

ANDEX



INTERNATIONAL

Vol. 3, No. 1

January 1976

TIME FOR A CHANGE



Typical "Old Man" and his wife

"If at first, you don't succeed, try, try again." That's commendable advice in most situations of life. If anyone gives up after a failure or two, he displays a lack of persistence. But let's admit that it becomes harder to keep on trying after a series of failures. Then the slogan, "Try, try again," has a hollow ring.

At New Year's time we are reminded again that our best resolutions and persistent attempts don't guarantee the success implied in that glib exhortation. Failure seems to be a way of life. In Ecuador we observe an interesting custom. Each year, on New Year's Eve, many people dress up a dummy to look like an old man. This represents the Old Year and all the bad and evil that it contained. At midnight this effigy is burned as a symbol of the destruction and putting away of the past. Nothing is left of the old but a little pile of ashes and the New Year can be started fresh and clean. But this doesn't guarantee a change either.

What's the answer? Throw in the towel? Not really. There's a better way. And it's a way that is

guaranteed to bring lifelong (and eternity-long) results.

What if there were the possibility of starting from scratch with an altogether new life? That's exactly the solution offered by the Christian gospel! Jesus emphasized the necessity of that radical change in these words: "Unless you are born again, you can never get into the Kingdom of God" (John 3:3). But to demand that change without providing the means to make it possible isn't much of an improvement on the "Try, try again" routine.

The great news of the gospel is that the One who demands new life as the condition of entering the kingdom provides that new life for all who acknowledge their need and desire: "To all who received him, he gave the right to become the children of God" (John 1:12).

How can you make that start?

- 1 - Admit honestly your failure and sin.
- 2 - Recognize that Jesus Christ loved you and died for your sin.
- 3 - Receive him into your life by faith and trust him as your Savior.

The result? You're then a Christian. "When someone becomes a Christian he becomes a brand new person inside. He is not the same any more. A new life has begun!" (2 Cor. 5:17). Resolutions and well-meaning attempts at self-improvement fail because they do not touch the core of your being. Only a new birth can do that.

Reread points 1, 2, and 3, above, then ask Christ to take over your life. He will live in you and make all things new for you. Then it will be a Happy New Year and a Blessed New Life, now and forever.

Isn't it about time?

From "Have a Good Day," used by permission
Tyndale House Publishers, Wheaton, IL

DXer OF THE MONTH



Hobart Beal's listening station

This month we are happy to introduce Hobart C. Beal, of Walla Walla, Washington, as our DXer of the Month. Bart joined ANDEX about two years ago as a charter member, #292. He says, "The ANDEX International has been a welcome addition to my life. The DXer of the Month column I find particularly intriguing. It is a pleasure to recognize the names of fellow DXers and to read about their equipment. However, most of the pictures emphasize the DXer and his equipment is neglected.

In keeping with Bart's observation we are featuring a picture of his receiving equipment. When he joined ANDEX he was just beginning to get involved with serious DXing, although he had been interested in shortwave radio for some twenty years. Two years ago he was using a Realistic DX-150B receiver along with a modified Heathkit amateur receiver. Since then he has added a number of items including a Heathkit SB-313 receiver. The major units shown in the photograph, from left to right, include a pair of headphones, the Heathkit SB-313 receiver with matching speaker, the Realistic DX-150B, and an Elgin cassette recorder.

ANDEX International --
is the official publication of Andes DXers International, a DX Club operated in conjunction with DX Party Line broadcast over Radio Station HCJB and sponsored by The World Radio Missionary Fellowship, Inc. It is mailed monthly to all members.

HCJB Broadcast Director - Thomas Fulghum
English Program Director - Imogene Booker
ANDEX Executive Director - Clayton Howard

Address all mail to: ANDEX International
Casilla 691
Quito, Ecuador

Bart uses two antennas. One is a 60-meter dipole and the other is a 31-meter dipole in the form of an inverted vee which also serves as guy wires for the antenna mast. At the left end of the table a rotary switch selects different combinations of the two antennas. Bart likes to experiment by combining both antennas or using only one leg of each. The clock on the wall is a standard 12-hour model but he has added numbers up to 24 for convenience.

During the past two years Bart has logged around 150 countries. Of this number over 100 have been verified. He has retired from the United States Army so finds time to spend up to five hours a day listening to stations all over the world. Most of his DXing is done during the early mornings or evenings. He first heard HCJB many years ago. Included in his QSL card collection is the HCJB series of mountains. Bart is also interested in historical studies and does a bit of free-lance writing on the side. He considers himself to be both a DXer and a shortwave listener.

We are glad to know that Hobart Beal enjoys the DXer of the Month feature in each issue of ANDEX International. We trust he finds this one as interesting as the others!

DX BOOK SHELF

Many shortwave listeners use commercially built receivers without really understanding what goes on inside the attractive cabinet. A thorough knowledge of the circuits that make up their receiver would help most listeners get the optimum reception designed into the equipment by the manufacturer.

If you would like to learn more about your receiver, or receivers in general, let us recommend the book Understanding and Using Radio Communications Receivers, by John Schultz. This book was copywrited in 1972 and published by TAB BOOKS of Blue Ridge Summit, Pennsylvania. It is their publication No. 614.

This is a handbook designed to serve the needs of the hobbyist or technician who is interested in shortwave receiving equipment covering the VLF to VHF range. The basic circuitry and signal processing functions of a wide variety of receivers are covered in detail. Chapters are included on understanding propagation as it relates

CARTOON CORNER



Drawn by Sarah Deusch, ANDEX No. 1572
of Great Neck, New York

to better reception, receiving antennas, selecting and setting up equipment, examples of professional receiving installations, how to interpret the various types of signals heard, where to obtain the frequency and time schedules for all types of stations, etc. The final chapter has some very valuable information on how to test and maintain your receiver to keep it in top operating condition. In other words, this handbook is intended for the person who actually wants to use and get the most out of receiving equipment regardless of his degree of technical knowledge.

A copy of this book will make a valuable addition to the library of any serious DXer or SWL. It contains 192 pages and can be purchased in a moderately priced paperback edition. If you are unable to locate a copy for sale in your area, we would suggest that you write to the following address: SWL Guide, 414 Newcastle Road, Syracuse, New York, 13219, in the United States.

BASIC PROPAGATION

A few months ago we presented a series of reports on the DX Party Line concerning basic radio propagation. These had been prepared and recorded by Richard Varron of Wayne, New Jersey. Richard is well qualified to write on this subject since he is the editor of the propagation section of "SWL", the official news bulletin of the American Shortwave Listeners Club. He is also a member of ANDEX, No. 47. By popular request we are happy to present this series in printed form. The first portion which follows deals with the effects of sunlight on radio transmission. In coming issues, Richard will deal with geomagnetic storms, sunspots, and noise and show how they affect radio reception. We appreciate the cooperation of the American Shortwave Listeners Club in making this information available for publication. The address of this club is as follows: 16182 Ballad Lane, Huntington Beach, California 92649.

"The subject of propagation is important to shortwave listeners. The way the radio waves propagate, or travel, determines what we can hear and when we can hear it. This is a complex subject, and many detailed studies have been made by physicists. Unfortunately, it is too involved to be understood and used by most shortwave listeners. However, there are some general rules which have been developed, some of which were discovered by the early amateurs. This series of articles will out-

line the guidelines as well as describe some of the unusual conditions which may develop from time to time. No attempt will be made to try to explain the reasons behind these rules since they can be quite involved and may be of interest to only a fraction of the shortwave listeners.

"As you listen to your shortwave radio, you probably notice that, during the daylight hours, the best frequencies are the higher ones. During the nighttime hours, the best frequencies are the lower ones. This rule is most reliable on paths to the north and south. For example, this rule holds quite well for those in North America listening to South America, Europe, Africa, the Far East and Australia.

"Before we try to simplify this rule it might be well to consider two variations. If you do DXing in the morning hours you may find, over a period of time, that all your loggings on the higher frequencies are from stations to the east or southeast, and all the stations you have heard on the lower frequencies are from the west and southwest. Conversely, in the evening, the best high-frequency catches are from the west and southwest, with the best low-frequency reception coming from the east and southeast.

"Combining these observations we obtain the following conclusions: The best time to listen to stations to the east on high frequencies is from your dawn until early afternoon, and on the low frequencies from dusk until early morning. Similarly, the best time for stations to the west

Continued on page 4

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

ANDEX has been in existence for two years and close to 1,900 DXers have joined the club. They come from some 52 geographical locations. Some drop out, others renew, and more are constantly joining, giving us a good active membership.

As we enter into the New Year, 1976, and the third year of life for ANDEX, we would like to express our appreciation for the interest and cooperation of each and every member. You, with your common interest in shortwave radio, are ANDEX! Our desire is to see ANDEX grow and be of greater service to you during this third year.

DXing HIGHLIGHTS

Richard Varron, of Wayne, New Jersey, is not only the author of our current series on basic radio propagation, but has had many interesting and unusual moments in front of his shortwave receiver. Richard was one of the first to join ANDEX and is charter member #47. Here is how he describes his most thrilling experience.

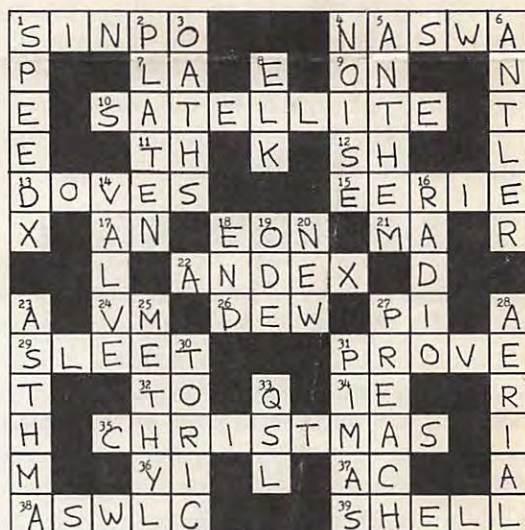
"My most exciting DX catch was made on January 29, 1974. I remember that date very well. It was snowing and there was ice on the roads. It was warm, though, in my room with the receiver at my bedside. The time was 2 o'clock or maybe 3 o'clock, in the morning. I had been awakened by the snow removal trucks that passed by. Realizing that I was awake, I decided to make the best of it, and turned on my medium-wave receiver.

"Tuning carefully to see if I could get a little further than Chicago, I came, suddenly, upon a station broadcasting in Spanish. At first I thought it might be from New York, but I could not find any New York station listed. I looked in another magazine and noticed a Colombian broadcaster having the same frequency. I wondered. Could it be? After some time there was an identification, faint but audible. This was the same station that was listed in the magazine!

"I soon went back to sleep. Next morning after clearing the driveway of snow, I wrote a reception report. I never got a reply. One may ask what is so exciting about not getting a QSL card. To me, at least, it was my first transcontinental DX catch on medium-wave. To the Colombians it was just another all-night music program!"

Richard adds that his most unusual "DX" catch was the night he heard some noise coming from under the floor of his shack while he was DXing. It turned out to be coming from six baby rabbits. They were about ten hours old. It was not until the next morning that a positive identification was established. Richard says, "We still have two of them and they are quite big now. They are very friendly for wild rabbits and will come up to you and ask for some food. One of them is even more contemptuous, and instead of coming to us to get some food, she will go and sit on the dining room chair!"

DX-WORD SOLUTION - 4



continued from page 3

on the high frequencies is from midday until late evening, and on the lower frequencies from midnight until early morning.

"There are many exceptions to this rule, as you may have noticed. These exceptions make rare catches possible. As we continue this series we will see what effect geomagnetic storms, sunspots and other factors have on radio reception. We will also see how, with a knowledge of these effects, it may be possible to predict the days of the month when a particular hard-to-hear station is most likely to be heard."

(This holds for listeners in the Northern Hemisphere. Listeners in the Southern Hemisphere should substitute northeast for southeast and northwest for southwest. Listeners near the equator could use either.)

To be continued in a later issue