lakeside site DXing continued as usual with good Pacific and Asian reception, and a number of "new" Russian and former Soviet regions appeared, with their own programming and nationalistic broadcasts. Unfortunately there was not a corresponding appearance of QSLs! I presume the chaotic state of the Russian mail service has been the main obstacle, but the number of unanswered reports is depressing. Also, in these years - the 90's - a similar comment could be made about reports to Peru, and many Asian or African countries. The financial aspects are probably more important in these countries however. This situation is all the more frustrating, because reception from Peru and Bolivia has been remarkably good recently. (I am happy to say however, that the replies from Bolivia have been quite good)

DX DOWN UNDER!

At the end of 1993, in fact in November, we had the opportunity of a lifetime, a visit to Australia to stay with one of our sons and his family. Their home is a few miles from the coast, about an hour from Brisbane in Queensland. We flew to Hawaii, spent a night there, and continued to Sydney and thence to Brisbane where we were met and driven to their beautiful home in a quiet country area. I had taken with me a DX440 portable and a cassette tape recorder, plus bell wire for an antenna. In the hotel in Hawaii I was able to record several Hawaiian MW stations for posterity, and on the flight had the fascinating experience of hearing several FM stations on my "Walkman" as they faded in-and-out over different areas of Canada & Western U.S.A.

Once installed in Queensland, I strung up a very makeshift 250' long wire, about 25 feet high, and started to roam the dial. Very different from back home! I concentrated on Indonesia on shortwave, logging and taping Serui, Pontianak, Kendari, Merauke, Jayapura, Sibolga, Manado, Dili (lousy signal even there!), and Surabaya; all RRI stations, no others heard. Also managed ZLXA Levu and Kiribati; PNG's were a nuisance!!

But I soon came to understand why MW DX is a special attraction down there! Even with that poor antenna the catches and possibilities were fascinating. At least 91 Aussie stations were identified, from Queensland, New South Wales, Victoria and South Australia, in addition to Canberra. New Zealand was represented on the dial by 2ZB, 2ZN, 2YB, 1Z0, and the most intriguing Maori station 1XCB on 1594 khz. Also heard were Vanuatu, Bangkok (Voice of Asia), and DYDW Tacloban City, Phillipines. I did not have the chance to DX during the night hours - after midnight, local time, or probably would have managed some Japanese loggings. There is quite a problem however with QRM from all-night Aussie broadcasters; but what fun it would be with a loop antenna! I can now understand the attraction for going to the beach and running out a few Beverages!!

Our five week holiday included several visits to the glorious beach (known as the "Gold Coast" due to its marvellous sand and continual sunshine). Surfing and fishing are very popular, and I was able to try the latter. While we were there a visit to Point Danger on the coast introduced me to the Air-Sea Rescue unit, which was an intriguing experience.

We met many wonderful Aussie friends of the family, and after the Christmas festivities with them all, it was all-too-soon time to pack up and return to Canada; many happy memories remain.

1994 opened with the logging of Hawaii!! that is to say, the first SW broadcaster since the old days of the VOA station KRHO. The new outlet is a World Harvest Radio operation under the callsign KWHR, and was heard on 13625 khz. Additionally a new country was logged this year, Caribbean Christian Radio from Grand Turk Is, on MW 1020 khz. This period also gave some good Bolivian reception, and of course many new Peruvians (the "mushroom stations" of the dial!). Logging them is one thing, getting them to QSL is a different matter! However, Bolivians Radio San Miguel and Radio Metropolitana obliged with nice veris.

Since I was now using a new receiver, the British LOWE HF225, which I regard as the best set I have ever owned, I decided to enter the ODXA annual DX Challenge, held in November. This was NOT to prove how good a DXer I was(!), but to show hobbyists that the rather lukewarm praise given in certain quarters, was quite off the mark as far as the DX capability of the LOWE is concerned. Accordingly, I spent quite a lot of time at the dial, under poorer-than-average conditions, but managed to rack up the top score for Canadian contestants, and second overall. The committee accepted logs from 139 countries; the top score was an American listener with 146. (The delta loop suits the HF225 very well)

I was very pleased with this result which clearly shows that the HF225 is an equal competitor with the top receivers. It also illustrated the principle that you have to be able to capture a signal with good AUDIO QUALITY in order to be able to understand the transmitted speech, for identification purposes. All the "bells & whistles" controls in the world will not compensate for poor audio; on many modern communication receivers it is possible to pull out a "signal" with notches, filters, etc...but the result is a noise rather than intelligible speech.

The year ended with two good loggings; "Estereo Carrizal" in Calceta, Ecuador, formerly "La Voz del Rio Carrizal", heard several times in previous years; and Radio Nepal on 5005 khz. The latter had also been heard before, ...but this time they verified! The steady growth of Peruvian stations in the 6 mhz region continued into 1995. May broadcasters were heard, such as La Voz de San Antonio, Luz y Sonido, R. Sensacion, R. Huancabamba, R. Cusco, R. San Ignacio. Early in the year came the Peru-Ecuador border war, and an interesting logging was "Ondas del Rio Mayo" in northern Peru (see "Lucha Latina" DXO March 1995)

From October I was able to hear the first authorised broadcaster in the "extended" MW segment of the dial (1600-1700 khz) which was WJDF Elizabeth N.J. transmitting with half-power (2.5 kW) 1660 khz.

SUNSET REFLECTIONS.

And so to 1996, as I write this text. A time to think back about the hobby. Questions surface; Why get into the listening hobby? Well, it is a really fascinating hobby that can be enjoyed at many levels, and by many different types of people. Now I must say at once, that I believe there are at least two different kinds of listening (although they certainly overlap), and it is likely that a person will be attracted by one or the other. These are:

-DXing. The thrill of hearing a distant and/or small local station in a foreign land. This was certainly my original impetus in the hobby, and of itself it will stimulate a profound interest in world geography; the addict is likely to become an expert very quickly. The build-up of a small personal library on areas of special interest will further extend one's knowledge and also enjoyment of the DX stations. Books such as the South American Handbook, or the several such titles about Indonesia come to mind.

Additionally the collecting of verifications (letters, cards, pennants) will give the listener years of enjoyment, though it must be regrettably stated that this aspect is becoming more difficult.

-Programme Listening. For practical reasons this kind of listener will be tuned to the more high-power stations which can be regularly heard on the dial. Over the years this side of the hobby has steadily increased, due to more efficient broadcasting (high power, multiple frequencies, and much better receiving equipment.) I too, listen much more to "programmes" nowadays, than I ever did in early years. The result is a "community" of shortwave fans who are among the best educated people in the world - no question about that! In 1996 the SWL (as opposed to the DXer) can study the culture of numerous countries at the touch of a few buttons! A sub-division of this educational aspect is language learning and practice. This of course demands a concerted effort on the part of the individual, but it will pay dividends, and open up a new world of understanding, friendships, and maybe work opportunities. There is simply no substitute to listening to the native voice on radio to "tune" one's ear to the speed and rhythm of a foreign language; and this is so valuable in maintaining one's capability when the language has been mastered.

Technical knowledge and enjoyment of repair/design/construction forms another side of the hobby, and this is more likely to be associated with a parallel development of interest in the "ham bands" .. which may lead to a transmitting

license...who knows ? And to learn correct amateur transmitting operating procedures...you have to LISTEN first!

Friendships are another feature of the hobby which may be under-estimated. It has been said that DXing is a "loners" pursuit, but this need not be the case. Join a National or local listeners group and you will soon have common ground with new friends. If you have the opportunity to travel, you can find a friend in most countries by walking into the offices of a station you heard while in your armchair, and find new and interesting friends in foreign parts! A priest in Peru, a disc jockey in Mexico, a lawyer in Spain, missionaries in Costa Rica, a journalist in Guatemala...all these personal liaisons have been my lot.

Music has always been for me a very enjoyable feature of shortwave radio. Now of course, classical music does not come over well in this medium; I mean especially folk music played by small groups or individuals. You will quickly learn to distinguish the genuine from the "copy" ("westernised" music of foreign lands) Having got to know the real thing, then you can search for a cassette or disc of such music for more complete enjoyment.

The more I think about these many advantages of this splendid hobby, the wonder is that there aren't so many more "addicts"!!..of course you may end up switching off the TV!

WHITHER SHORTWAVE ?

In this time of changing technology the question is being asked in many quarters. Some are suggesting that the SW spectrum has no future in "normal" broadcasting (i.e. excluding "Utility" transmissions.) Digital methods and satellite systems will take over they say. Personally I regard this as a form of "tunnel vision", believing that there is no way in the next 10-20 years in which SW broadcasters are going to disappear. This is because of economic factors (cost of new transmitters & receivers, computers etc..) which are too expensive for Third World countries to adopt in profusion. What is possible, is the movement of high-power stations to satellite systems which hopefully would leave the radio dial to local low-power Third World stations, thus creating a "paradise" for the true DXer!! (One can dream, can't one!!). Some division like this will probably occur, but to suggest that the small Latin stations for example, will disappear, is a long way off, I think. They reach their local "market" very cheaply by comparison with new methods. Oh, excuse me, I must stop; there's that Bolivian station again.....!

Every DXer is happy to have this card- FIBS is now off SW. SW

THE FALKLAND ISLANDS BROADCASTING STATION



2370 kHz

QSL to T. Williams, Margaret & Ken No 32 BROADCAST SECRETARY

COMANDO EN JEFE FUERZAS ARMADAS ARGENTINAS COMANDO EN JEFE FUERZAS ARMADAS ARGENTINAS COMANDO EN JEFE FUERZAS ARMADAS ARGENTINAS

LRA 36 RADIO NACIONAL "ARGANGEL SAN GABRIEL" BASE DE EJERCITO "ESPERANZA" ANTARTIDA ARGENTINA. Includes frequency 15476 KHz and a signature.

Silent at present. LRA36 was the easier of the Antarctic SW stations (c.f. McMurdo Sound)

A Gulf War record; BFBS has a chequered history of SW broadcasting, operating from many countries for quite short times. This one served the British forces in the Gulf area.

BFBS FORCES RADIO logo and map of the Gulf region. Includes contact info for BFBS LONDON and the SSVC logo.

The Baltic States now have their own programming! EESTI RAADIO 200100 TALLINN ESTONIAN SSR

VERIFICATION CARD. We are pleased to confirm your report on the reception of our broadcasts on 1035/5925/1512/1215/710 kHz Date 12/2/92 19:22 Time 19:22 GMT. It has been checked with our records and is correct in every detail. We wish you successful DX-ing. RADIO TALLINN QX CLUB

Map of Lithuania with the Lithuanian flag colors. Includes the logo for RADIO VILNIUS LITHUANIA.

"P.N.G" - THE MAGIC TARGET OF MANY DXERS! THE DISTANCE AND LOW POWER HAVE ALWAYS MADE THESE SITES A SPECIAL CHALLENGE, AND THE TYPICAL "ISLAND RYTHMS" OF THEIR MUSIC HAVE A SPECIAL DX ALLURE!



TERRITORY OF PAPUA AND NEW GUINEA

Telegrams
Telephone
Our Reference
If calling ask for
Mr.

Department of Information and Extension Services.

Radio Bougainville
P.O. Box 35
KIETA, T.P.N.G.
17th December 1969.

RADIO EASTERN HIGHLANDS
"KARAI BILONG KUMUL"



National
Broadcasting
Commission

Phone 72 1733



P.O. Box 311
Goroka, EHP.
Papua New Guinea.



Ref:



RADIO SOUTHERN HIGHLANDS
(NEK BILONG MURUK)

59-1020 Cables: NATBROADCAST Telex: NE 52003 P.O. Box 101
MENDI, S.H.P.
Papua New Guinea.

Date: 01.10.91

[DR. TOM WILLIAMSON
738 SNELGROVE ROAD
PETERBOUROUGH ONTARIO
CANADA, NORTH AMERICA]

Dear Dr. Williamson,

RE: VERIFICATION LETTER:

440 TO OZ!



2WEB

585

OUTBACK RADIO - BOURKE

**HAWAII
PUBLIC
RADIO**

KHPR 88.1 FM
KIFO 1380 AM
KIPO 89.3 FM
KKUA 90.7 FM

738 Kaheka Street • Honolulu, HI 96814-3726
TEL: (808) 955-8821 • FAX: (808) 942-5477



VIA HAWAII!

Dr. Tom Williamson
11 Berrigans Rd.
Mudgeeraba 4213
Queensland, Australia

25th January 1994

STUDIOS
43 - 49 Bank St., South Melbourne, 3205
Victoria, Australia
G.P.O. Box 369F, Melbourne, 3000
Openline Phone Number:
Aust 03 696 1278 Intl +61.3 696 1278

TRANSMITTERS
Lower Plenty, Melbourne, Australia
37° 44' 44" South, 145° 6' 29" East

24 HOUR TRANSMISSION

Power: 5000 Watts
Frequency: 1278 kHz
Wavelength: 234 Metres
Mode: C-QUAM A.M. Stereo
Transmitters: Nautel AMPFET 10S
Antenna: Marconi
Radiation Pattern: Omnidirectional

CONFIRMING YOUR Q-S-L-

Date: 26th December 1993
Time: 2100 to 2115 AESST
Program: NEWS and "REMEMBER WHEN"
Reception Location: with Bruce Mansfield and Philip Brady
Mudgeeraba, Australia

1332 /#

5000 WATTS

ARB
BUNDABERG, QLD.

YOUR REPORT OF 18 December 1993 IS VERIFIED.

1278
3AW



TWO SPECIAL MILESTONES!

1460
AM GJOY/CHLO^{106.1}
FM

75 Speedvale Avenue East, Guelph, Ontario N1E 1M3 Telephone (519) 824-7000

February 21, 1977.

Dr. Tom Williamson,
43 Forcst Hill Drive,
Guelph, Ontario.

Dear Tom:

Thank you for your letter of February 17.
I would like to suggest that a note from
you following the test, commenting on your
responses would be most interesting.

I do not feel that there would be any
problems with a short report of the test in
the Mercury should you wish to go ahead with
it.

Our recording is all ready, and we'll
be set for 0100 hours on February 28, 1977.

Good Luck!

Yours sincerely,

L. D. Smith,
Engineering Manager.

P.S. For what it's worth,
the test will also be
broadcast on CKLA-FM.

DX CHALLENGE
1994

**SHORTWAVE
BROADCAST STATIONS**
were received by

Dr. Tom Williamson
from

139 Countries
November 1-30, 1994
Ontario DX Association

20
ONTARIO DX ASSOCIATION
1974 ANNIVERSARY 1994

THE CASTLE, JAMES TOWNS, ST. HELENA, SOUTH ATLANTIC OCEAN
Telephone: 4669 Telex: 420219VTE HL Fax: (290)2508
4542
JAM



ZHH

25TH
YEAR
OF
TRANSMISSION




Radio ST HELENA


turns me on!

1967...1992


REPORT ACKNOWLEDGMENT



Radio Broadcasting Service
RADIO NEPAL
P. O. Box 634, KATHMANDU / NEPAL.



QSL-VERIFICATION-CARD



Dear DX. Tom WILLIAMSON,

We are very pleased to confirm your reception report of our transmission, which is in accordance with our schedule

Date 24th Dec 1994.

Frequency (KHz) 5005

Time (UTC) 12:05 ~ 12:25

We thank you for your report, we will be pleased to hear from you again. With best wishes from Nepal

Broadcast held on 15-17 15 HRS (UTC)

FREQUENCIES 5005 7165 3230 1443 810 797 604 648 574 (KHz)

DR. TOM WILLIAMSON
738 SNELGROVE RD.
PETERBOROUGH.
ONTARIO CANADA.
K9H 2E9. N. AMERICA

Rskanki
Signature

QSL VERIFICATION

RADIO STATION Voice of Broad Masses of Eritrea
TRANSMITTING FROM: ASMARA - ERITREA

Dear DR. TOM WILLIAMSON


We confirm with pleasure your reception report which conforms to the programs we broadcast. **THANK YOU.**

FREQUENCY: 7020 @ 7380 KHZ

Date 18 Nov. 1992 Time 04:00 - 04:17 UTC

LANGUAGE TIGRIGNA

Mehretab T. Giorgis
Signature



RADIO NAYLAMP E. I. R. L.

RADIO NAYLAMP
LAMBAYEQUE

OBN - IM - OM 1580 KHZ.
LA DIFERENIE
Av. Huamachuco 1080 - Telf 28-3353
LAMBAYEQUE - PERU

Saludo a y agradezco vuestra recepción y atención

Día 31.07.93
Hora 04.40pm
Lugar PETERBOROUGH - ONTARIO
País NORTH AMERICA

[Signature]
ON 11-11-93 VERGAS
DIRECTOR

COMPANIA RADIOFONICA LIMA, S. A.

Lima, 22 de Agosto de 1991

Señor
TOMAS WILLIAMSON

Confirmamos su reporte de sintonía para nuestra Onda Corta Tropical en la Banda de 61.04 mts Frecuencia de 4915 Khz, el día 30 Julio 91

[Signature]
JUAN RAMIREZ LAZO
DIRECTOR GERENTE

Centro Cívico, Lima 1, Perú Telfs. 331188 - 330848 Fax 336134

RADIO SAN MIGUEL
CP 114 o.c. 60 MTS.



CERTIFICADO DE SINTONIA

RADIO SAN MIGUEL Certifica que:

Dr. Tomás Williamson

ha captado nuestra señal de transmisión en:

4925 KHz.

Riberaalta, 08 de Junio de 10 94

[Signature]
DIRECTOR



RADIO Satelite E.U.C.

JR. CUTERVO No. 670
PROV. SANTA CRUZ
CAJAMARCA - PERU

O.C. 45 MTS.

CERTIFICADO DE SINTONIA

La Empresa Unipersonal de Comunicaciones,
RADIO SATELITE Certifica que:

TOMAS WILLIAMSON

ha captado nuestra señal de transmisión en:

CANADA - AMERICA DEL NORTE

Santa Cruz, SETIEMBRE de 1991.

[Signature]
SABINO LLAMO CHAVEZ
GERENTE



THE PIONEER MISSIONARY BROADCASTER.

Probably the most remarkable shortwave venture in history - from sheepsheds to Superpower giant, a journey in Christian faith.

Over more than fifty years I have had the pleasure of meeting several of the staff, and they have arranged some special over-the-air greetings to local churches.

A most friendly and cooperative group, presently including ODXA's Rich McVicar, hosting "DX Party Line".

(The HC60JB was a commemorative event by the ham operators at HCJB)

A Daring Plan

The year was 1931 and history was being made and the world was in the middle of an economic depression. The faint sound of marching boots signaled the rise of a new political party in Germany. Josef Stalin was leading Russia in the first of many Five-Year Plans. A republic replaced the monarchy in Spain.

But, in South America, events of far more eternal significance were taking place. God changed the haze of dreams to the steel of fact for Clarence Jones and Reuben Larson.

The Holy Spirit had planted a daring idea in the hearts of these two missionaries, and it would not be put to rest. They dared to dream that God would use a new entertainment medium, radio, to spread the gospel to the ends of the earth. In 1931, when the rest of the world was in turmoil, God put substance to their dreams and God's Word spoke peace over the air waves.

It was a humble beginning. A little 250-watt transmitter went on the air from Quito, Ecuador's capital city, on Christmas Day, 1931. The new missionary voice, operated from a converted sheep shed, began pointing people to the Lamb of God which taketh away the sin of the world.

The History-Maker That Remains

Most of the world's leaders who were making history in 1931 are gone. But The Voice of The Andes, HCJB, is still *Heralding Christ Jesus*. Blessings around the clock to every continent of the earth. The mini-voiced, 250-watt transmitter has grown to a max-powered collection of transmitters totaling more than a million watts.

HCJB has been proclaimed the most popular non-government station on the air in a listener survey made by The International Shortwave Club of London. Its clear, powerful signals break

The first HCJB broadcasts were from this former sheep shed in Quito.

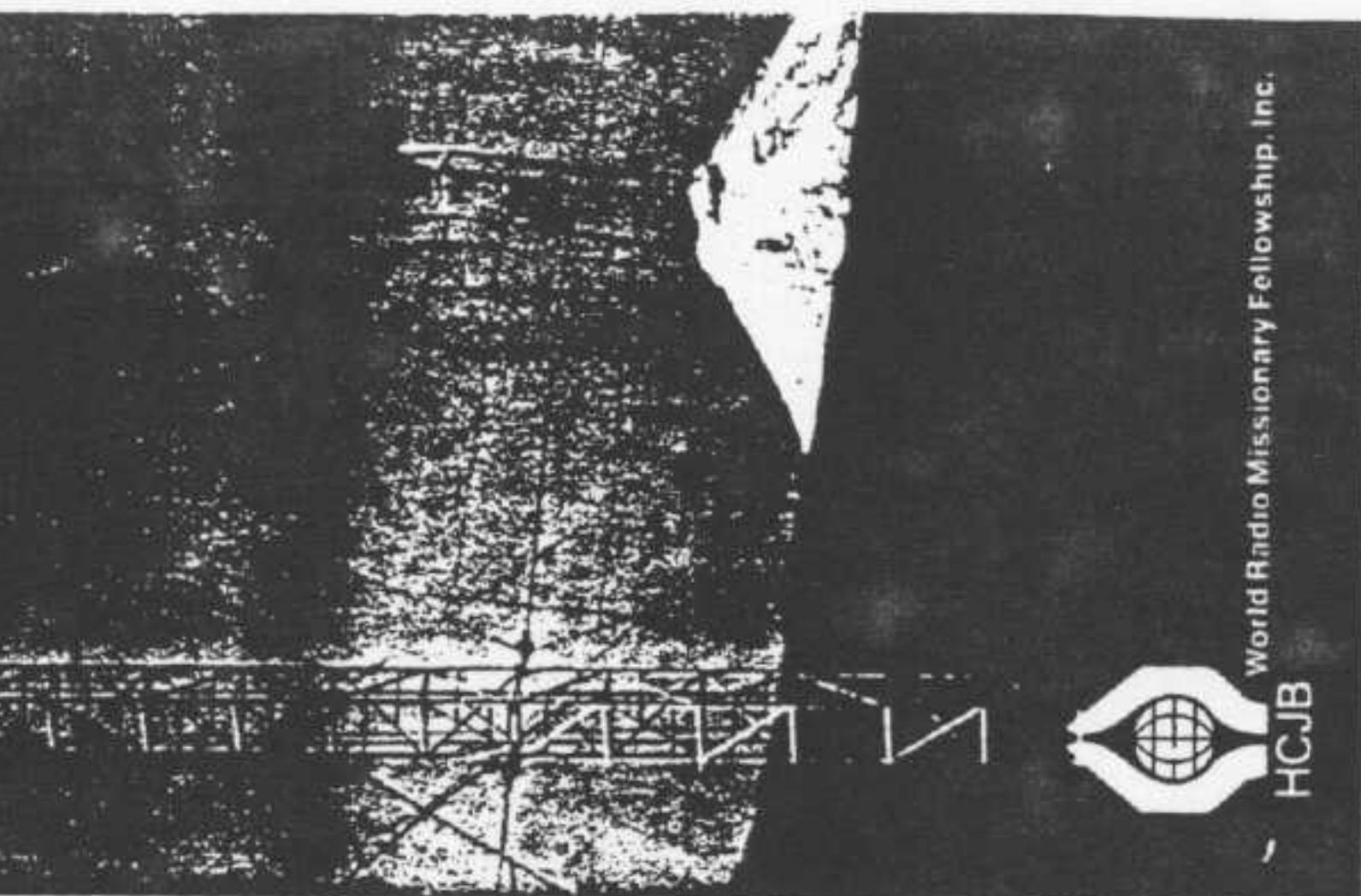
Co-founders of HCJB, Dr. C. W. Jones and Dr. Reuben Larson, continue to work for the expansion of missions through broadcasting.

The learning masses of South America and the world await the gospel message.

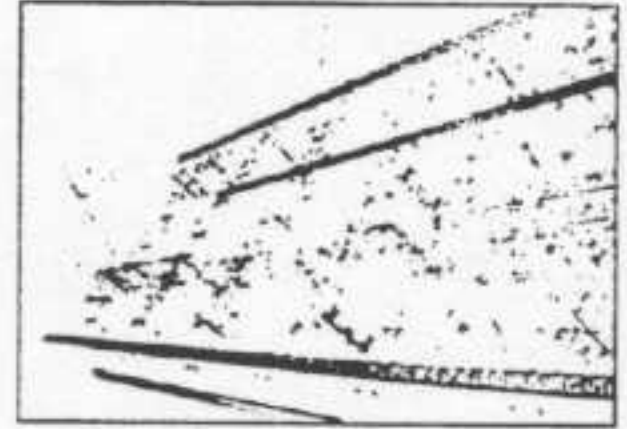
This is a popular market in Quito. HCJB recording equipment makes possible an around the clock ministry to a world.

HISTORY IN THE MAKING

Fifty Years — Pioneering in Faith and Progress, December 25, 1981



World Radio Missionary Fellowship, Inc.

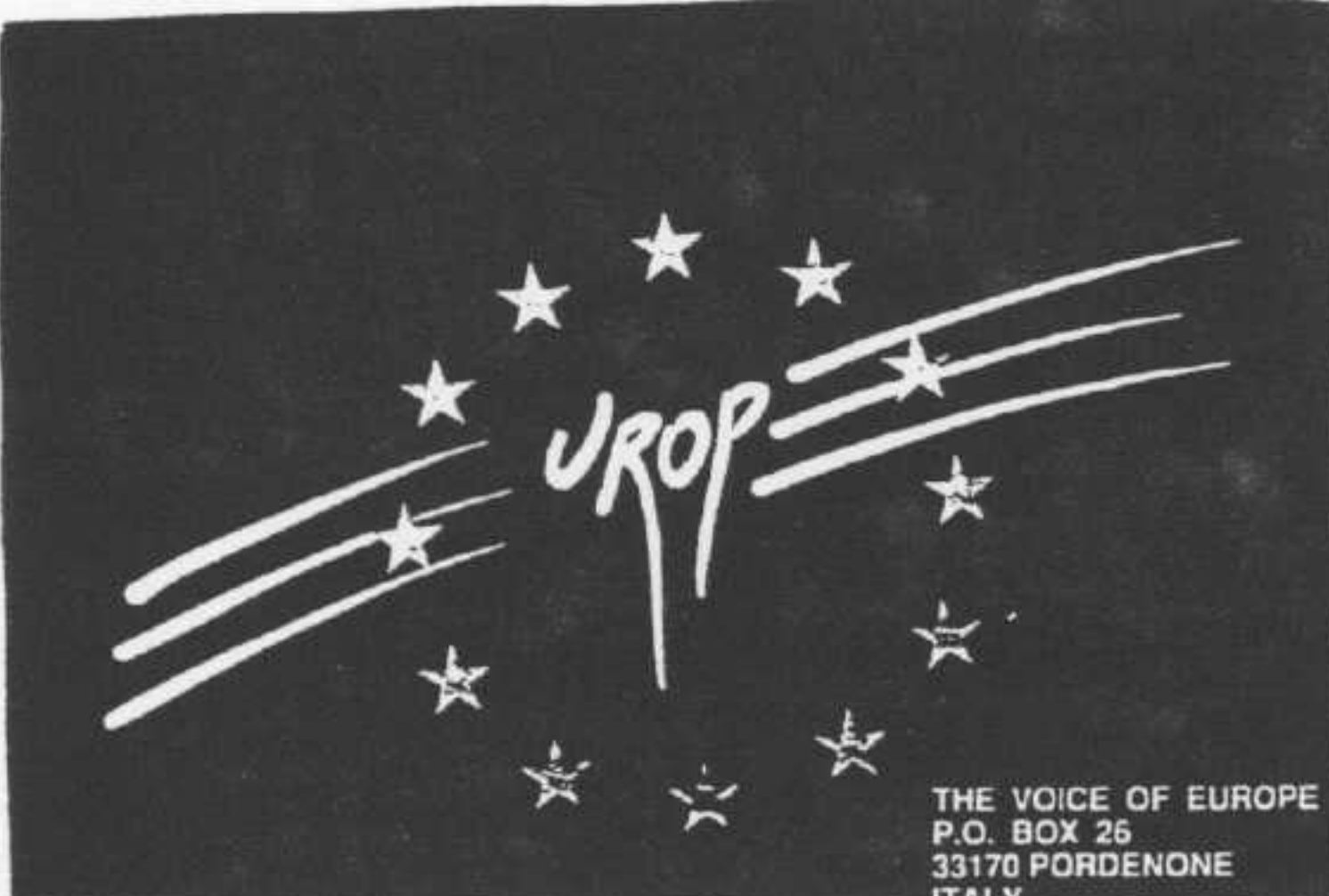
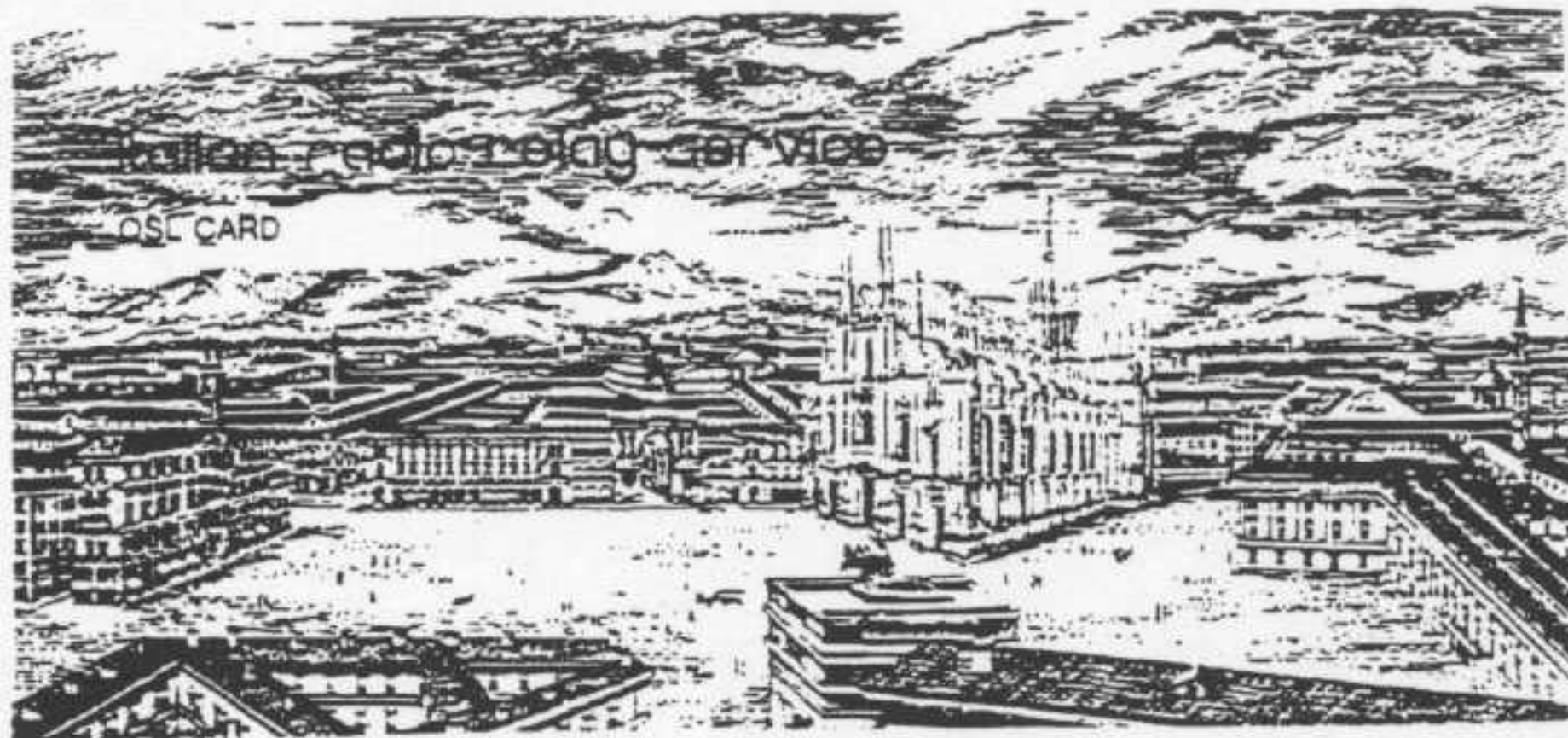


Curtain antenna with eight parallel-fed dipoles, 20M for special event.



Pioneer Missionary Radio Station
HCJB celebrating 60 years of
broadcasting

**HCJB, Box 17-01-00691,
Quito, Ecuador**



TWO LOW POWER ITALIAN STATIONS

Such broadcasters are useful guides to reception conditions from their region. The Voice of Europe was heard on 13665 khz, but is no longer on the air. IRRS continues operations in the 7 mhz band however.

INDONESIAN VERIFICATIONS ARE NOT TOO EASY-NOR ARE THE LOGGINGS; BUT AMBON AND SORONG ARE AMONG THE MORE FREQUENTLY HEARD AND QSL'D STATIONS.



CONFIRMING RECEPTION OF RADIO REPUBLIK INDONESIA

Dear Sir

We gratefully acknowledge your report on

STATION R.R.I. Sorong LOCATION Irian Jaya

FREQ 4875 KHZ TIME 12.40 - 13.16 GMT.

REMARKS -on 23rd January 1980.-

The report is correctly,

I hope it will be continued in the future.

Thank you very much for your report and thank you for your report.

Yours faithfully,

SORONG Director.

C USMANNY.

See you later.