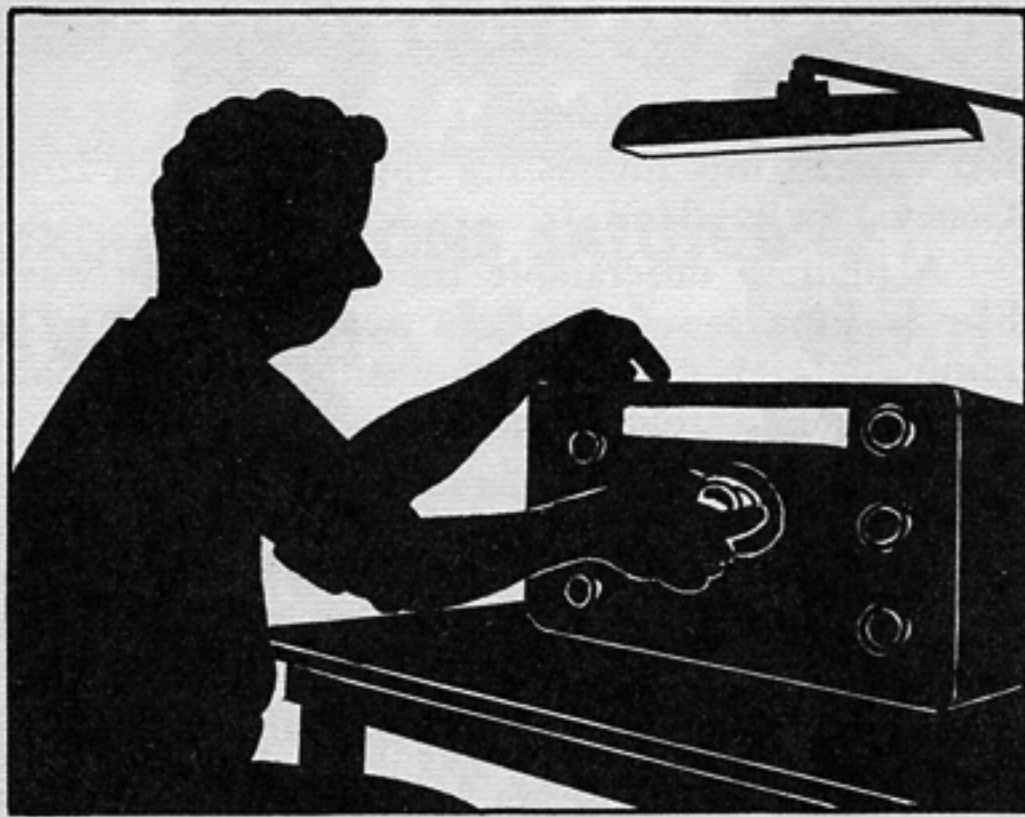


SHORTWAVE PROFILE



Mr. August Balbi
Los Angeles, California, U.S.A.

With deep respect and admiration, it is a distinct privilege to dedicate the initial issue of the Shortwave Department of *DXing HORIZONS* to the Dean of active SWLs, a pioneer in the field of international shortwave DXing, the most methodical DXer whom I have ever known, and a true gentleman . . . my good friend and long-time consultant and adviser . . . Mr. August Balbi, 1414 South Wilton Place, Los Angeles 19, Calif., U.S.A.

At August's Listening Post, you'll find his "trusty" HAMMARLUND HQ-129X (1947 model); a HALLICRAFTERS SR-20 (1942); a RME DB-20 preselector (1942), and his *piece de resistance* — a custom-built 15-tube HOLMES — manufactured in Los Angeles (1936), equipped with a 15" Jensen high-fidelity speaker. He uses a 100' L-type one-piece-wire antenna, 40' high, oriented SE to NW. He has a tape recorder to record SW transmissions.

Of the receiving equipment he has used in more than a quarter of a century of highly successful SW DXing, August comments:

"The HOLMES is the most powerful shortwave receiver, with the best tone, I have ever had. My first receiver, back in 1933, was an all-wave MIDWEST — truly the best-looking piece of 'junk' ever sold as a shortwave receiver! I *did* hear VL2ME, Australia, on a Saturday (March 1934) on it and verified that station. Next, I had a 10 AW PATTERSON, a good receiver for that time, but with no calibration!—just 1-100 markings on the dial; it had lots of harmonics, 'to boot!' My best antenna was the RCA 'Spiderweb' (1938).

"My top 'catches' *verified* were S. S. KANIMELA, a 50-watter aboard a ship which had



Mr. DX himself, August Balbi, at his listening post in Los Angeles. August has long been known as the dean of SWL's and is a most methodical DXer.

regular broadcasts and which plied between Sydney, New South Wales, and Perth, Western Australia, operating on about 6.010, at 1400 GMT during a heavy rainstorm in April 1938; call was 9M1. Next, was Johannesburg, South Africa, on 6.010, before it was destroyed by fire back in 1935 (heard in March of that year); it was of very low power; call was ZTJ; I was one of the fortunate few who received a verification from this one.

"Third, was a 2.5-watter, located at Vancouver, B.C., Canada, VE9CS, heard irregularly with fair signal but always with a terrific fade, on 6.100 (logged June 1935). There are several others which I consider 'rare catches'—they include Java's PLV, Malabar, 9.415.

"My first 'veri' was from XETE, 9.600, Erickson Telephone Company, Mexico City, Mexico. This one was logged in November 1933." Of all the verifications he has received, August considers the best-designed were those of Warsaw, Poland; Martinique, and the British Malayan Broadcasting Corporation, ZHP, Singapore, 9.690 (logged July 1938).

August was an early member of the *International Short Wave Club*, East Liverpool, Ohio (1933); this club is now the ISWC, London; he was co-editor of *Globe Circler* (IDA-*International DXers Alliance*); has long been a member of the *Universay Radio DX Club* and a member of its advisory committee; he has belonged to several local shortwave groups,
(continued on page 30)

TV-FM DX VIA THE AURORA

(continued from page 6)

in the 200 years that records have been kept, peaked in 1958. Since the peak in aurora activity follows the actual sunspot peak, and as aurora are most frequent in spring and fall months, this spring should bring widespread aurora displays with accompanying DX reception. Aurora like other ionospheric phenomena caused by solar radiation tends to recur in 27 day cycles when the same area of the sun is again facing the earth (due to the sun's 27 day rotation period). Aurora reception may occur at any time of the day or night but in my DXing location at Truro, N.S., it seems to be most common from 1600-0200 L.S.T. (local standard time) and least common from 0800-1300 L.S.T. Of course few checks have been made between 0200 and 0600 L.S.T. Reception may last from a few minutes to several hours or for even a day or more at a time.

AURORA FREQUENCY

At times of sunspot maximum aurora displays are very common in the region extending outward 1,000 to 2,000 miles around the geomagnetic pole which is located in northwestern Greenland (Chart Two). During this period aurora occurs frequently in Canada and the northern United States but are less common farther south and very rare in the Southwest, Texas, and Florida. Aurora DX reception is so common in Canada that I do not always check particularly for it; besides I am unable to DX consistently year-round; but my notes indicate that over the past three years it appeared on the low band two days out of five and on the high band one day in ten or twelve.

Many TV DXers have logged TV audio on the low band via the aurora. Outstanding results have been obtained by DXer Richard Nieman of Buffalo, N.Y. who has received audio from 19 stations including all 12 VHF channels, and he has identified video on channels 2 and 4. Amateur radio operators have made numerous contacts on the 50, 144, and 220 megacycle bands and there seems to be every reason to believe that FM DX is feasible too. UHF DX may even be possible via the aurora. Here lie great possibilities for the alert FM DXer to increase his station total and the opportunity for both TV and FM DXers to observe another form of DX propagation. In spite of its limitations it seems to me that aurora reflection is a mode of propagation whose potential has yet to be fully developed.

SHORTWAVE PROFILE

(continued from page 12)

and more recently became a member of a "brand-new" club — the *American SWL Club*.

August has served as *Official West Coast Monitor* for *Radio Australia* since 1941. He compiled the PHILCO Shortwave Log for many years, and for still many other years, he published his own Shortwave Log.

August contributes to DX sessions around the world—such as those of *Radio Australia*, *Radio Sweden*, *Deutsche Welle* (Cologne, Germany), 4VEH (Cap Haiten, Haiti)—as well as to the *World Radio Handbook*, the radio clubs and of course, to *DXing HORIZONS!* He was the *longest, most consistent, and most valuable* contributor to the *International Shortwave Department* of RADIO & TELEVISION NEWS (now ELECTRONICS WORLD) during 1944-1955.

In 1934, the Los Angeles EVENING RECORD described August as "*the most methodical shortwave dialer in town.*" The reporter who wrote that piece should see August's Shortwave Log now! I have seen it! His Log contains *page after page for each band, with frequencies listed every 5 kc, and includes all stations he has heard on each individual frequency!*

When I visited August some years ago, "the" veri that "took my eye," so to speak, was that of TI4NRH, "*The Voice of Costa Rica*," Heredia, Costa Rica, 9.670, established by *Amando Cespedes Maria*, on May 4, 1928. According to the QSL, "TI-4-NRH (then NRH) was *one of the original five shortwave stations of the world*, establishing Costa Rica on the same level of radio with England, Holland, and the United States of America.

Needless to say, August Balbi *has upheld the finest tradition of the serious shortwave listener!*

—KEN BOORD

WEAK SIGNAL INDUSTRY

(continued from page 15)

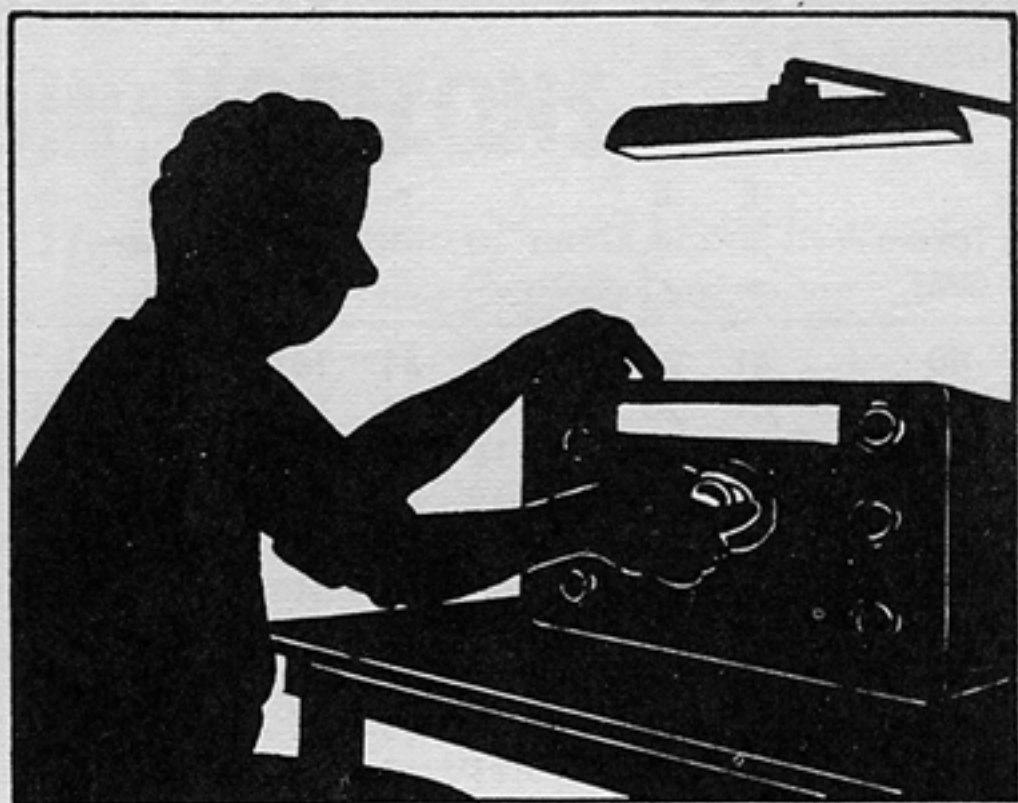
Channel 4 received signal measures at 125 microvolts, the Channel 3 received signal measures at 150 microvolts, both before amplification.

The transmitting antennas cover an area five miles wide in a valley which runs north-south (Yellowstone River Valley).

SERVICING-LICENSING

The whole operation can be turned off in 30 minutes driving time, and at pre-determined times by the time clock. A Second Class Radio-Telephone Engineer lives in Gardiner, and he will serve as engineer when VHF repeaters eventually become licensed and legal.

SHORTWAVE PROFILE



Mr. Jerry Berg

West Hartford, Connecticut, U.S.A.

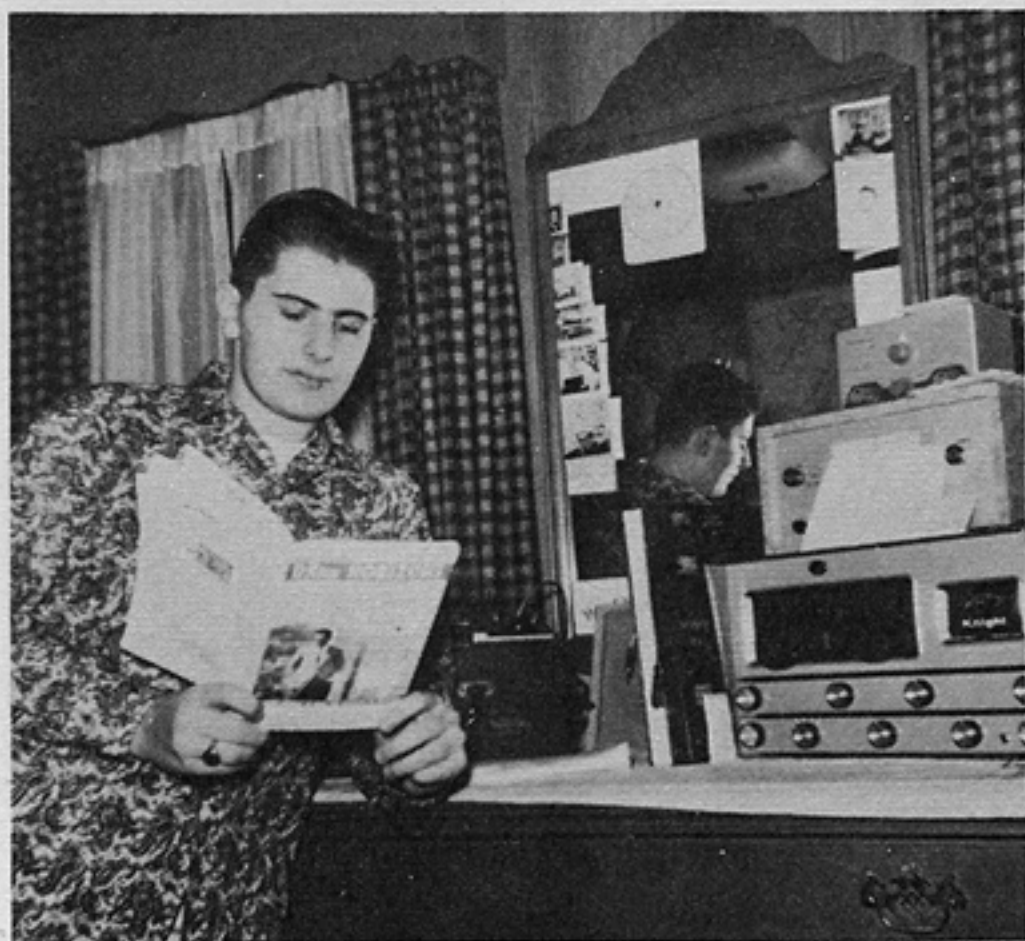
"I began DXing about three and one-half years ago, using a one-tube regenerative set, and then a two-tube set," reports Jerry Berg, 42 Dover Road, West Hartford 7, Connecticut, U.S.A., one of the top teenage SWLs of the world.

"Of necessity," Jerry continues, "these sets weren't very sensitive, but I certainly wasn't lacking in enthusiasm when I first heard the Moscow chimes or the deep tones of Big Ben! From there, I purchased an inexpensive three-tube regenerative set, and then hopped to the famous HEATH AR-3, five-tube superhet. This was a surprisingly sensitive receiver, considering its price and relatively simple circuitry—and with it I logged more than 100 countries.

"In 1959, I purchased a KNIGHT (ALLIED RADIO) R-100, 10-tube communications receiver, for which I have only the greatest praise. In addition, I'm using a WILCOX-GAY tape recorder. My antenna system consists of a 135 foot E-W longwire, an 80 foot N-E longwire, and a new MOSLEY SWL-7 dipole running NE-SW.

"What interested me at first was the ability to hear broadcasts from places so distant from us," Jerry explains, "and as my knowledge grew, so did my interest. Today, I am still as fascinated at hearing the news from the SBC, Berne, Switzerland, as in hearing the native drums from Tahiti.

"Among my best veries are those from Radio Beirut, Lebanon, 8.000A, 2 kw.; Radio Baku, Azerbaijan, SSR, 4.958; Austrian Shortwave Service, 300 watts; VRH5, Fiji Islands, 5.980, 250 watts; Santa Cruz de La Palma, Canary Islands, 350 watts; Radio Mediter-



Jerry Berg of West Hartford, Connecticut, U.S.A., one of the world's top-flight teenage DXers, uses a KNIGHT (ALLIED RADIO) R-100, 10-tube communications receiver and a WILCOX-GAY tape recorder. Jerry has logged 137 countries and has 123 of them verified—all on SWBC.

raneo, Spain, 6.995, 1 kw.; CR6RH, Angola, 400 watts; CR6RL, Angola, 1 kw.; CQM, Portuguese Guinea, 500 watts, and Radio Santa Isabel, Spanish Guinea, 6.240, 3 kw. My current total stands at 137 countries logged, 123 confirmed—all on SWBC.

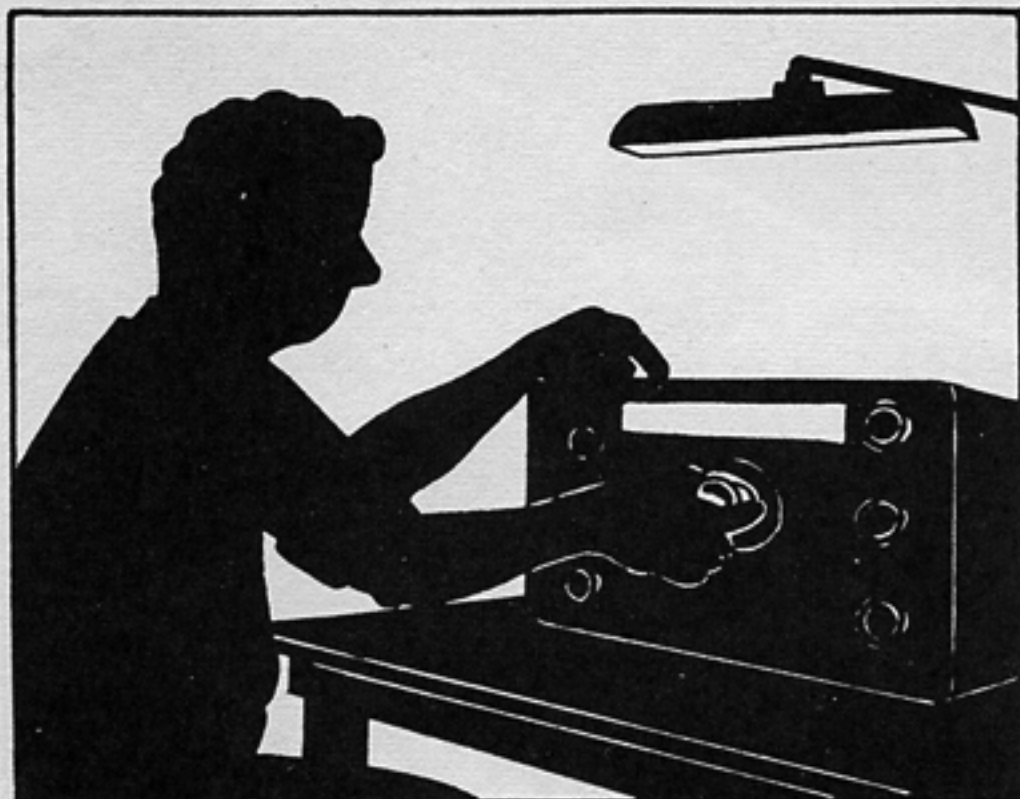
"I believe that hearing a rare DX station is 'only half the battle'; then you have to go after its QSL. In my opinion, that is the most satisfying part of the hobby; that, plus an occasional tape recording to an unusual station, or to a station that has just come on the air. Oftentimes, a station that is heard for only a few minutes will quickly verify a tape report, whereas at the same time it would be nearly impossible to write out a report on only a few minutes' logging. As for NEW stations, these broadcasters are generally eager to know *exactly* how they're being heard, and where. There is nothing better than a tape in situations such as these—no matter how well you can describe the signal quality, a tape is always better."

Jerry, who is 17 and a senior in high school, hopes to attend George Washington University and then to follow a career in the United States Foreign Service (Diplomatic Corps).

"I could add that this is the greatest, most interesting hobby in the world," Jerry concludes, *"but any DXer 'worth his salt' knows that!"*

It is indeed a pleasure to dedicate this issue of the Shortwave Department of DXing HORIZONS to this remarkable teenage SW DXer . . . Jerry Berg . . . and to wish him every future success!—KEN BOORD

SHORTWAVE PROFILE



Mr. Anson Boice, New Britain, Conn., U.S.A.
and
Mr. Floyd F. Backus, Richmond, Va., U.S.A.



The SWBC experience of Anson (Ans) Boice, Connecticut, U.S.A., dates back to 1929 when he got his first SW thrill in logging PCJ, Holland, on his home-built 2-tube, battery-operated "breadboard" rx.

* * *

Anson (Ans) Boice, 93 Whiting St., New Britain, Conn., first became interested in SW radio back in 1929, when he built a 2-tube rx on a breadboard—the design of which was featured in the ARRL Handbook of that year. Ans has been an active SWL in most of the years since 1929.

The first station he picked up on that little, battery-operated rx was PCJ ("Pearce, Cheer, Joy"), then owned and operated by Philips Laboratories and located at Eindhoven, Holland. "Lo and behold! The anncer on that day in March 1929 was no other than the one and only, our good friend, Eddie Startz, now of 'Happy Station' fame," says Ans. "Being of Dutch descent, this, of course, has made me an ardent fan of PCJ, now Radio Nederland at Hilversum."

Ans is a contributor to DXing HORIZONS, Popular Electronics, the Newark News Radio Club, and "Sweden Calling DX'ers." He is State Director for NNRC, is a monitor for Radio Japan, and is a member of the BBC Listeners Panel.

Down through the years, Ans has used such rx/s as HALLICRAFTERS S-22-R, SX-28, and SX-43 and a RME-DB22A preselector. At present, he is using a HAMMARLUND HQ-100, a Grundig Majestic 3090-WF-3D, along with a Webcor-Regent (three-speed) tape recorder. His main antenna is an 8' vertical approximately 30' in the air, plus several indoor antennas.

"It was only about 12 or 14 years ago that I seriously started to collect verifications," says Ans. "Now I have heard 100 countries with 83 verified and several reports are now out. My two best veries are YDE, Batavia, Java, now Djakarta, Indonesia, running 500 watts on 15.150, heard May 30, 1948, and CR6RA, Radio Clube de Angola, running 250 watts on 7.142, heard December 19, 1951. My listening and veries are strictly for SWBC stations."

Of himself and his family, Ans says: "I am 46 years of age; XYL Julia is slightly younger! We have six children—three boys and three girls—the oldest is 21 and the youngest is 10." (And a fine family this is, believe me; I had a most pleasant visit with the Boices a few years ago!—Ed.)

DXH is happy to salute a second U.S.A. SWL this month—Floyd F. Backus, 2906 Dellrose Ave., Richmond 28, Virginia. Floyd's FB SW Listening Post is well-equipped with a NATIONAL NC-183, a NATIONAL NC-188, a HALLICRAFTERS SX-71, and a RME-45. He also uses a RME-DB22 pre-selector and a "Q" Multiplier, "both of which prove very useful," he comments.

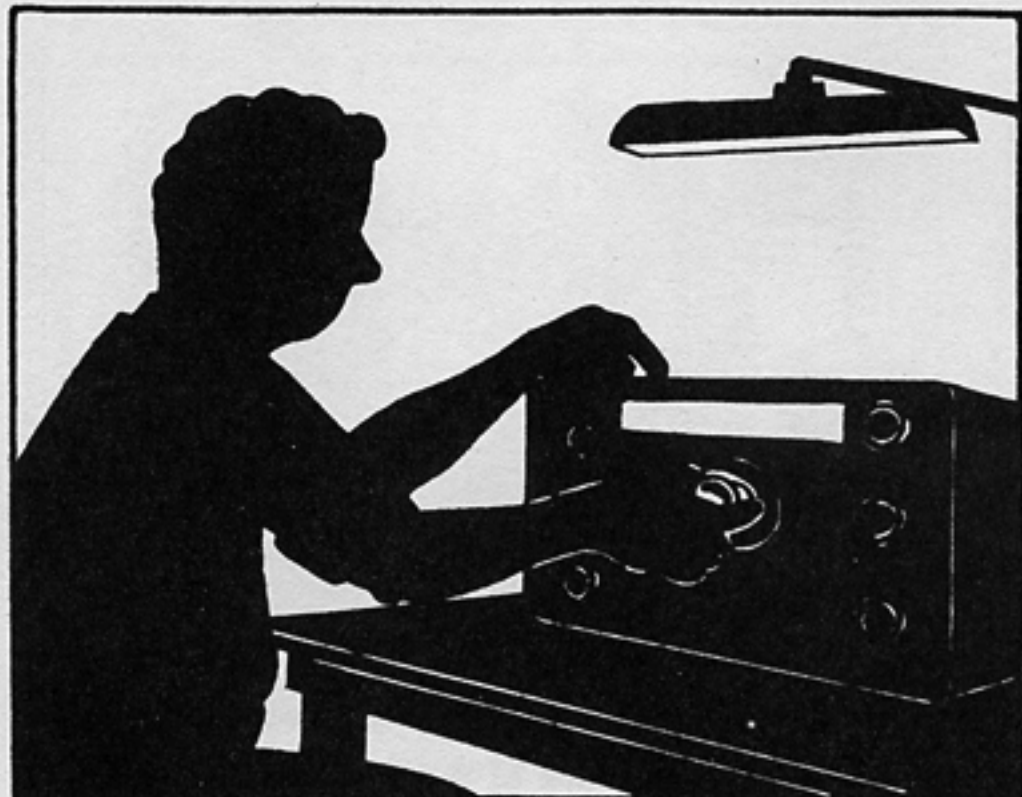
"I have veries from more than 200 countries; I've stopped counting, but my most-prized cards are those from Lebanon, Afghanistan, Taiwan (Formosa), R. Vietnam (3WT), BBCFES (Singapore), and India."

Floyd is a member of several leading radio clubs and contributes widely also to several publications—including DXH.—KEN BOORD



Floyd F. Backus, Virginia, USA, is justly proud of his fine SW Listening Post, which is well-equipped with a NATIONAL NC-183, a NATIONAL NC-188, a HALLICRAFTERS SX-71, and a RME-45. He also uses a RME-DB22A preselector and a "Q" Multiplier, "both of which prove very useful," he says.

SHORTWAVE PROFILE



Mr. George R. Cox New Castle, Delaware, U.S.A.

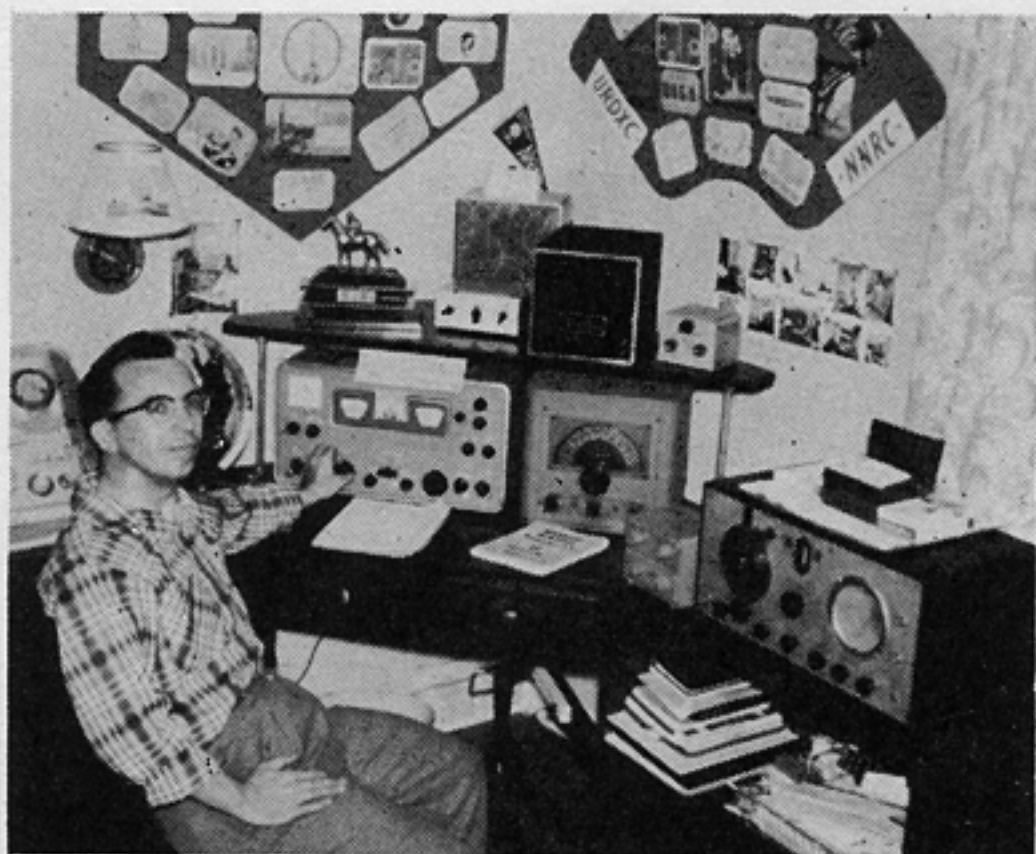
"I first began as a BCB DXer in 1947 and, after logging the then 48 States, I became interested in SWBC DXing through Ken Boord's *International Shortwave Department* in RADIO AND TELEVISION NEWS (now ELECTRONICS WORLD) magazine," says George R. Cox, 147 Atlas Drive, Collins Park, New Castle, Delaware, U.S.A.

"I was then using a HALLICRAFTERS S-38 receiver," George continues. "It has been wonderful to be a follower of a hobby that to this day never ceases to harbor enthusiasm within me.

"With the recent addition of Kuwait (4.967M, heard at 2100 GMT), my SWBC country log now stands at 172. Of these countries, 101 were logged between mid-1948 and 1950. Shortly thereafter, greetings from Uncle Sam curtailed my DXing activities somewhat. Then, in 1953, I got back into circulation again.

"I have QSLs from 120 countries. Among my favorite veries are those from Madagascar, 7.375 (250 watts); Bata, Spanish Guinea, 8.800 (400 watts); New Caledonia, 3.355 (500 watts); Ireland, 17.840 (1.5 kw.); Benguela, Angola, 9.165 (250 watts); Douala, Cameroon, 9.150 (600 watts); Novosibirsk, Siberia (USSR), 5.225; Papeete, Tahiti, 12.080 (600 watts); Forces Broadcasting Service, Malta, 4.782; British Honduras, 10.600 (200 watts); CKFX, Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada, 6.080, 10 watts.

"Although I occasionally roam as high as 25 mc, my favorite parking spots are in the 90-, 60-, and 49-meter bands. I still check the medium-wave band regularly for any foreign activity that may be taking place.



George R. Cox, New Castle, Delaware, U.S.A., is one of the world's foremost DXers—both on SWBC and the BCB. His present equipment includes a HAMMARLUND HQ-180 triple-conversion set, with a HALLICRAFTERS SX-9 as a stand-by receiver; a SCOTT RCH receiver for long-wave DXing; a RME DB-22A preselector; a MEISSNER frequency calibrator; a REVERE tape recorder, and two home-made antenna tuners.

"While many DXers hold on to their receivers for several years, I enjoy acquainting myself with a new one about every two years or so. I am presently using a HAMMARLUND HQ-180 triple-conversion set, with a HALLICRAFTERS SX-9 as a stand-by receiver. A SCOTT RCH receiver is used for long-wave DXing.

"Also used are a RME DB-22A preselector, a MEISSNER frequency calibrator, a REVERE tape recorder, and two home-made antenna tuners (from designs furnished by Ab Saylor, Virginia).

"Two antennas are available—a 60' long-wire and a 34' vertical; both are fed with 75-ohm coax lead-in."

George is a member of the UNIVERSAL RADIO DX CLUB and the NEWARK NEWS RADIO CLUB... and has been a valuable contributor to the *Shortwave Department* of DXing HORIZONS since its inception.

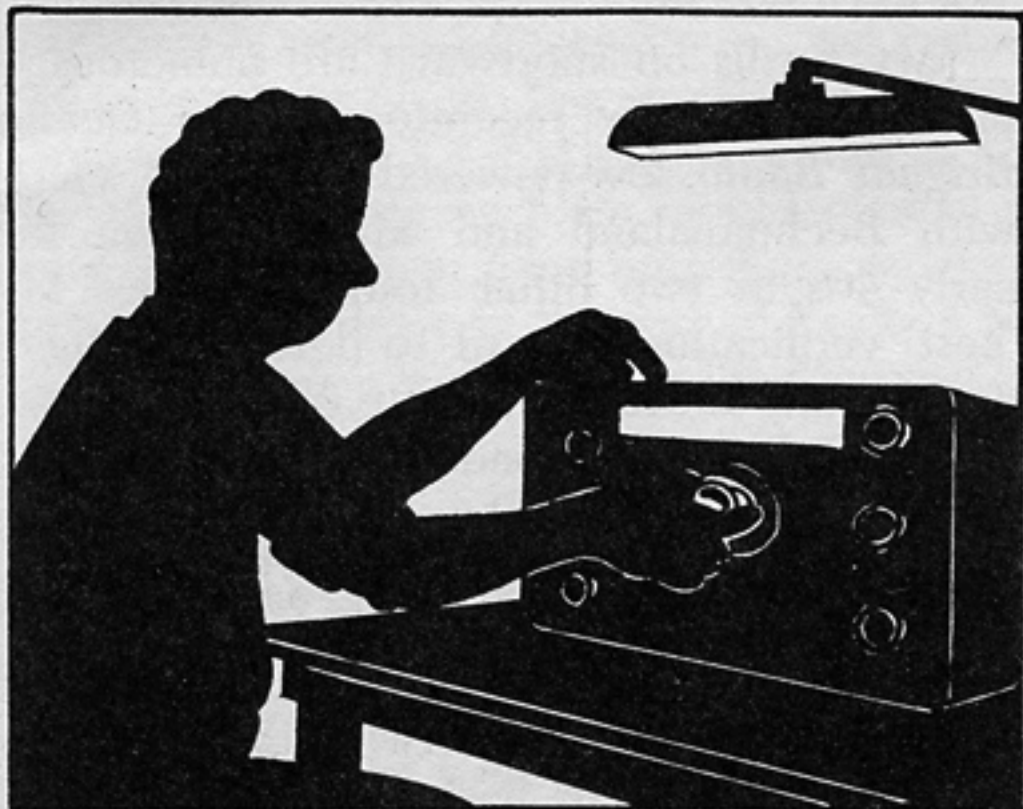
It is indeed a privilege and a pleasure to dedicate this issue of the Shortwave Department of DXing HORIZONS to an old and loyal friend... one of the world's top DXers... both SWBC and BCB... George R. Cox!

—KEN BOORD

Sample Copy Shortwave Readers

Enjoy this issue of DXing Horizons? Want to continue receiving DXH? Use the handy form between pages 2 and 3, to subscribe. \$4.00, 12 issues, of the finest-latest DX NEWS!

SHORTWAVE PROFILE



Mr. Arthur T. Cushen
Invercargill, New Zealand

"His sight may be poor . . . BUT THERE'S NO BETTER LISTENER" . . .

That's what a reporter for the Southland DAILY NEWS (New Zealand) wrote some years ago about our good friend and long-time cooperator . . . Arthur T. (Art) Cushen of 212 Earn St., Invercargill, New Zealand.

Some people live in a little world of their own because they want to . . . others because they have to. But choice and necessity combined for Art. The little world of his own choosing was his radio. On it he has probably listened to more stations than any other man

alive. He has ranged over whole continents by merely twisting a few knobs!

Some years ago, Art's sight deteriorated badly. He faced a "new world." There was a big job of adjustment ahead. But he tackled the job determinedly and cheerfully—and he has been most successful.

Along with his wonderful wife, Ralda, the radio has been a big help. For of all the millions of people in the world who listen to radio, he is one of the acknowledged masters.

Few other men know so much about the location of stations, the call signs, or their power. Only a handful of other listeners who have also burned midnight oil know so well what frequencies give best reception, or that on the humble broadcast band tiny stations blinking out their signals in the night can be heard thousands of miles away.

Being able to identify these stations accurately is truly an art. And this "Down Under" DXer has really "got the touch."

But it can be much more than that—it can also be a public service. And so it HAS BEEN for this courageous New Zealander. For if ranging the broadcast and shortwave bands these days brings some measure of comfort to Art Cushen, not so many years ago it was the means of bringing much greater comfort to thousands of people he has never seen.

Art was in charge of the NEW ZEALAND RADIO DX LEAGUE which monitored prisoner-of-war messages in World War II—



Miss Esang Lee (left) from Taegu, Korea, and Miss Fatema Shams from Teheran, Iran, listen to tape recordings of news from home at Arthur T. Cushen's Listening Post in his home in Invercargill, New Zealand. Known the world over as one of the truly "great" radio listeners (both on BCB and SWBC), Art was awarded the "Coronation Medal" from Her Majesty the Queen (Elizabeth II) for his public service in relaying thousands of prisoner-of-war messages to loved ones throughout the world—during both World War II and the Korean War.

and later in the Korean War. To remind him of this today, he has folio after folio of letters that he received from parents, wives, and other relatives—yes, even sweethearts—of servicemen—grateful that agonizing months of doubt were over. For it was from him they they learned that their loved ones were not dead, but were alive and well in prison camps.

With other Invercargill DXers, he spent countless hours listening to those enemy broadcasts about prisoners. During the Korean war, the list of prisoners he compiled by radio was nearly as large as that of the United Nations, which had hundreds of channels through which to collect information.

Whenever he could, Art Cushen gave a "personal service" to parents and wives in Invercargill. People got to know during the war when they opened their front door to him that he had some news about their son or husband. Often it was the first time they knew he had been captured.

The climax of this work came when Art was awarded the "Coronation Medal" from Her Majesty the Queen (Elizabeth II).

Today, Art has literally thousands of verifications from stations both near and far. In fact, as of early this year, his verifications stood at 2,305 on SW, 1,410 on BCB—from 172 countries—making more than 3,700 commercial BC and SW veries in all.

Art now uses four receivers—of which the latest is an EDDYSTONE (7-tuber). He also has two tape recorders and a great deal of other gear.

But let's allow him to tell the rest of the story:

"My sight is below the world standard these days—judged to be blind or partially-sighted (one-tenth of normal sight). I am unable to read except in bright sunlight, and then only with the aid of a magnifying glass. So I tape all my reception of DX stations, then play them back and type the data directly onto report forms. Ralda dictates letters and so forth onto tape for me to answer later.

"I use braille for reference more than ever now. I do all my own typing. Since I have no sight at all in one eye, I have many writing aids — a braille machine (typewriter), and other facilities here to help me—such as braille clocks and so on.

"Ralda reads all my incoming mail to me, corrects all outgoing mail, and does a hundred and one other jobs that keep things moving here. With four newspaper and magazine columns (on radio-TV subjects) to write, we do

keep pretty busy hunting up interesting items. We have no family.

"My thrills on shortwave are numerous. I take pride in my reception of the *Danish Brigade Radio*, low-powered in Europe, along with Bechuanaland and Martinique in the early 40s as two other 'tough' catches. My 'best' verification is hard to determine—there are so many of them. CKFX, 6.080, Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada, 10 watts; CR4AA, 5.895, Cape Verde, 400 watts; CR7AA, 6.137, Mozambique, 250 watts, and CQM, 7.948, Pt. Guinea, 1 kW, are among my top catches.

"My biggest 'scoop' was hearing a report on the death of the Pope two minutes after it happened and then flashing this to a local newspaper which issued a Special Edition."

Art is Public Relations Officer of the NEW ZEALAND RADIO DX LEAGUE and handles all inquiries for his club—these run into several hundred each year—on all types of radio subjects. He writes a radio page in the NEW ZEALAND LISTENER, one for RADIO TV AND HOBBIES (Sydney, N.S.W., Australia), and one for his local newspaper—among other things.

Art has been official monitor in the Pacific Area for the BBC, London, for many years—and also monitors for other distant broadcasters.

Finally, here's a word about his latest "project." . . . To be able to listen to broadcasts from their own countries, after many months of absence, has been the unforgettable experience that Art has provided two overseas nurses who are working in Invercargill. The girls are Miss Fateme Shams, Iran, and Miss Esang Lee, Korea. Tape recordings made by Arthur Cushen now enable the girls to listen to news from home, music, and sporting features which their families would be tuned to back home.

Such is the Wonderful World of Arthur T. Cushen! . . .—KEN BOORD

FREE MAGAZINES — EVEN TO AFGHANISTAN!

DXing Horizons continues its policy of offering a free sample copy magazine to anyone—anywhere who holds an interest in things TV-FM or Shortwave. If you know of a fellow enthusiast who has not yet received a free sample copy, let us know . . . we do the rest. Send name(s), address(es) to "Attention Free Magazines, P. O. Box 3150, Modesto, California.

SHORTWAVE BROADCAST

Don't forget the DXH SW Newscast for June, on June 18 at 2100 GMT, and 2345 GMT over WRUL, the Voice of Freedom, New York City.