

ANDEX



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A VISIT TO ECUADOR



Dr. Leck in the Ecuadorian jungle

Not too many ANDEX members have the opportunity to visit the country of Ecuador. However, from time to time we do have the privilege of welcoming a DXer to this beautiful land. Dr. Charles Leck and his wife, Mary, were included in this small group when they spent some time in Ecuador earlier this year. Dr. Leck is an ecologist who lives in Kendall Park, New Jersey. He is a professor on the staff of Rutgers University. He is ANDEX member No. 2171. DXing is a hobby which he added to his interests in nature study and birding about three years ago. His shortwave radio is a Realistic Patrolman-9 with its built-in whip antenna. Now, in his own words, is the story of his visit to Ecuador.

"During 1978 my wife and I had the opportunity to work and travel through Ecuador. We also included visits to the HCJB facilities. We can make a

hearty recommendation of this beautiful country for ANDEX members who like to travel.

"Our work involved studies of the native plants and birds. Most of our time was spent at a research station just west of the Andes, near Santo Domingo (a good map of Ecuador was included in ANDEX International, Vol. 3, No. 12). This station is located in a lush national forest, rich in palm trees, orchids, and bromeliads. More than three-hundred species of birds included a spectacular array of toucans, parrots, motmots, and tanagers of all colors. The station, Centro Científico Rio Palenque, (Palenque River Scientific Center), is run by a group of North American and Ecuadorian universities and visitors include students and scientists from many countries.

"In Quito, the nation's capital, we toured museums, churches, and art collections. One of the largest churches, the Basilica, is still being built and offers impressive views of the construction of large ceiling arches and vaults. The Anthropological Museum, Museum of the Central Bank, and the Ethnographical Museum are excellent with collections that date from ancient Indian cultures to the present. We also went to the HCJB headquarters for a rewarding tour of the studios and English-language office with Dee Baklenko. The next day we exhausted a rent-a-car climbing nearby Mt. Pichincha to nearly 13,000 feet where HCJB and other stations have radio and television facilities. Later in the week we rode out towards the eastern edge of the Andes to view the large HCJB antenna farm and transmitters at the small town of Pifo. On the same road we continued east to Papallacta and saw the 'power' behind HCJB, the hydroelectric plant on the Papallacta River. Actually, I was surprised that this power plant was not much larger.

Other activities that a visitor would not want to miss included trips to Indian markets, especially

the one in Otavalo with its world famous ponchos, and a boat trip down the Napo River. The boat is called the Flotel Orellana and the food is excellent. The Napo River is one of the major tributaries of the Amazon. On a previous trip to Ecuador we led a tour to the Galapagos Islands, another tourist highlight. After that we worked in the eastern jungle, or Oriente, near the town of Shell where HCJB operates a hospital. This area of Ecuador receives up to fourteen feet of rain each year! The rain forest here has literally hundreds of kinds of butterflies, and some mosquitoes.

"I hope other ANDEX members will enjoy a visit to Ecuador. From tropical beaches to snow-capped volcanoes, the sights are beautiful. Tourist facilities are good through most of the country. When in Quito don't forget to visit HCJB. Any taxi driver can take you to the studios since it is well-known locally through Spanish programs on AM and FM."

We would like to echo Dr. Leck's invitation to visit breathtaking Ecuador. In addition to many commercial tours that visit this country, HCJB sponsors several tours each year for those who are particularly interested in seeing HCJB at work. For further information write to HCJB, P.O. Box 3000, Opa Locka, FL 33055, U.S.A. You will probably be surprised to find how reasonable these tours can be. We would like to meet you here in Quito at HCJB!

WHY GIVE THANKS?

For those who live in the United States, as well as for American citizens living abroad, November is a very special month. This year, November 23rd is celebrated as Thanksgiving Day and truly we all have much for which to give thanks. Have you ever given much serious thought to the real meaning of Thanksgiving Day and the place that thanks should have in your life?

Someone has defined Thanksgiving Day as "our annual time for saying grace at the table of eternal goodness." Just as some people neglect to thank God before their meals, so some have forgotten the meaning of thanksgiving. It is good to remember that "think" and "thank" come from the same root. We need only to think in order to be thankful. Yet ingratitude is one of the most common sins of our time. The inability to feel and express gratitude shuts out blessings God would otherwise

give freely. Someone has written: "How can God lavish his blessing and power upon the heart that is so dominated by self as to be incapable of reciprocating with proper gratitude? Serious indeed is the sin of ingratitude which withholds the blessing of God from oneself and from others."

When George Washington issued the first Thanksgiving Proclamation, he said: "It is the duty of all nations to acknowledge the providence of Almighty God, to obey his will, to be grateful for his benefits, and humbly to implore his protection." This is a good summary of the duty of all nations and people today. We can be thankful for what we acquire, and thankful for what we avoid. We can be thankful for what we experience, and thankful for what we escape. We can be thankful for what we have, and thankful for the blows which do not come.

Don't make the mistake of tying your thanksgiving to material blessings alone. The annual fall observance of Thanksgiving Day did not begin in the midst of luxury and ease. It began with the gratitude of a hardy band of fifty people who had come to hew out new homes in a wilderness and who lived in eleven small houses along a village street. The basis of a true spirit of thanksgiving is not material at all, but spiritual. It is based on the love and mercy of God, on the joy of the Lord, on forgiveness of sins, and cleanness of heart. It grows out of freedom from corroding care, and the peace of God which keeps our hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.

No portion of the Bible is more full of expressions of praise and thanksgiving than the book of Psalms. Yet these sparkling anthems of praise were written

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HCJB



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by men who suffered bitter persecution, who risked and at times lost all they had, who lived in a little kingdom constantly skirting the edge of disaster, and whose standard of living would make the poorest of our day seem well-off in comparison. Still they wrote their Psalms of praise and thanksgiving from full hearts. How can we help but do the same! We have been given God's wonderful gift, his Son who came to this world to live and die for us. "Since he did not spare even his own Son for us but gave him up for us all, won't he also surely give us everything else?" (Romans 8:32).

How much we have to be thankful for! Let's not forget to be thankful and to make sure that in appropriate ways we say "grace at the table of eternal goodness." Don't do it just once a year, in November, but every day, every year! "Always give thanks for everything to our God and Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ" (Eph. 5:20).

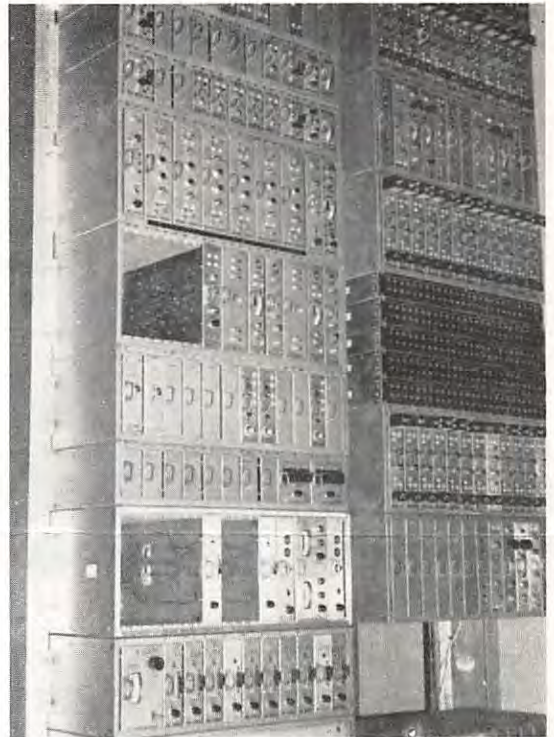
HCJB MICROWAVE

By Robert Cockerham

Several years ago some used microwave radio and carrier equipment was donated to HCJB. Most of this was manufactured by Collins Radio and was an old type using vacuum tubes. The microwave transmitters operate at around 6000 MHz using QKK549 klystron tubes. The receivers use the same klystron as the local oscillator. The microwave system was installed in 1974 to serve as our studio-to-transmitter link between Quito and Pifo. This replaced the outdated VHF FM link that had served ever since our transmitters were moved from Quito to Pifo years ago. The distance between Quito and Pifo is about seventeen kilometers.

Since the new microwave facilities were designed for 240 separate two-way telephone channels, and we use only twelve of them for our own telephone circuits between the studios and transmitters, the rest of the channel space is available for the audio program lines. At present we have six HCJB-built high-quality FM audio channels to feed the eight transmitters in Pifo. These units, unlike the original microwave channel equipment, use modern phase-lock loops in both modulator and demodulator.

Similar microwave links have been installed to



Old microwave equipment

carry programs to Mt. Pichincha for our AM and FM transmitters located 3000 feet above the city of Quito. Also, HCJB-2 uses microwave to link the studios to the FM stereo transmitter just south of the city of Guayaquil, Ecuador's largest city on the Pacific coast.

Our Engineering Department hopes to update our microwave systems so that everything will use semiconductors. This has been done to a small extent but a great deal still remains to be finished. One of the most vulnerable parts of the microwave system is the klystron tube. If we have a prolonged power failure, the transmitter or receiver will drift off frequency or even fail completely. This requires urgent attention to get us back on the air. This is a particularly serious problem at the Pichincha mountain site since the journey up there is long and difficult. Similarly, Guayaquil is a plane ride away when major repairs have to be done. In recent years solid-state microwave transmitters and receivers have become available and would make a great improvement to the reliability of our program relay systems.

Recently a visitor to Quito heard of our needs in this area so he simply gave a gift toward our microwave update. Using that gift we have ordered two microwave Bi-polar transistor oscillators. This is

only a small start, but one of these days we'll be able to throw away the old klystron tubes and the headaches associated with them. Then, we will be able to serve you, our listener, much better.

DXer OF THE MONTH



David Miller with RCA portable

Wisconsin has been accurately called "America's Dairyland." It is one of the best-developed agricultural states and ranks first in the total value of butter, cheese, and milk. The first round silo was developed in Wisconsin in 1882. Cheese was first made by Swiss immigrants who had settled in southern Wisconsin in 1845. In the heart of this rich dairy country, and situated on the Rock River just north of the Illinois state line, is the city of Janesville. This city is the present home of David M. Miller, our DXer of the Month.

David works in Janesville as a professional chauffeur but has had an interest in shortwave radio for more than twenty years. He has also had a very interesting military background. During the Second World War and the Korean conflict he served as a parachutist and made eighteen exciting jumps. He has found it difficult to settle down since those days and regrets that he is no longer able to do any parachuting. His age and physical condition no longer make this possible. In spite of his military life and many parachute jumps he never suffered a broken bone until last February. A slip on the ice and he broke his ankle! This proves there is always a first time for everything. He had to wear a cast on his left leg from his foot all the way up to his knee. This kept him around the house for a month when he would have rather have been outdoors! It also interfered with his shortwave listening by helping him get hooked on the "idiot box" habit once again. In spite of this addiction he still finds time to listen to HCJB and other shortwave

stations, especially on Saturday evenings.

For a receiver, David uses a small RCA portable with six bands. He does all his listening with the built-in whip antenna. He heard HCJB for the first time in January, 1977, and joined ANDEX about a year later. He is ANDEX member No. 2783. In addition to DXing he enjoys several other activities. Now that his ankle is healed he can participate in swimming, tennis, and hiking once more.

Our advice to David Miller is to stay inside during the coming winter months and not take any more chances on the slippery ice. It is even more dangerous than parachute jumping! Spend your time listening to your shortwave radio and travel around the world in complete safety. Our congratulations go to David M. Miller, DXer of the Month for November, 1978.

THE SCRAMBLER SOLUTION

How did you make out with last month's puzzle sent by Peter Rubin? Here is the solution in case you had trouble.

The eight words can be unscrambled as follows:

IJLGEG — JIGGLE
TDO — DOT
EAOGNR — ORANGE
IUQKC — QUICK
ABY — BAY
ADSTN — STAND
EIAD — IDEA
URHS — RUSH

Taking the sixteen circled letters we have,
JIDOOQUICBSTAIRH

These will form the answer — QUITO RADIO IS HCJB.

If your answer was RADIO QUITO IS HCJB, we will accept that as being correct, but we prefer the other form since there is another station in Quito which uses the name Radio Quito.