



PANAMA HATS



Weaving a Panama hat

Did you know that Panama hats do not come from Panama? Actually these famous straw hats are hand-woven in Ecuador. Years ago, as travellers found these hats for sale in Panama, they naturally acquired the name, even though they had been imported from Ecuador.

Straw hats were originally woven on the Ecuadorian coast, in the province of Manabí. The finest hats are still made there in the towns of Jipijapa and Montecristi. The names of these two towns have become trademarks for the best hats. About a hundred years ago the government introduced the weaving of hats to the southern provinces of the country where most of the hats are now produced. Weaving is a home industry and most of the Panama hats are woven by the poorer people in their humble houses. Many of

the weavers are women and in some of the towns the principle occupation of the women is the production of straw hats.

The weaving of a good quality hat requires an average of about 36 hours of tedious work. By working twelve hours a day a good weaver can turn out two hats a week. A top-quality hat may take more than twice as long. Many weavers work in the early pre-dawn hours when the air contains more moisture and better quality hats can be produced. The typical position for weaving a hat is shown in the picture. The weaver leans over the hat with his chest on a block that holds the hat in position. Long hours of work in this position make breathing difficult and weavers often contract tuberculosis in their later years. The straw for the Panama hats comes from the toquilla palm, *carludovica palmata*, a plant that grows well along the warm Ecuadorian coast. For the finer hats the straw is split into thinner pieces. Hats have been made of such fine straw that they can be rolled up and stored in a small match box.

During the years before World War II, Panama hats composed about nine percent of all Ecuadorian exports. During the Second World War there was a short increase in demand and exports of hats made up about twenty percent of the total. Since then the demand has been constantly declining and by 1957 reached a low of one percent. Competition from hats made of synthetic fibers and mass-produced in other parts of the world, has greatly reduced the demand for genuine Panama hats. The younger generation is not taking an interest in hat weaving because of the tedious work involved and because of opportunities for better paying jobs in other fields. Even so, during 1975 approximately 2,700,000 straw hats were exported with a total value of \$4,567,000. The average cost of each hat was about \$1.70.

In addition to Panama hats, many other items are woven from the toquilla straw, including handbags, dolls, mats, toy animals and Christmas tree ornaments. These do not require the patient skill needed for quality hats and can be produced quickly. They are purchased by tourists or exported for sale overseas.



The toquilla palm

PORTABLE RECEIVERS

A portable receiver equipped with one or more shortwave bands can be a valuable piece of equipment for either the beginning or advanced DXer. Even if your portable is not your primary receiver, it is important for you to utilize your radio's full potential.

Keeping a radio clean and avoiding excessive jostling are, of course, applicable to all electrical

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equipment. Battery compartments present a unique problem. Batteries can leak! Many portables are protected against leakage with plastic battery holders, but many are not. It is always best to remove batteries from a radio when it is not being used for an extended period of time. As for service, unless you are a qualified repairman, take your radio to a service shop for repairs or adjustments.

Reception on a portable depends on grounding, power supply and antenna. Grounding the chassis is desirable but not absolutely necessary. This is most easily accomplished by grounding one side of the AC power cord, as if it were plugged in. This is why reception is always better when AC power is used.

The ferrite coil antenna inside the radio is usually tuned for medium-wave reception. Because the ferrite antenna is directional, turning the front or back of the receiver towards the transmitter site will usually improve medium-wave signals. The ferrite antenna is not ordinarily incorporated into the circuitry of bands other than medium wave. Therefore, the whip antenna must be extended for shortwave or FM reception. Touching the whip antenna with a finger will help in some cases. On other receivers this will ground the antenna and eliminate the signal almost completely.

An external antenna is best by far. A plug system can be incorporated into your regular shortwave antenna installation to accommodate your portable. You may prefer to merely clip one end of a lead wire to your regular antenna lead-in connector and plug the other end into the proper jack on your receiver. If your receiver does not have a jack for an external antenna, then connect the wire to the whip antenna, using a small capacitor if necessary to prevent overloading.

Frequency determination can be a problem with portables due to reduced selectivity, non-linear frequency progression and inaccurate markings on the dial face. In addition, the dial marker may be miscalibrated. The cheapest way to determine frequencies is to use the "LOG" scale on the dial face. Merely list the known frequencies of several stations on each band against the corresponding "LOG" readings. A graph of this information for each band will enable you to find frequencies quite accurately.

The best operation of a portable receiver requires familiarity with your particular set. As you get to know your own portable and its eccentricities, you will find it a valuable piece of equipment in your listening shack.

By Greg Watts, ANDEX No. 38
of Plainfield, IN, U.S.A.

DXer OF THE MONTH



Leslie Planck tuning his SPR-4

Very few ANDEX members have ever travelled to South America and fewer still have actually visited HCJB in Quito. Our DXer of the Month for October is one of the few exceptions. Leslie D. Planck spent several days in Quito during the early summer of 1975. He had the privilege of getting to know firsthand the various phases of the work of HCJB. Not only has he heard the programs from HCJB many times on his receivers but he has enjoyed seeing the transmitters and studios in operation. To him, the voices he hears as he listens to his radio are actual personalities and people he can call his friends.

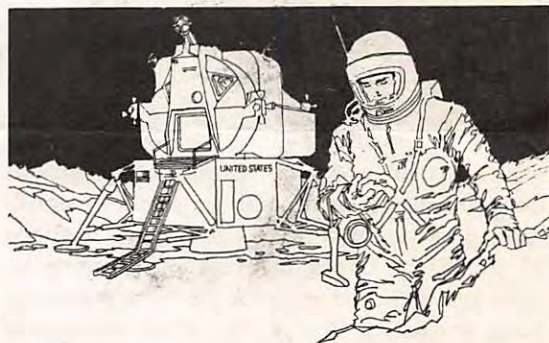
Leslie lives in East Orange, New Jersey, and is employed as a plastic engineer. He is a veteran in the shortwave game and has been listening around the bands since 1937. He heard HCJB for the first time a number of years ago. In addition to DXing he enjoys photography and travelling, such as his trip to HCJB.

The broad smile on Leslie's face shows the pleasure he has in owning two excellent shortwave receivers. On the left is a Heathkit SB-310 and on the right is the ever-popular Drake SPR-4. Leslie has a choice between a groundplane vertical antenna or an inverted "V" tuned to 20 meters. With this superb receiving equipment it is no wonder that he has had good success in hearing and verifying many stations. He does most of his listening during the early evening hours, from 0000 to 0200 GMT, and uses his receivers up to an hour a day. Other equipment found in Leslie's receiving position includes a cassette recorder, digital clock, oscilloscope, world globe and maps, voltage regulator, signal generators and various pieces of test equipment. All in all he has a very well-equipped shortwave listening post.

Leslie is a frequent listener to HCJB's English programs. He joined ANDEX in May of 1975 and is member No. 1546. He recently renewed his membership for a second year. As an active DXer, one of the highlights of his shortwave hobby was his attendance at the 1975 ANARC Convention held in Montreal, Canada.

It is a privilege to have DXers like Leslie D. Planck as members of ANDEX! Our wish for him is that he might have many more years of good DXing and that many of those elusive and rare stations will find their way to his receivers.

SPACE-AGE LIVING



This generation is living in the space age. The news is full of stories concerning satellites, moon shots and space exploration. We talk with friends in distant places by means of telephone circuits relayed by satellite. Our television sets bring us live coverage of events on the other side of the world by means of satellite communications. Recently we have learned a great deal about the planet Mars as pictures have been sent back from

the Viking space probes. What an interesting time to be alive!

As interesting as the scientific hardware involved are the men who have made space travel possible. When Apollo 15 headed toward the moon Col. James Irwin carried a microfilmed copy of a prayer covenant. It was signed by friends in his home church. After the astronaut returned to earth people throughout the country told him, "We prayed for you." He was aware of that on the moon.

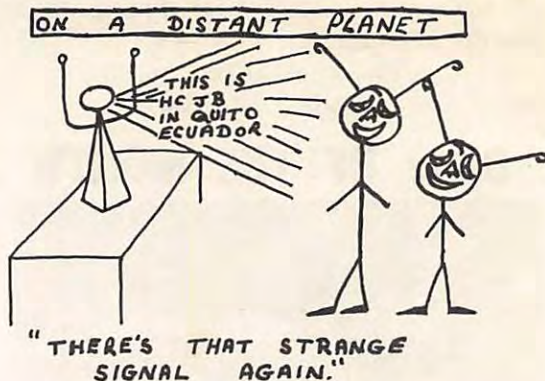
Col. Irwin told a gathering in the Houston Astro-dome, "The hours that I spent on the moon were the most thrilling of my life - not because I was there but because I could feel the presence of God. There were times when I was faced with new challenges, and help from God was immediate. He was there because of your prayer." He had given prayer priority in his life long before he went to the moon. The astronaut "cemented" his relationship with Jesus Christ when he was eleven and he recalls the role of prayer in his life.

"My greatest personal test came in 1961. I had just graduated from test-pilot school and considered myself one of the hottest pilots in the sky. During my free time I was instructing students in light aircraft. One morning our little plane crashed on the desert but it did not burn. I had two broken legs, broken jaw, concussion and multiple lacerations. My first question was, "Why did this happen to me?" As I lay in the hospital I had much time to pray. I prayed for understanding and for a fast recovery and God answered."

Irwin's love for flying eventually led him to the space program where his assignments progressed from commander of the lunar module for thermal-vacuum test in 1966 to the prime crew for Apollo 15 in 1971. During the time of preparing his mind and body and spirit for the flight, Astronaut Irwin prayed for God's help. When the mission was completed he thanked the men who designed and built the spacecraft and those who helped operate the systems during the trip. But most important he thanked God "for this mission, for allowing us to leave the earth and explore a portion of his heaven."

The flight medallions carried by the crew of Apollo 15 have the following inscription: "Man's flight through life is sustained by the power of his

CARTOON CORNER



Drawn by Robin Edmundson, ANDEX No. 1686 of North Ireland

knowledge." Commenting on this, Col. Irwin added, "Indeed my flight through life has been sustained by my knowledge of Jesus Christ."

In the light of Astronaut Irwin's testimony of God's help in his life it is not surprising that his favorite Psalm begins: "I will lift up mine eyes to the hills, from whence cometh my help. My help cometh from the Lord, which made heaven and earth" (Psalm 121:1 & 2). Can you call on the Lord for help? You can if you have "cemented" your relationship with him, as Col. Irwin calls it. You do this by acknowledging your need of a Savior. Your first prayer must be, "Lord, help me a sinner" and then accept him into your life by faith. Jesus said, "I am the way, the truth and the life. No man cometh unto the father but by me" (John 14:6).

Adapted from a tract sent by Eddie Scott ANDEX No. 56

Listen to DX Party Line, and invite your friends to tune in. Heard three 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
2000 GMT 19 m - 15.300 MHz
25 m - 11.845 MHz

For North America: Tuesday-Thursday-Sunday
(Monday-Wednesday-Saturday 9:30 P.M. EST)
0230 GMT 25 m - 11.915 MHz
31 m - 9.560 MHz
49 m - 6.095 MHz