

ANDEX



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RADIO EL PRADO



Plaque honoring Carlos Cordovez

For many years, before the coming of air transportation and good roads, the principal means of travel between Quito and Guayaquil, Ecuador's largest city and seaport, was the narrow-gauge railroad. This was a slow two-day trip. The city of Riobamba became a busy metropolis because it was there that the passengers spent the night. It is a cold city, situated right at the foot of Chimborazo and at an altitude of over 9,000 feet.

Just a year ago the Ecuadorian Radio Association met in the city of Riobamba to pay their respects to Engineer Carlos Cordovez, the initiator of radio broadcasting in Ecuador. On the edge of the city, at a large textile mill called El Prado, an attractive plaque was unveiled in remembrance of the pioneering work done by Carlos.

Carlos Cordovez grew up in Riobamba where his family operated the El Prado mill. As a member of a wealthy family, he was able to travel to the United States for his college education. He received a degree in engineering in 1924. Before returning to Ecuador he worked for a few years as an engineer with the Radio Corporation of America. At that time there were no radio stations in Ecuador. Radio was un-

known to the population of this country. Soon after his return to Riobamba one of the professors at the San Felipe High School proposed an interesting scientific experiment. Why not build a small shortwave transmitter and receiver? The transmitter could be installed at the El Prado factory and the receiver at the high school. It would be interesting to demonstrate the feasibility of transmitting shortwave signals over this short distance. Carlos was intrigued with the idea and spent three months of intensive work building and testing the crude equipment. Finally, he was ready and a successful demonstration was performed. Students from the school took part in the program and were heard clearly at the receiving end by parents, officials and interested listeners. This was the first shortwave transmitter in Ecuador!

After these tests Carlos returned to the United States where he drew up plans and purchased the necessary equipment to construct a larger shortwave transmitter. He was eager to operate on the ham bands as an amateur radio operator. He was the first to operate an amateur station in Ecuador when he began broadcasting in late 1929. He soon became known around the world as a very active amateur operator. Since operating as an amateur station, and not being licensed by the Ecuadorian government for commercial broadcasting, he decided to try another experiment. For a few hours each Sunday afternoon, he invited local musical groups to come to the factory and perform on the lawn just outside his radio room. He carried his microphone outside and broadcast the music around the world. He had no facilities at that time for broadcasting recorded music. In this way he turned his amateur station into a broadcasting service. It was only natural that he used the identification, Radio El Prado, for these early live programs. Many old-time DXers may remember hearing these programs. Perhaps some still have verifications received from Radio El Prado.

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WHY WE HAVE EASTER

This month millions of people around the world celebrate Easter. For many this means the end of winter with summer not too far away. For some it is a time to buy new clothes. For children it is a time to color Easter eggs. Perhaps they will be given a rabbit as a pet or receive candy bunnies or eggs. For most it is a happy, joyful time.

But what should Easter really mean to you? For the Christian, Easter is a time of new life. That which was dead now lives. Darkness is gone. A warm sun shines. Life has a new meaning.

The word Easter dates back originally to the spring festival in honor of Eastr, the Teutonic goddess of light and spring. As early as the eighth century the name was transferred by the Anglo-Saxons to the Christian festival designed to celebrate the resurrection of Christ.

Today we are privileged to celebrate Easter because of the mighty triumph of God's Son over sin, death and hell. Let us refresh our minds as to the significance of this great historical fact. As we are able to comprehend the victorious truth for every heart which is contained in the Easter message, let us bow our wills in God's presence, and accept its meaning for us.

We go back more than nineteen centuries. For three years the peoples of Palestine had eagerly followed an unusual Man. They had never known a man like him. When they were sick, his touch restored. When they were hungry, he satisfied. When in need, he supplied. When burdened, he relieved. One day a voice came from Heaven saying, "This is my beloved Son, hear him." He said to the people, "I am come that you might have life, and that you might have it more abundantly."

But this Man was seized and given a mock trial. The mob cried, "Crucify him." He was placed on a wooden cross. Just before he died, he cried, "It is finished!" Hearts were broken. Loving hands placed his body in a new rock-hewn tomb. A huge stone was rolled against the entrance. A Roman watch was placed at the scene.

Then the news flashed. It spread. "God was in Christ, reconciling the world to himself!" This Man died for you, he died for me. He came to die. But what good could come from a dead Savior? He must live!

That is why we have Easter. Christ arose from the dead to be the living Savior for all who will avail themselves of his saving grace. His salvation is full, free and eternal. Here is the good news: "I declare unto you the gospel . . . how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures; and that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures" (I Corinthians 15:3, 4).

Have you taken into your heart this wonderful Savior who conquered sin, death and hell? Has the living Christ become the power of God in your life? If so, then you will know the real meaning of Easter again this year.

EVEREST DETHRONED



Chimborazo as seen from Riobamba

If someone asked you to name the highest mountain in the world, what would be your answer? Undoubtedly you would respond, as most people would, that Mt. Everest is the world's champion. But wait a minute. It depends on how you measure. You may have to change your thinking. Mountain elevations are usually calculated as their height above mean sea level and by that method Mt. Everest remains the highest.

ANDEX International --

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HCJB Broadcast Director - Ben Cummings

English Program Director - Imogene Booker

ANDEX Executive Director - Clayton Howard

Address all mail to: ANDEX International

Casilla 691

Quito, Ecuador

Scientists from the Smithsonian Institution have recently reported that Mt. Everest may no longer be considered the world's highest mountain. In fact, it never was if you measure the height geoidally. And if you aren't used to thinking geoidally, what this means is that there is another mountain peak which is farther from the earth's center than Everest's. Calculations based on 15 years of observations by the Smithsonian Astrophysical Observatory in its satellite-tracking program indicate that Mt. Chimborazo, Ecuador's highest snow peak, is actually farther from the center of the earth than is the Himalayan giant. Mt. Chimborazo is slightly more than one degree south of the equator, which places its peak 7,058 feet farther from the center of the earth than that of Mt. Everest, at 38 degrees north. This is because the earth is not a true sphere but has a bulge at the equator.

Mt. Chimborazo, about 100 miles to the south of Quito, was pictured on one of HCJB's series of QSL cards featuring mountain climbing in Ecuador. No doubt many ANDEX members received a copy of this beautiful card last year. Now you will be interested in knowing that this is the highest mountain in the world -- that is, geoidally speaking!

HOLY WEEK DISHES

Most countries have their own special recipes for delicious dishes which are typical and in which they take a great deal of pride. Many countries celebrate their national and religious festivals with menus that contain special dishes. This is true in Ecuador, especially during Holy Week. These culinary productions take special preparation and have become almost a ritual.

Take for instance the one traditional dish that is prepared for Holy Week and is eaten especially on Monday, Thursday and Good Friday. It is called *fanesca* and is made with twelve different grains, one to represent each of the twelve apostles. It also contains certain vegetables, cheese, codfish, cream, and seasonings. It might be interesting to give a quick rundown of these many ingredients. Here they are: white squash, yellow squash, peas, beans, abas (a larger type of bean), *chochos* (a South American legume), lentils, rice, peanuts, *melloco* (a small sticky potato), cabbage leaves, corn, green onions, garlic buds, cream, milk, white cheese and

codfish. What a combination! The ritual requires that each ingredient be cooked separately before being combined. Many of the grains must be peeled individually before they are cooked. The final combination is seasoned with various spices and colored with saffron.

This traditional Holy Week dish is usually made in large quantities. Not only is there sufficient to feed the family but also an excess which can be given liberally to friends. Each year, during Holy Week, we receive a visit from an elderly Ecuadorian lady who brings us a bowl of *fanesca* out of the abundance of her generosity. Typically, *fanesca* is served with a platter of creamy mashed potatoes. It should be garnished with rounds cut from hard-boiled eggs, and decorated with strips of red hot peppers. A final touch includes tender green onions with their green tops split so they fan out like delicate palm branches. What a delicious feast! It is truly attractive as well as filling.

The meal should be topped off with the traditional Holy Week dessert, *colada morada*. This is a dark red pudding made from blackberries and blueberries, thickened with cornstarch. Many seasonings are added including pineapple, cloves, orange leaves, citron, guavas, *naranjillas* (a typical Ecuadorian fruit) and sugar. This dessert is delicious and makes a perfect conclusion to a most unusual meal.

Have we made you hungry? Perhaps you can visit Ecuador sometime during Holy Week. Then you can see for yourself how good these dishes taste.

Adapted from a radio script by Ruth Clark

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Much of the early equipment used by Carlos Cordovez still exists and was offered for sale recently by the high school where it is kept. It was hoped that funds derived from this historical transmitter would help purchase new laboratory equipment for the school. Carlos left Riobamba soon after these early tests and moved to Conocoto, near Quito, where he continued to be a very active amateur for many years.

Carlos also had an important part in helping HCJB get on the air for its first program on Christmas Day of 1931. On Christmas Eve, during some of the final tests, an 866 rectifier tube burned out and there were no spares. The only hope was in Riobamba. A messenger was sent on a rush errand to

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DXer OF THE MONTH



Clarence Eugene Mow, ANDEX No. 95

As we select a DXer of the Month for each issue of ANDEX International, it is interesting to see that the shortwave hobby is shared by people from all walks of life. People of all ages and occupations seem to enjoy DXing and shortwave listening. This month we have chosen a public school teacher from Tucson, Arizona. Clarence Eugene Mow teaches sixth grade and, in his spare time, has been DXing for about five years.

Clarence was one of the first to join ANDEX and is charter member No. 95. When he became a member of ANDEX, about two-and-a-half years ago, he was using a Heathkit GC-1A, Mohican, receiver which he had assembled himself. Two poles on top of his roof held a fifty-foot length of copper wire some six feet in the clear. This served as his antenna. During recent months he has added quite a bit of additional equipment. Two surplus receivers, a BC-348Q and a BC-348R, as well as a modified Russian VEF-201 have joined the Mohican at his listening post. He now uses a Mosley SWL-7, trap dipole, which has improved his reception. Clarence has also made his own pre-amplifier. Other equipment he finds helpful in catching that elusive DX includes an antenna tuner, 100 kHz crystal calibrator, noise limiter, headset with booster amplifier and a tape recorder.

Using his excellent receiving equipment, Clarence finds a couple of hours each day to listen to the world. Most of his DXing is done between 0200 and 0400 GMT. The first time he heard HCJB was in early 1973. Since then he has heard many stations from all parts of the world. He has received QSL cards from nearly fifty stations and has collected an attractive display of twenty pennants.

In addition to being a member of ANDEX, Clarence has also joined a number of other clubs sponsored by shortwave stations. These include Radio Kiev, Radio Budapest, Radio Australia, Radio Japan, Radio Portugal, Radio Prague, and the BBC World Radio Club. This indicates a real interest in the shortwave hobby and a desire to become involved. He is a good example to other DXers during World DX-Club Year 1976!

Clarence is not only an avid DXer but he also enjoys several other hobbies as time permits. He is always ready to build another electronic gadget. Stamp collecting and photography claim some of his interest as well as reading, corresponding with penpals and trying his luck in contests.

We are happy to have Clarence Eugene Mow as a member of ANDEX and to present him to the other club members as the DXer of the Month for April, 1976. We trust that the coming years will bring to him many more enjoyable hours with his receivers! Perhaps many of his students will catch the DXing bug while they are in his classes.

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see if Carlos could supply a replacement tube. He could, and the HCJB inaugural program went ahead on schedule. HCJB was the first regularly licensed broadcasting station in Ecuador, and the world's first missionary radio station.

There is still a Radio El Prado broadcasting in Riobamba. However, the present station retains only the historical name. It operates on a medium-wave frequency and has no connection with the Cordovez family. The name was chosen many years later in memory of the early days of radio in Ecuador.

Listen to DX Party Line and invite your friends to tune in. Heard 3 times each week on HCJB

For South Pacific: Monday-Thursday-Saturday

0930 GMT 31 m - 9.745 MHz
49 m - 6.130 MHz

For Europe: Monday-Thursday-Saturday

1930 GMT 16 m - 17.755 MHz
19 m - 15.300 MHz
25 m - 11.745 MHz

For North America: Tuesday-Thursday-Sunday
(Monday-Wednesday-Saturday 9:30 PM EST)

0230 GMT 25 m - 11.915 MHz
31 m - 9.560 MHz
49 m - 6.095 MHz