



Looking Back

Tom Williamson, 166 Burriss St., Hamilton, Ont. L8M 2J8

Looking Back is a nostalgic reflection on the shortwave scene of yesteryears, written from the personal experience of the author, who has been DXing the shortwave bands for over seven decades.

Dominican Days

In earlier days of shortwave listening (DX style), the stations of the Dominican Republic in the West Indies, were frequent visitors to our dial. Despite being of low power, in the main, there were a lot of them, which increased our chances of logging and identifying some of them.

Occupying the eastern part of the island of Hispaniola, the Dominican Republic has had a turbulent history with periods of rule by the French, Haitians and Spanish, since its initial discovery by Columbus in 1492. It was virtually the headquarters of Columbus and still contains many relics of those days, such as his tomb in the cathedral, with an eternal flame burning there, with oil from Italy.



If my memory serves me correctly, the capital city was originally named "Saint Domingue", in the French language, then Santo Domingo - with a hiatus due to the dictator who renamed it Ciudad Trujillo in honour of himself!



Rafael Leonidas Trujillo seized power in 1930 and ruled the nation until his assassination in 1961. He was head of the Partido Dominicano and "Benefactor of the Nation", so it was not our idea of a true democracy. Nevertheless, he did make many physical improvements to the country.

Just prior to World War II, there were several shortwave broadcasters in the country which were often to be found in the higher part of the 49 meter band. Callsigns were in the HI sequence, often with a numeral for the SW outlet (e.g. HIN medium wave, HI1N shortwave). The majority of stations operated with low power, 1 kW or less.



As time went on, broadcast groups became more complex, television came into the networks, and power increased on the shortwaves. For example, La Voz del Yuna HI2T used 7.5 kW in 1947 and the most well-known of all in more recent years, Radio Clarin, used 50 kW on the 25 meter band. There were still some good DX catches around in the early sixties, such as Ondas del Yaque 4980 kHz (250 watts) and two 90 meter band stations, HIBD Voz de La Romana and Radio Hit Musical, in Santiago.

continued on next page

Sad to say, but today only Radio Amanecer, the religious station on 6025 kHz, remains as the active station from the Dominican Republic. An occasional reactivation of 60 meter stations has been noted in recent years, but not at the time of this writing.

Good listening!

CIRCUITO RADIAL HI3T HI2T

"La voz del Yuna"

REPUBLICA DOMINICANA
CIUDAD TRUJILLO

Fundador:
Propietario:
J. ARISMENDI TRUJILLO M.

1040
HI3T-10,000 W. en 1040 K.C.
7275
HI2T-7,500 W. en 7275 K.C.
11900 KC

ONDAS DEL YAQUE

HICK

920 Kcs.
ONDA LARGA
2000 WATTS

4980 Kcs.
ONDA CORTA
250 WATTS

SANTIAGO, REPUBLICA DOMINICANA