

# ANDEX



## INTERNATIONAL

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### DXer OF THE MONTH



*Mike Tiers logs another station*

This month we go to Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada, to find our DXer of the Month. Mike Tiers, ANDEX member 2542, has been DXing from this city in western Canada for about two years. Approximately half of our ANDEX members are teen-agers, so Mike, a 16-year-old school boy, represents a very large group of DXers.

As can be seen in the picture, Mike uses the very popular Realistic DX-160 for his shortwave listening. He purchased the receiver recently and finds it to be a very satisfactory radio in his location. Auxiliary equipment consists of an audio filter, 100 kHz crystal calibrator, tape recorder, and antenna switch. Mike also uses four different antennas. One of them is a dipole and the other three are long wires strung in different directions, but all at about the same height. The antenna switch permits Mike to choose the antenna that gives the best reception for any particular station. Many DXers will no doubt be envious of anyone who lives in a situation where there is sufficient space to install all of these antennas! For many it is difficult to erect even one good antenna!

Mike finds time to spend about three hours a day with his DX-160 receiver. He usually turns the set on when he gets home from his work at about

0300 GMT. One of his special delights is to DX on the 60-meter band during the late-night or early-morning hours. He first heard HCJB when he started DXing and still considers this to be one of his favorite stations. Other favorites include Radio Nederland, Radio Australia, and the NBC from Papua, New Guinea.

With the equipment listed above, Mike has been able to log about seventy-six stations from all parts of the world. Of these, he has received QSL cards from about thirty. He has sent reception reports to the rest and hopefully many more QSL cards are on their way to his listening post. Mike says that, in addition to getting a great deal of enjoyment from shortwave listening, he has also learned many things. He plans to continue with the hobby for many years.

Our congratulations to Mike Tiers and our best wishes for many exciting years of DXing.

### A CHRISTMAS QSL?

*By Clayton Howard*

It all happened back in December of 1941. I had just arrived in Quito a few months earlier and this was the first time I had been away from home for any length of time. Needless to say, I suffered a bit from homesickness. I had brought along a used National NC-100 receiver which was my constant companion when I was in my room. DXing and shortwave listening helped relieve the loneliness.

In those days there were very few local stations on the medium-wave band and those that were operating had rather short schedules. As a result it was usually possible to hear a number of stations from the United States during the evening hours. Stations from New York, Chicago, Philadelphia, Louisville, Kansas City, and many others, could be tuned in quite consistently. One December evening, when conditions seemed unusually good, I

was tuning around when a program caught my attention. As a child, growing up near Chicago, I had always looked forward to one special event during the Christmas season. It never seemed that Christmas had actually arrived until we heard the radio dramatization of the famous story by Charles Dickens, *A Christmas Carol*. Now, sitting by my radio in Quito, I was hearing this same story. I continued to listen and realized that I wasn't so far away from home after all. I knew the rest of the Christmas season would be all it should be for me.

As the program ended, the announcer said that I was listening to station WPTF, 50,000 watt transmitter in Raleigh, North Carolina, operating on 680 kilocycles. As a part of their Christmas programming they had been presenting a dramatic version of *A Christmas Carol* produced by the Department of Dramatic Art of the University of North Carolina. The director had been Dr. Frederick H. Koch, head of the department. They hoped we had enjoyed the presentation. Then the announcer went on to say that Dr. Koch had three copies of the book to send as Christmas presents to three people in the radio audience. One copy would be sent to the listener who wrote to WPTF from the greatest distance. I can't now remember how the other two were to be chosen. I had enjoyed the program so much that I sent a letter immediately reporting my reception and thanking them for the good work they had done. I let them know how much the broadcast had meant to me, a single fellow spending his first Christmas alone in a foreign country.

It was about two weeks later when two letters arrived. One was from the University of North Carolina, written by Dr. Koch. The other was from Radio Station WPTF, signed by Ralph Burgin, the producer. Both expressed apprecia-

tion for my reception report and told me that I was a winner. My letter had come from the greatest distance. To say the least I was excited! The book was being sent under separate cover by surface mail so I would have to wait a few weeks for it to arrive. Ralph Burgin said, "This belated Christmas present is being sent to you and with it go the congratulations and best wishes of both Dr. Koch and WPTF. I sincerely hope that you will enjoy and cherish yours as much as I do the copy 'Prof' so kindly gave me."

In due time the book did arrive, personally autographed by Dr. Koch. It is a beautiful volume with several colored illustrations. I still cherish this Christmas present which takes up an important spot in one of our bookcases. I consider it to be one of the most unusual verifications I ever received. Do you agree that this book can be called a Christmas QSL?

## SILENT NIGHT

It is December once again which means that Christmas is just around the corner. The Christmas season is one of the happiest times of the year. One of the things that makes this season joyous is the Christmas music, the carols that are sung and played everywhere. On radio and television these familiar and well-loved songs are heard for a number of days before the 25th. In churches and on street corners the same carols are sung and add to the spirit of the season.

Which of the carols is best known and beloved around the world? We're not sure we can answer that definitely, but certainly one that would be very near the top of the list is "Silent Night." This simple, but beautiful song, has been sung by millions. As a college student I remember my German teacher asking us to sing this carol in German. In fact, we had to memorize it!

No doubt you have sung "Silent Night" many times. Have you ever thought about the words you were singing? Have you ever wondered who wrote this beautiful carol and circumstances under which it was written? Here is the fascinating story.

On Christmas Eve in 1818, Franz Gruber, who was the church organist in the little town of Oberndorf, Bavaria, went to the church to prepare the special

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### ANDEX International —

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# MERRY CHRISTMAS & A HAPPY NEW YEAR 1978



*HCJB missionary staff in Quito*

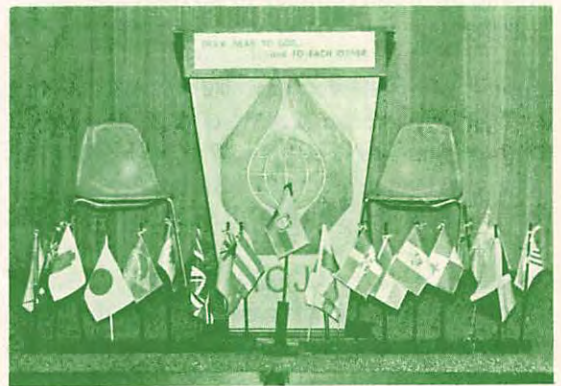
The missionary staff of Radio Station HCJB extends our very best wishes to all ANDEX members at this holiday season. Not only are we celebrating another Christmas, the birthday of our Savior, Jesus Christ, but December 25th is also the 46th anniversary of the first broadcast to go out from HCJB.

The staff picture included in this bulletin was taken in September, during the annual business meeting of the World Radio Missionary Fellowship, Inc., the official name of the organization that operates HCJB. At any one time the missionary staff present in Quito numbers between 150 to 175 people. If all categories of membership are included the total comes to around 360 people.

The World Radio Missionary Fellowship is truly an international group. During the roll call at the first business session, a flag ceremony was held. A flag representing each country from which someone had come was placed at the front of the room. It was exciting to see the line of flags increase until there were eighteen in all. Flags of the following countries were included: Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, Dominican Republic, Ecuador,

Great Britain, Ireland, Jamaica, Japan, Mexico, New Zealand, Panama, Peru, Puerto Rico, Sweden, Uganda, and the United States of America. Uganda was represented by Bishop Festo Kivengere who came to Quito as our special speaker and was of great spiritual blessing to everyone.

As we wish you a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year, remember that these greetings come not only from Ecuador, but from eighteen countries scattered around the world. May 1978 be a great year for all ANDEX members!



*HCJB flag ceremony*

# ANDEX CHANGES FOR 1978

As we enter the new year of 1978, ANDEX will be making some changes. As mentioned in a recent issue of ANDEX International, postage rates have increased more than 100% during the past year. After considering the various possibilities and reading the many comments sent to us by ANDEX members, we have made the following decisions which will be put into effect in January.

1. We will not raise ANDEX dues during 1978.
2. ANDEX International will be published bimonthly.
3. ANDEX International will be increased in size to at least eight pages in each issue.
4. The January-February issue will be mailed in late January.
5. ANDEX members will still receive all QSL cards requested by airmail, if they are airmail members, without having to send extra postage.

We feel these changes will best serve our members. You will still receive the same amount of material and services for the same annual dues. By mailing the bulletins every other month we will cut our postage costs in half. Postage is by far the largest single item in the ANDEX budget. We trust these changes will meet with the approval of our membership. Let us know during the year what your reactions are to this new arrangement so we will know how to plan for 1979. We want to serve you in the best way possible and also keep the cost of membership to a minimum. We appreciate your understanding of the problems we face as costs around the world continue to skyrocket.

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music for the following day. He made an alarming discovery. The organ would not play! For several days previous to Christmas Eve Oberndorf had been snowbound. Gruber, knowing there was no one in Oberndorf capable of repairing the organ, was afraid there would be no music for this Christmas. He could hardly imagine Christmas without music! Quickly he went to the vicar, Joseph Mohr, and told him the sad situation. He asked Mohr if he could write a new simple Christmas song which could be sung easily without having to use the organ.

Later, as Mohr sat reading the Christmas story again from the Bible, the words welled up in his soul like a heavenly anthem, "Unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior." Long into the night he sat meditating on these words. As the full meaning gripped him, he wrote a poem about the wonderful story.

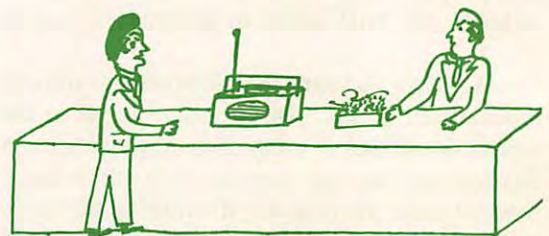
Early the next morning, Mohr gave the poem to Gruber who composed a melody for the newly written words. By now the people were gathering at the church for the Christmas service. There was one man who could pick out tunes on his guitar. He was asked to accompany the new carol. The people of Oberndorf loved the song immediately, and thus the world was given one of the most beautiful and best loved of the Christmas carols. It was not long before the Tyrolean Singers took the song to America. For years it was known under the title, "Song From Heaven." Today "Silent Night" is sung in nearly every language of the world. Many think it still sounds better in the original German.

Oh, that the real meaning of Christmas would grip each of us in this season as it did Joseph Mohr, as we consider these words, "Unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, which is Christ the Lord" (Luke 2:11). This Savior is for you, you who have gone astray, you who are burdened with cares, you who need the forgiveness of sin.

Christ Jesus came into this world to save you, to deliver you. He died on the cross for you. Tonight will be a "silent night" and a "holy night" in your soul if you will, by faith, trust in this living Savior. "God loved us, and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins" (1 John 4:10).

## CARTOON CORNER

RADIO REPAIRS



"..... AND THESE ARE THE PIECES THAT WERE LEFT OVER WHEN I PUT IT TOGETHER AGAIN!"

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