



HCJB COMPLETES 44 YEARS OF BROADCASTING



Converted sheep shed where HCJB began broadcasting in 1931

Christmas is a special time of the year at HCJB. Not only are we celebrating the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ, but we are also celebrating the 44th anniversary or birthday of HCJB. It was on Christmas Day of 1931 that the first broadcast went out from this radio station.

What were things like back in 1931? The transmitter building was a converted sheep shed. It originally had only two mud walls and a dirt floor and was used by the former owner for shearing his thoroughbred sheep. The two remaining walls had been added as well as a cement floor. After the inside had been whitewashed, the building housed the HCJB transmitter for nine years.

The transmitter installed in the converted sheep shed had been built in Chicago by Eric Williams, an English engineer who had worked for CBS. He had also served as control operator for some of the pioneering radio broadcasts presented by the Chicago Gospel Tabernacle on Sunday afternoons. His wife, Anne, was the first HCJB control operator. The transmitter had a power output of about 250 watts and was almost as primitive as the building in which it was located. The living room of the

home adjoining the sheep shed was used as the simple studio. The "T" antenna hung between two 50 foot poles completed the installation.

What about the first program? One of those present was Ruth Clark, who at that time was serving as a missionary with the Christian and Missionary Alliance along with her husband, John D. Clark. Here, in her own words, is a description of that historic broadcast.

"Come with me for a few minutes back to the year 1931. It is Christmas Day. Nine people are gathered in the living room of an ivy-covered cottage on the outskirts of Quito. The clock on the wall is preparing to strike the hour of three. An air of subdued excitement and expectancy pervades the room. Clarence Jones glances at the clock, then toward Anne Williams at the control window in the adjoining corridor. He gives the signal to Reuben Larson who steps up to the lonely little microphone in the center of the room. In stentorian tones he announces, 'Esta es La Voz de Los Andes' (This is the Voice of the Andes). Are we really on the air? Is that home-made 250 watt transmitter out there in the old sheep shed actually working? Can engineer Eric Williams keep it perking for the long half-hour of this first broadcast?

"Perhaps it is Clarence Jones' amazing faith and enthusiasm which kindles an answering spark in the heart of each of us. A confident smile lights up the face of Grace Larson standing across the room. By the time Reuben Larson has announced the first trio sung by Edna Figg, Erma Clark and Ruth Popejoy with Ruth Clark at the old-fashioned parlor organ, fears, doubts and incredulity have been cast to the winds and the hearts of all in the studio are filled with wonder and praise! How

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DXer OF THE MONTH



Stewart listening to HCJB

For a number of years, HCJB and the DX Party Line have had a close cooperation with the American Shortwave Listeners Club. This has proven to be a very effective and happy arrangement for both organizations. As our DXer of the Month for December, 1975, we are happy to present the ASWLC Publisher/Treasurer, Mr. Stewart Mac Kenzie. He joined the ASWLC as a charter member in December, 1959. In January of 1966 he accepted his present post with the ASWLC and has done an outstanding job in directing the club.

Stewart first came in contact with shortwave listening while serving with the US Army in South Korea. The military used the shortwave frequencies for the Armed Forces Korean Network services. He listened on a Hallicrafters S-38 which was owned by one of his buddies. After returning to the United States and being discharged from the

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HCJB Broadcast Director - Thomas Fulghum

English Program Director - Imogene Booker

ANDEX Executive Director - Clayton Howard

Address all mail to: ANDEX International

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Army, one of his first purchases was a Hallicrafters S-38C. That marked his official entry into the shortwave listening hobby. For two years he did his listening from his home in Roxbury, Massachusetts. In 1956 Stewart and his wife moved to California and of course the S-38C went along.

In 1958 Stewart began looking around for a better receiver and soon picked up a surplus Hallicrafters R45-ARR7 Army Signal Corps receiver. This is the military version of the SX-28. Made in 1945, the R45-ARR7 covers the frequencies from 540 kHz to 42 MHz in six bands. The S-38C was then donated to a local Boy Scout group! In succeeding years Stewart has accumulated an impressive array of radio gear, much of which can be seen in the picture. Included is a BC-453 receiver covering 190 to 500 kHz, a BC-1031C panadapter to give a visual picture of the band conditions, a BC-221AK frequency meter for accurate measurement of station frequencies, a BC-306B antenna tuning unit, an R44-ARR5 VHF receiver which covers from 30 MHz to 145 MHz in three bands, and an APR4 VHF-UHF receiver to tune from 30 MHz to 1200 MHz in four bands. Not shown in the picture are a Hallicrafters SX-28 and an S-38A, the closest set he could find to replace his original S-38C.

To complete a listening post that would be the envy of any DXer, Stewart uses two antennas. The first is a Mosely SWL-7 trap-dipole facing North-South at a height of 30 feet. The other is a V80 amateur vertical installed at a height of 40 feet. With this equipment, Stewart has been able to do an outstanding job in his DXing hobby!

Even before joining the ASWLC when it was formed in California, Stewart had been a member of the Newark News Radio Club through the influence of Hank Bennett's Shortwave Broadcast column in Popular Electronics. He is still an active member of NNRC as well as several other clubs. He is ANDEX member H-2. In 1959 he was assigned the call letters WPE6AA but this was later changed to WDX6AA, the call he uses today.

There are two other events in Stewart's life that we would like to mention. On November 24th, Stewart and his wife celebrated their 20th wedding anniversary. We extend our hearty congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. Mac Kenzie and wish for them many more happy years of married life together. Also, Stewart will be celebrating another birthday this month, the day after Christmas.

Perhaps the best way to express our appreciation to Stewart Mac Kenzie and his contribution to the DXing hobby is to recommend highly the American Shortwave Listeners Club. Any DXer or SWL will find this club, and their excellent monthly bulletins, a great help in their enjoyment of the hobby. For more information, write to:

The American Shortwave Listeners Club
16182 Ballad Lane
Huntington Beach, CA 92649

MW TRANSMITTER MOVE



Construction on mountain top

Erecting a 300 foot tower at an elevation of about 12,800 feet is one of the jobs recently accomplished by HCJB engineers and their Ecuadorian helpers. This is part of an interesting project currently under way in Quito. HCJB's medium-wave transmitter, which serves our Spanish-speaking audience in Quito and the surrounding area, is being moved from Pifo, where the shortwave transmitters are situated, to the top of one of the lower peaks of Mt. Pichincha. The land was donated to HCJB by a Christian businessman. Now, the 50 kw medium-wave transmitter is being installed at this fine location.

The move has been undertaken for various reasons. Pifo has never proven to be an ideal spot for reaching the city of Quito. About 15 miles from the center of the city, it is at a lower altitude and on the other side of a low range of hills. Other stations, with lower power but in better locations, have been able to cover the city with stronger signals. This new site on Mt. Pichincha should greatly improve our signal for listeners in Quito as the entire city is spread out 3,500 feet below.

In recent years many new shortwave antennas have been added at the Pifo transmitter site. The space occupied by the tall medium-wave tower is badly needed for additional antennas. Other problems have also resulted from having both medium and shortwave antennas on the same site. The shortwave antennas tend to distort the radiation pattern on 690 kHz. On the other hand, the high-level radio frequency field from the medium-wave transmitter has made final adjustment and tuning of shortwave antennas very difficult. Relocation of the 690 kHz transmitter will solve most of these problems.

Devising a temporary medium-wave antenna in Pifo was the first step in this project. A unique solution was found by utilizing the two towers supporting one end of a 49 meter curtain array. These two towers, 240 feet in height, were joined at the top. An insulator was placed under one of the towers and a feed-line connected at that point. The result was a 240 foot folded monopole! With this in operation, with surprisingly good results, the 300 foot tower was taken down and reinstalled on the mountain top location.

A cement block building is nearing completion on Pichincha where the transmitter will be located. A spare 50 kw transmitter will soon be installed in this new construction where it will be tested and checked out before being put into regular service. We are now in the rainy season with very uncertain weather, but it is expected that this new installation will be in operation early in 1976. The transmitter currently in use in Pifo, with its monopole antenna, will be maintained in operating condition to provide a back-up service in case of emergency at the new location.

When this project is completed, HCJB expects to have an improved signal on 690 kHz, not only in Quito, but also in other countries. Medium-wave DXers should keep their ears open and their receivers tuned. The current operating schedule on 690 kHz is from 0900 to 0400 GMT daily. All programming is in Spanish except from 0900 to 1030 and from 2130 to 2200 GMT when Quechua is broadcast. Reception reports will be appreciated.

MERRY 
 CHRISTMAS

SEASON'S GREETINGS



From Quito we wish every ANDEX member a Merry, Merry Christmas! As people all over the world celebrate another Christmas season, don't forget that it is Jesus Christ, the Savior, whose birth we honor at this time. Our desire is that his love and saving power might reach out and touch every one of you during these joyous days.

Last year many ANDEX members sent us Christmas cards. Some of these attractive cards are pictured above. Our sincere thanks to every one who added to our happiness last December!

WHAT'S IN IT FOR ME?

These words unfortunately summarize a prevalent attitude toward life. Even Christmas can become the occasion for selfishness where its real meaning is lost in a cloud of greed.

The fundamental meaning of the Christmas message relates to giving for the sake of others without concern for self. In fact, the Bible cites a supreme example of absolute unselfishness, pointing to the coming of Jesus Christ to earth:

"Don't be selfish ... your attitude should be the kind that was shown us by Jesus Christ, who, though he was God, did not demand and cling to his rights as God, but laid aside his mighty power and glory, taking the disguise of a slave and becoming like men. And he humbled himself even further, going so far as actually to die a criminal's death on the cross" (Philippians 2:3, 5:8).

Christmas is the commemoration of that great act of unselfishness when Jesus Christ, out of concern for you and me and with no concern for personal

welfare, came to earth. His whole earthly career from that moment when he was born in Bethlehem was one of selfgiving with concern for others. And he still lives -- for others: "He is able to save completely all who come to God through him. Since he will live forever, he will always be there to remind God that he has paid for our sins with his blood" (Hebrews 7:25).

That is why a follower of Jesus could later exclaim, "Thank God for his Son -- his Gift too wonderful for words" (2 Corinthians 9:15). That is why you can say the same thing. God's gift is there for you -- a gift that means pardon, inner peace, and real joy!

Ask him for it. Then reach out in faith and trust Jesus Christ as your Savior and Lord.

It's a gift you will treasure -- forever!

From "Have a Good Day," used by permission
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great has been God's faithfulness! D. Stuart Clark follows with a short but clear message based on this same theme. Clarence Jones lifts his trombone to his lips and sends forth that exultant pean of praise, 'Great is Thy Faithfulness.' Our hearts echo, 'This is his doing and it is marvelous in our eyes!' In a final prayer of dedication, John D. Clark commits this embryo radio ministry to the God who has promised, 'Not by might nor by power but by my Spirit, saith the Lord.'

"The Voice had gone out. Had it been heard? As if to strengthen trembling faith, the telephone rang. One of our number left the room to answer. Returning with shining face, he announced, 'The Parras called to say they heard the whole broadcast perfectly!'

"At least one of the six radio receivers known to be in Quito had tuned in to Ecuador's first radio station! Was not this an omen that the Heralding of Christ Jesus' Blessings down through the years would reach one out of six of the world's lost? Is not he faithful who promised?"

That broadcast began the ministry of HCJB. How appropriate that the first broadcast telling the world about the Lamb of Calvary should have originated from a former sheep shed!