

# ANDEX



## INTERNATIONAL

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## NEW YEARS AROUND THE WORLD

by Kathy Saavedra

"Should old acquaintances be forgot and never . . ." Thus begins the song that is sung around the world each January 1st. At midnight, the church bells chime out the old year and ring in the new. In Germany, fire sirens shriek while friends happily huddle together in the local pub; in Japan, families wonderingly watch the nationwide vocal contest between popular singers while sipping tea and eating the specialty, rice cake. The Swedes gaze at the dazzling darts from high flying fireworks; the French exchange gifts; and, here, the "old year's" efigy is burned before the eyes of excited Ecuadorians.

Just where did the celebration of New Year originate. No one knows for sure, though even in the earliest of ancient nations there can be found customs referring to the New Year. The Chinese, Egyptian, Jewish, Roman and Mohammedan years all began at different times. But the first day of each year was marked with elaborate ceremonies. Thousands of years ago the Egyptians celebrated the New Year about the middle of June. This was the time when the Nile River usually overflowed its banks.

In ancient Rome, the first day of the year was given over to honoring Janus, the god of gates and doors and of beginnings and endings. The month of January was also named after him. Janus had two faces and looked both ahead and backward. On the first day of the year, the Roman people looked back to what had happened during the past year and thought of what the coming year might bring. Romans gave each other presents on this day as well. Many persons brought gifts to the Roman emperor and wished him good fortune. At first the gifts were simply branches of bay and palm trees, but later, more expensive presents were offered. Roman senators received flowers and fruits and sometimes beautiful materials from

persons who wanted favors. Roman merchants carried this custom of giving gifts as far east as Persia (now Iran). There the ancient Iranians or Persians followed the custom of giving eggs to their friends. Since an egg hatches into life, this custom meant much the same thing as "turning over a new leaf."

When the Romans invaded England, they found that the Druid priests celebrated their New Year's on March 10. The priest cut off branches of mistletoe which grew on their sacred oak trees and gave them to the people for charms. The early English took over many of the Roman New Year customs. Later, English people followed the customs of cleaning the chimneys on New Year's Day. This was supposed to bring good luck to the household during the coming new year. Today we say, "cleaning the slate," instead of "cleaning the chimney." This means making resolutions to correct faults and bad habits and resolving to make the new year a better one. And it is this concept of hope for the future that seems to bind all the nations of the world together as they look at the new year with expectancy.

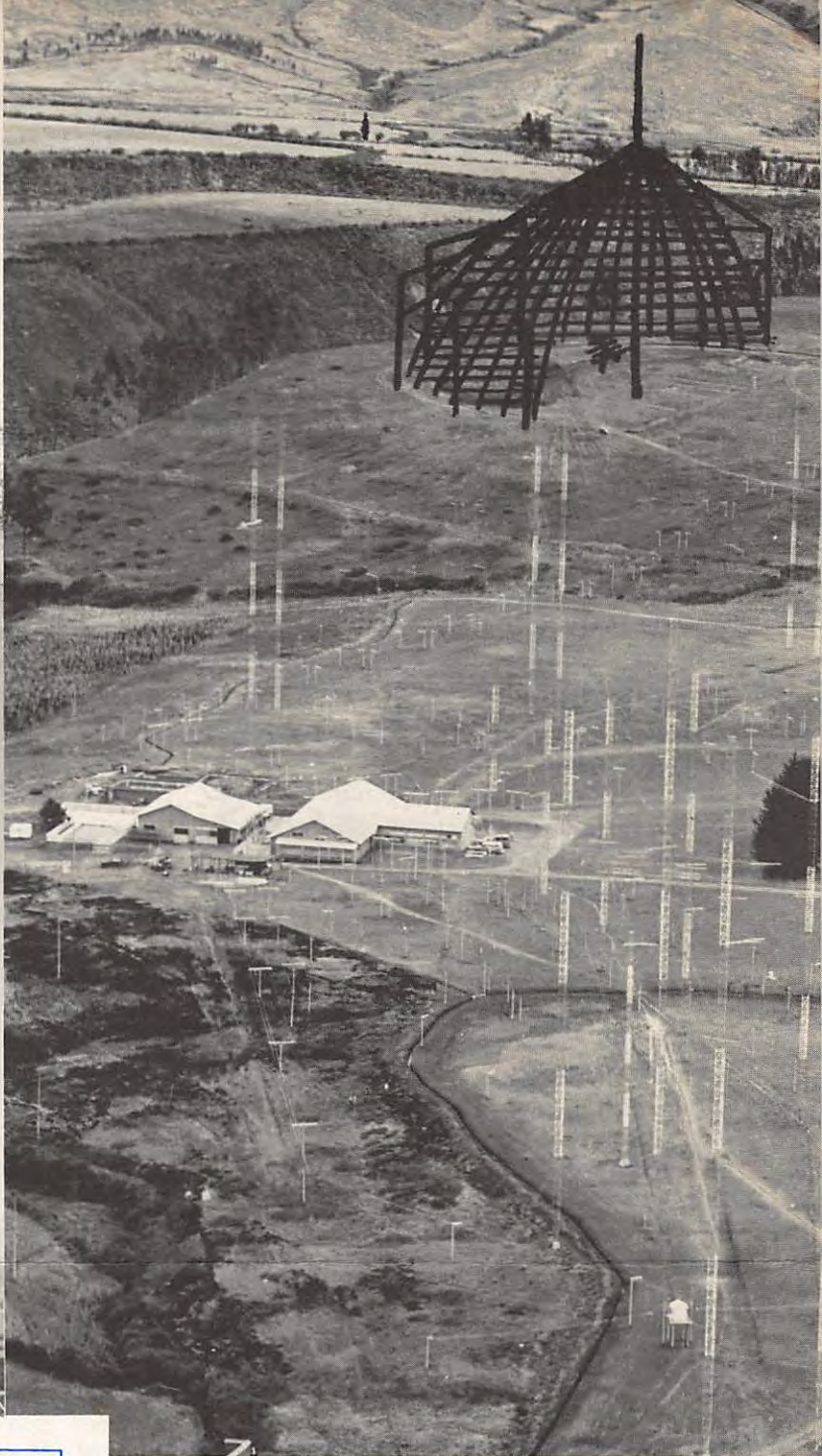
## BADGES AVAILABLE

The ANDEX cloth badges are now available to all ANDEX members. The colorful badges are trimmed in blue with the word "ANDEX" in blue, "HCJB" and the letter "A" in red.

The price is \$1.00 U.S. to cover cost of the badge, handling, and mailing. Send check or money order to:

Mr. Clayton Howard  
808 Michigan St.  
Wheaton, IL  
U. S. A. 60187

Please do not order from HCJB, Quito or Miami.



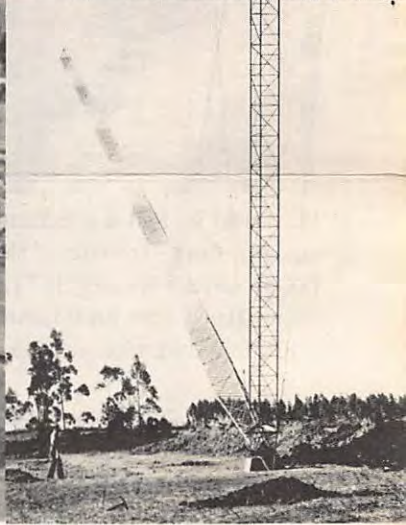
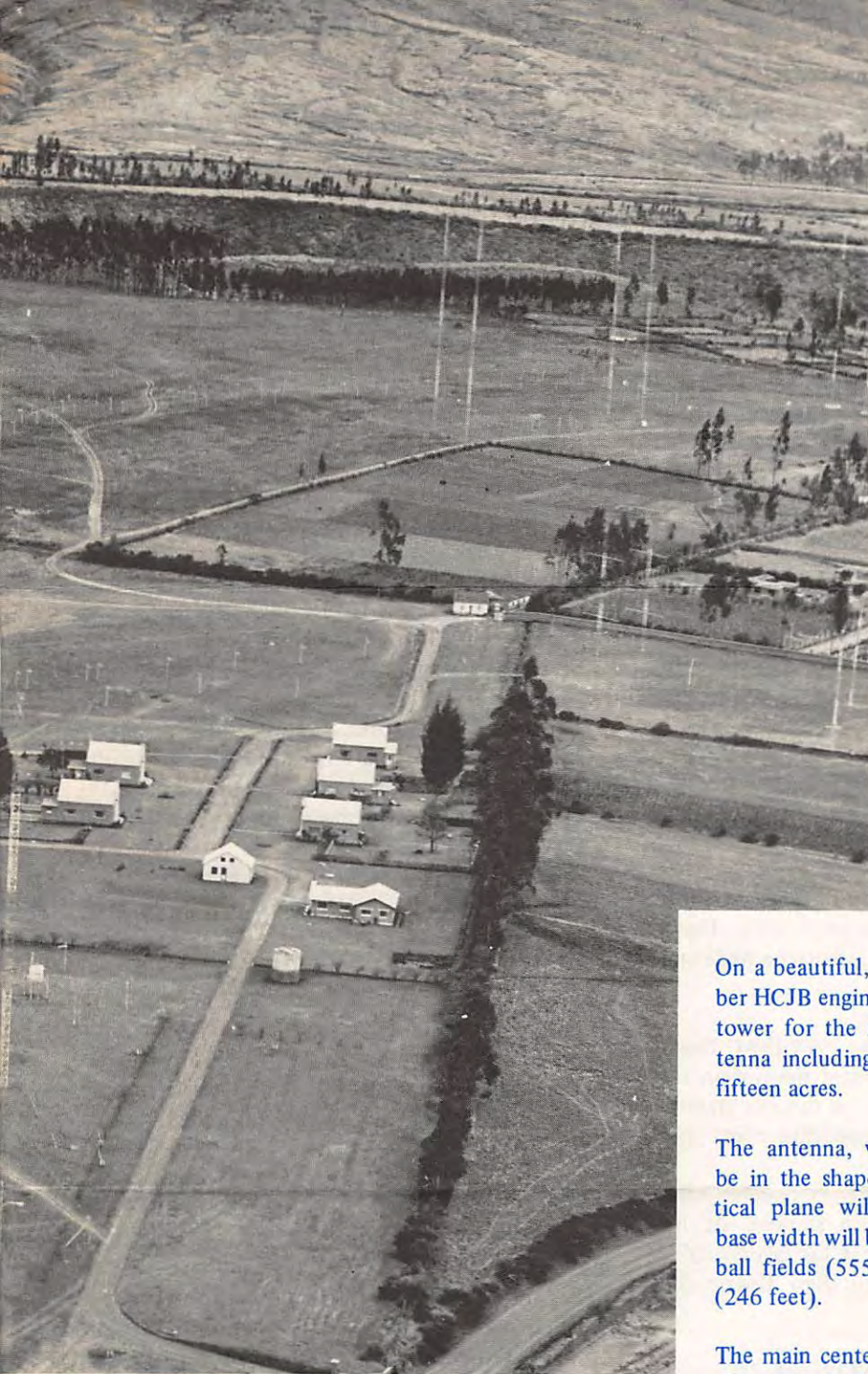
**ANDEX International –**

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On a beautiful, sunny, Friday morning in November HCJB engineers raised the main center support tower for the new "steerable antenna." The antenna including anchors for guy cables will cover fifteen acres.

The antenna, when completed, will horizontally be in the shape of an arc of a circle and the vertical plane will be in a parabolic shape. The base width will be almost the size of two U.S. football fields (555 feet). It will be 20 stories high (246 feet).

The main center tower which is already in place is 40 stories high (417 feet). It is triangular with four feet on each side.

The reflector is a network of 18 miles of horizontal and vertical wires supported by stranded steel cables strung between the main tower and eight back towers. There will be about 5,000 wire wraps tying the structure together!

The photos on pages 2 & 3 will give you an overall view of HCJB's transmitter site at Pifo and sequence shots of the tower being raised by HCJB engineers. Photos are by Larry Buckman.



## DX-ER OF THE MONTH



Mr. David R. Ball is a sixteen year old high school student from Toronto. He has been an avid DX-er since February 1971. The above picture shows David with his Realistic DX-150A. He uses a 130 foot long wire antenna and a dipole.

David has logged 102 countries and has verified 86.

In addition to being ANDEX member No. 113 he is also an HCJB monitor (#01-003). David also monitors for Radio RSA, Deutsche Welle and Radio Nederland.

Mr. Ball won first place in the 1974 ISWC Popularity Poll for the best 30 word motivation for selecting Radio Nederland as his favorite station. He says, "HCJB was his second choice and that you try harder."

Latin American and Oceanian stations are his favorites. It is interesting that his favorite QSL cards are from Radio Rabaul, New Britain and Radio Republic Indonesia.

David is a member of the United Church of Canada.

He lives in the Toronto area and would like to contact other Toronto area DX-ers with the idea of forming a local club. His address is: Mr. David Ball, 62 Lexfield Avenue, Downsview, Ontario, Canada, M3M 1M5. Write to David or give him a call if you live in the Toronto city area.

David's other hobbies are stamp collecting, golf, and playing the guitar.

## HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Have you outgrown New Year's resolutions?

All of us are infected with the temptation to determine that somethings are going to be different this new year. It does us good to take a personal inventory and evaluate the past year with the ideals of a new year.

With the coming of a new year there is the calling to newness.

Goethe said, "He who is firm and resolute in will moulds the world to himself."

How often we begin the new year with high ideals and resolutions only to find ourselves feeling as if we have passed this way before. But the failures of the past year do not contaminate the future. We can profit from our mistakes. That's the way the grace of God works. It covers the past failures with the gracious and inexhaustible mercy of the Lord God. However, God does not just close His eyes to our sins. Our sins are covered by the shed blood of the Lamb of God, Jesus Christ. To everyone who will believe there is this promise: "The blood of Jesus, His Son, purifies us from every sin" (I John 1:7).

Yes, you can begin this new year with a clean slate. But there is only one way to have such a beginning and that is in Christ. Only in Him do you start with a clean page, without a record; by His sacrifice you are absolved from all sin and failure.

How do you obtain such a beginning? First, acknowledge to the Lord God that you need to be cleansed. Confess to Him that you have failed to live up to His expectations during this year. Second, ask Jesus to become your own personal Saviour. Believe in your heart that Jesus died for your sins and that He rose from the dead and lives today. Surrender your life to Him and receive eternal life and the forgiveness of every sin you have ever committed. Third, tell others that Jesus is the Lord and Saviour of your life.

When an evil man dies, his hopes all perish, for they are based upon this earthly life. (Prov. 11:7  
—*Living Bible*)