



DXer OF THE MONTH



Frankie Gittens with his Sony CRF-5100

This month we go to the island of Trinidad for our DXer of the Month. For the first time we have the privilege of honoring a representative of the Caribbean area in this way. Next to Jamaica, Trinidad is the largest of the islands that make up the British West Indies. It is located just off the coast of Venezuela and in the early colonial days was considered to be a part of that country. It was discovered by Christopher Columbus in 1498, on his third voyage to the New World. Columbus was so glad to see land after his long voyage that he named the island Trinidad after the Holy Trinity. Spanish colonists first settled on the island in the 1500's. It remained in Spanish hands for three centuries until Great Britain gained possession in 1814. Perhaps the most famous landmark on the island of Trinidad is Pitch Lake, discovered in 1595 by Sir Walter Raleigh. This 114-acre lake contains millions of tons of natural asphalt, a mineral resource of great value to the economy of the island.

Although there are many shortwave listeners in the Caribbean area, Frankie Gittens is one of the few ANDEX members living in the region. He is ANDEX member No. 2327 and lives in the capital city, Port of Spain. When he is not listening to his shortwave radio he works as a passenger agent for a steamship company.

Frankie has been interested in radio since 1956 but does not consider himself to have been a DXer until September, 1976. He does his listening on a Sony CRF-5100 Earth Orbiter. For an antenna he uses an inverted "L" which is 40 feet long and 35 feet in height. He has plans to purchase one of the very popular Yaesu FRG-7 receivers in the near future and to construct some new antennas. With this improved receiving equipment he would like to serve as an official HCJB monitor. He heard HCJB for the first time in May of 1975.

The time Frankie finds most convenient for shortwave listening is between 2000 and 0000 GMT. He listens on an irregular basis but averages roughly four hours a day enjoying his receiver. In addition to being a member of ANDEX, he has also joined the BBC World Radio Club. Other interests include sports, especially football, and music. He is a rather accomplished poet as well. In the Christmas card he sent us last December he included an original poem entitled, *HCJB Lighthouse*.

Frankie finds shortwave listening a very interesting and enjoyable hobby. He says that listening to shortwave radio is undoubtedly an educational exercise and that it opens one's mind to the realities of world situations from the privacy of one's home. We extend our congratulations to Frankie Gittens on being chosen DXer of the Month for March, 1978.

HIGH SPEED LIVING

This is the age of speed! Man has never travelled faster on land, sea, or air. Astronauts streak through the stratosphere at speeds that we earth-bound humans cannot even comprehend. Traveling times have been cut from months to hours. What used to take a day now takes only minutes. No place on earth is more than a few hours away.

Life is lived at a furious pace today. Everywhere work is done faster. The flick of a switch has replaced long hours of straining effort. Name anything and it's done at blistering speed in today's world. Modern communications make it possible to communicate with almost any part of the world almost instantly. A recent report from the Bell System, in the United States, tells of a new nationwide telephone network—the network of the future—that is now evolving. As it takes shape over the next quarter century a variety of new customer services will become increasingly available and greater operating efficiencies will be realized. At the heart of the network are electronic switching systems interconnected by a new high-speed signaling system that will enable the switching systems to communicate with one another more effectively. The combination is known as the stored-program controlled, or SPC, network. As the SPC network evolves, customers will notice faster call connections—as fast as two seconds for a coast-to-coast call!

But, listen! A wise man from an earlier generation said, "There is more to life than increasing its speed." He was right. Today people marry quickly and get divorced even faster. They have children and suddenly abandon them. They are always hurrying somewhere—to work, to play. They even get buried or cremated in a hurry.

Caught up in this hurtling merry-go-round it's hard to stop—for human beings, that is. A Wahlberg eagle can put the brakes on in its flight and drop from 100 m.p.h. to zero within twenty feet! But a human being can't do that. Once a man or woman or young person starts to live life at frantic speed there seems no way to stop.

What is the answer? There's only one, and it is found in the Bible. The Bible says, "It is dangerous and sinful to rush into the unknown" (Proverbs 19:2). We should stop, slow down, think! The Bible says, "The thoughts of the diligent tend only to plenteousness; but of everyone that is hasty only to want" (Proverbs 21:5). The Bible says, "This is the way, walk (not run) in it" (Isaiah 30:21). The Bible says, "Be still, and know that I am God" (Psalm 46:10). The Bible says, "The words of wise men are heard in quiet more than the cry of him that rules among fools" (Ecclesiastes 9:17).

Why not sit down and think about these verses? Why not admit, "Your (God's) hands have made me and fashioned me; give me understanding that I may learn your commandments?" (Psalm 119:73). In that quiet time think upon these things. "Jesus said, I am the way, the truth, and the life" (John 14:6). "If you shall confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus, and shall believe in your heart that God has raised him from the dead, you shall be saved" (Romans 10:9). "Him that comes to me I shall in no wise cast out" (John 6:37).

Think on these things, and then, in contradiction to all that has been said up to now, act upon them right now! "Now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation" (II Corinthians 6:2).

Adapted from a tract

ANDEX International —

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ANDEX CHANGE

In the December, 1977, issue of ANDEX International we announced some changes. We said that during 1978 we would publish the bulletin every other month and increase the size from four to eight pages. Now we find that, for a number of reasons, it is preferable, for the present, to continue publishing the bulletin each month. However, as announced, we are mailing bimonthly and including two bulletins each time. We trust this will meet with the approval of our members.

UNUSUAL STORY PRIZES

In the October, 1977, issue of ANDEX International we featured an unusual story about a young DXer. We challenged our members to see if they could discover what was so unusual about the story. We offered a prize to the one who uncovered the secret in the shortest length of time. The winner is Ramon Haines of Wellington, New Zealand. He reports that he solved the mystery in about three minutes, the time it took him to read the article twice.

Let Ramon tell you in his own words the secret of his success. "How did I work it out? Well, I suppose I had an advantage in being English. You see, I make a point of looking closely at the written word. Although the English, Americans, Australians, and New Zealanders, among others, all allegedly speak English, there is a subtle shift of emphasis, or meaning, or spelling, of certain words. Consequently, I usually substitute words more familiar to myself to make the meaning clearer. This is what I did in this case. Some of the more obvious examples are: buddy - friend, built - made, programs - programmes, nations - countries, this world - the world, dollars - money, assist - help.

"As you can see, all the substitutions contain a letter E. After rereading the article, using alternative words, it became increasingly obvious what was so unusual. As I said, just a subtle difference. Word substitution is something that I do so automatically now that I suppose it might be called a reflex action.

"Anyway, I enjoyed the article, as I do all the ANDEX articles, and look forward to seeing more puzzles in the future."

The second prize goes to Paul Routenburg, of Williamsford, Ontario, Canada. Paul writes, "I really enjoyed the unusual story. I did discover the mystery. After reading the story twice it sounded so much like the way many a young DXer has started, I knew something was amiss. I thought maybe a code or cypher was involved so I started counting words, word groups, and letters. Since the five most commonly used letters are EATON, I soon found there was not a single E in the story."

Congratulations to Ramon Haines and Paul

Routenburg on winning this little contest. Their prizes are being sent to them by airmail.

DX-WORD SOLUTION

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AN EARLY START

About half of the members of ANDEX are teenagers. It would appear that most of those who become involved in the hobby of DXing get their start in the early teens, or perhaps a few years younger. Once in a while we hear of an unusual case of someone who became interested in short-wave radio very early in life. Milo Getz, ANDEX member 2287, of St. Charles, Missouri, recently sent us a newspaper clipping concerning a precocious youngster. A kindergarten pupil from Buckingham, Iowa, has become the youngest amateur-radio operator in the United States.

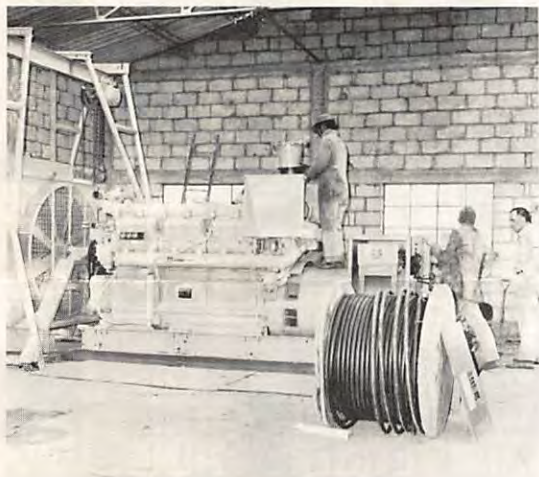
Guy Mitchell, five, who entered kindergarten last fall has passed the Federal Communications Commission's amateur-radio novice-class examination. He passed the Morse-code examination on April 15, 1977, while he was still four years old.

Guy's interest in amateur radio began with his parents, Wade and Cindy, who were taking a course to pass a novice-class examination. Both are now novice-class operators. His parents noticed that Guy picked up Morse code from code records and tapes they brought home to study. In addition to his radio hobby, Guy likes to spell, read, ride a bicycle, and watch television.

Perhaps this will encourage some of our ANDEX members to interest younger brothers and sisters in the DXing and shortwave listening hobby. Tell them about Guy. Perhaps they will be able to do the same as he did.

A PRESENT FOR PIFO

By Ruth Stanley



Caterpillar D398 ready for testing

One day in September, 1977, a big MACK truck arrived at HCJB'S transmitter site in Pifo, Ecuador, with a most welcome "package" riding on its trailer. The "package", weighing 19,580 pounds, enclosed in plywood, bound with steel straps and positioned on heavy wooden beam runners, contained a new diesel generator.

A considerable amount of planning, pulling and wrestling was involved in getting the heavy diesel from the trailer of the truck onto its new cement platform 50 meters away. Three trucks were used to pull it off the trailer. Then, two days later, after using heavy rollers and chains and more truck pulling and towing, as well as lots of manpower, the deed was accomplished.

The generator, a Caterpillar D398, has an RPM of 1200 and KVA rating of 844. It has an excitation voltage of 114 at 60 cycles using 78 amps. It is able to put out 675 kilowatts of stand-by power at sea level. However, since Pifo is at an altitude of 8,500 feet, we lose 150 kilowatts. Therefore, the machine, at this altitude, is capable of producing 525 kilowatts. While in operation, the generator uses 52 gallons of diesel fuel an hour.

Whether at sea level or 8,500 feet above, the big generator does work and works well. It can pro-

duce enough power so that six of our seven transmitters which are located at Pifo can run at full power or all seven can be operated on only slightly reduced loads. With the new generator running in parallel with a small, old generator, we are able, during hydro-plant shutdowns, to run all seven transmitters at full load.

The D398 was a welcome addition to the Pifo emergency power system because the hydro plant which supplies our power is 66 years old and has many worn parts which are preventing consistently reliable running. When breakdowns occur, we have not been able to keep programs on the air. Now, with the new generator, the problems which occur to the hydro plant do not have the added seriousness of lost transmitter air time or round-the-clock work shifts to get the hydro plant repaired in as little time as possible to minimize the program loss.

The ordering of the new unit was done through the local Caterpillar Company distributor in Quito, Ecuador, and was shipped via freighter from the United States to Manta on the coast of Ecuador, from where it was put on the MACK trailer truck for the journey inland to Pifo.

The construction of a new diesel house and all the installation and wiring was done by the employees of our transmitter site in Pifo and our missionary engineers with advisory help from the Caterpillar mechanics in Quito.



Stan Houghton makes final connections