

ANDEX



INTERNATIONAL

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LA VOZ DE SAQUISILI



Announcer Byron Mena

Approximately fifty miles south of Quito is the small Indian town of Saquisilí. Like most of the other towns in the Andes Mountains, Saquisilí is situated in a fertile valley surrounded by beautiful mountains. On a clear day Cotopaxi and Los Illiniza seem to dominate the area. They are among the most magnificent snowcapped peaks to be seen anywhere. Saquisilí is an old town that has not changed much with the passage of time. On most days there is very little activity in the town, but Thursdays are different. On that day the town comes to life with thousands of Indians arriving for the weekly market. The town has six large squares where selling and trading take place. Each square has its own specialty and there is little that cannot be bought or sold in Saquisilí on a Thursday market day. The Saquisilí market is a favorite for tourists visiting in Ecuador.

Saquisilí has two medium-wave radio stations, Ecos del Pueblo and Radio Libertador. The one that captures the interest of DXers is Radio Libertador because they also operate on shortwave using the name, La Voz de Saquisilí. The studios are situated right on the edge of one of the main market squares. The two transmitters are located

at some distance from the city and are connected to the studios by private wire lines. Both transmitters operate with a power output of about 500 watts. The transmitters were constructed in Quito by a local engineer, Fred Simon, and have been giving good service for quite a few years. The stations have been serving the area for nearly fifteen years.

Currently, Radio Libertador is operating on 600 kHz. However, they have been given orders to move to 1235 kHz and are in the process of making the change. La Voz de Saquisilí, HCVS6, uses a 60-meter frequency of 4,900 kHz. Both stations are on the air from 1045 to 0300 GMT and carry the same programs. They are almost entirely in Spanish and are of a wide variety which is typical of most of the small commercial stations in Ecuador. Most programs are musical with commercial sponsors but they also carry newscasts, sports, and cultural events. They frequently rebroadcast the news from HCJB in Quito. It was interesting to find that they monitor HCJB with a small receiver and frequently rebroadcast the time signals they pick up on the hour and half hour. The studio equipment is quite simple but serves their purpose very well.

Radio Libertador and La Voz de Saquisilí are a family operation. Professor Arturo Mena, the owner of the stations, was very friendly and showed us around the facilities. He introduced us to his son, Byron, who was the operator-announcer at the time. Two other children, Edwin and Vicky, also take their turns at the studio console. Professor Mena is involved in other civic activities and teaches at the local high school.

Professor Mena told us that they do receive many letters from DXers in various countries around the world. He showed us several that had come recently from Europe. He assured us that they try



Anniversary pennant

to answer all such reports and send a verification card. He also gave me a pennant which was prepared in 1970 when the stations celebrated their sixth anniversary. The pennant is very attractive and is made up in green and yellow, the colors of the city. Try listening for La Voz de Saquisilí. If successful, send your reception report to La Voz de Saquisilí, Saquisilí, Provincia de Cotopaxi, Ecuador.

TRANSMITTER CONTEST

DXers are used to hearing a variety of programs from the many shortwave transmitters around the world. Now here is a contest to see if you can get something else from transmitters! Taking the letters of the word, TRANSMITTERS, see how many other words you can form. Here are the rules to follow:

- 1 – Entries will be accepted only from active ANDEX members.
- 2 – All words formed must have at least two letters.
- 3 – All words formed must be in good English usage.
- 4 – Letters can be used only as many times as they appear in the word, TRANSMITTERS.

ANDEX International—

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- 5 – No proper names will be accepted.
- 6 – No plural words formed by adding an “S” or “ES” will be accepted as separate words.
- 7 – The final list of words you submit must be arranged in alphabetical order.
- 8 – To qualify, we must receive your list by April 30, 1979.
- 9 – Prizes will be awarded to the three longest lists of words.
- 10 – Decision of our judges will be final.

Now you have the details of our transmitter contest. Get to work right away and send your list of words to ANDEX, Box 691, Quito, Ecuador. We trust all of our ANDEX members will enter this contest.

THE FIRST VALENTINE

The first Valentine was a man, not a message!

Saint Valentine was a young man who lived in Rome during the reign of Claudius II. Despite his devotion to idolatry, Valentine was horrified by the persecution the Roman authorities unleashed against the Christians. Secretly he began to assist the embattled Christians, but he was finally caught and thrown into prison.

Valentine quite likely would have been released after a short term had he not been converted to Christianity while behind bars. That sealed his fate. Not even the restoration of sight to his jailer's daughter, in answer to Valentine's prayers, could deliver him from martyrdom. He was clubbed to death on February 14 in the year 269, a date later set aside to honor his memory.

While Valentine was in jail he often thought of his family and friends, and he yearned to assure them of his affection. Tradition says that he could thrust his arm through the bars of his cell window and barely reach some violets which grew outside. He picked many of the heart-shaped leaves, pierced them to spell the message, “Remember your Valentine,” and sent them to his loved ones by homing pigeons. On each subsequent day, as long as the violets lasted, he sent additional messages, but he changed the wording to a simple, “I love you.”

God says the same thing to you, but God did not send merely a sentiment. He sent his Son, Jesus Christ. The Bible tells us, “In this act we see what real love is: it is not our love for God, but his love for us when he sent his Son to satisfy God's anger

against our sin" (1 John 4:10). This is the highest kind of love. "God showed his great love for us by sending Christ to die for us while we were still sinners" (Romans 5:8).

The exchange of valentine cards today represents little more than a meaningless formality in most cases. If it makes sense, as many by their practice suggest it does, to rush out and purchase a valentine for someone who has sent you one—someone you had overlooked—how much more sense does it make for you to offer yourself wholeheartedly to him, Jesus Christ, who loved you so much that he died for you.

BUILDING AN ANTENNA

In past issues of ANDEX International we have told of the construction of a new steerable antenna at our transmitter site near Pifo. This is one of the biggest construction projects ever attempted by HCJB engineers. The antenna is nearing completion and should be ready for use by mid-1979. The project includes the building of the main-support tower which is 417 feet tall and seven back-support towers, each of which is 156 feet high. The construction and raising of these eight towers was a major accomplishment, but is only a part of the work involved. You may be surprised at all that is involved in the construction of the giant reflector to be hung from the towers. Don Hastings, project engineer assigned to this antenna work, can tell you more about the details.

"One of the major tasks in the design of the steerable antenna has been the calculation of the lengths of wire and cable between the interconnecting points of the huge reflector. The complex, doubly-curved surface requires the measurement of nearly 10,000 individual lengths in order to properly establish the interconnecting points.

"The calculations of the length of wire and cable required the careful consideration of weight and sag balanced against the tension in these members in order that the reflector will hang from the supporting towers in the specified geometric shape—parabolic in the vertical plane and circular in the horizontal plane.

"These calculations, with extensive checking and refinement of the method to improve accuracy, required a few months of time to complete. This was time well spent since we now are assured of an

accurate reflecting surface. During the computations, many strips of paper tape covered with dimensions and tensile forces for the different wires and cables were spewed out of a desk-top calculator.

"Marking of the 10,000 computed dimensions on the actual wires and cables is nearly finished and the assembly of the reflector is under way. The method of assembly consists of supporting the vertical wires and cables from part way up the central support tower so that the horizontal wires may be attached from ground level. Next, the support cables are raised higher up the tower so that additional horizontal wires may be added below the ones just completed. In this way, it will be possible to assemble the entire reflector without the dangers involved with working high in the air. By exercising care the wires should not become tangled. After assembly of the reflector is complete, the cables to the ring of back towers will be pulled up to proper tension. At that time the structure will be hanging in its correct shape."

Don didn't mention it, but there will be a total of eighteen miles of wire and six miles of cable in this giant reflector! Another eight miles of copper wire will go into making up the ground system. The steerable antenna has been a proposed project for many years at HCJB. Soon you'll be hearing programs radiated by this immense antenna, the first of its kind anywhere in the world.

THE IDEAL ANTENNA

*By Don Jensen
Part 2*

Some SWLs swear by dipole antennas—and their big brothers, the folded dipoles. These are wire antennas, two lengths of wire cut to a pre-determined length, separated in the middle by an insulator, with insulators at each end. A dipole is center-fed by a balanced twin-lead to the receiver. Dipoles work well but they are not broad band, not especially useful for receiving on a wide range of frequencies. A dipole designed for 19 meters won't do wonders on 90 meters. You can construct a number of dipoles, one for each major shortwave band, but this takes space and a lot of expensive wire. Then too, a dipole has some directionality. One running north and south receives best from an easterly or westerly direction. So, theoretically, you should have another set running in the opposite direction.

It may be heresy to some DXers, but this author thinks that for most SWLs the good old-fashioned so-called longwire antenna is hard to beat for effectiveness on a wide range of frequencies, ease of construction and installation, and, let's be honest, cheapness! It is commonly called a long-wire—though technically it should be much longer than the typical DXer's sky wire to merit the name—or a single-wire antenna. Some people call it a random wire or an inverted "L" (because of the shape of the horizontal top and the vertical lead-in wire) and others, though not many in this day and age, the "Hertz" antenna.

The single-wire antenna can be easily made up from a random length of wire anywhere between twenty and one-hundred-and-fifty feet in length. It should be erected as high above the ground as possible, away from noise-makers such as busy streets, power lines or neon signs, and terminated at each end by non-conducting glass or ceramic insulators. The single lead-in wire is connected to the closer end of the antenna. It should be as short as possible and leave the horizontal portion of the antenna at right angles. This is my personal candidate for the SWL's best all-around antenna. There is probably no better—and I chose those words carefully—shortwave antenna for the DX listener who does not have the space or dollars to erect a very long, gain-producing antenna.

DXer OF THE MONTH

DXing seems to be a hobby that is dominated by young men, many of whom are still in their teens. However, shortwave listening can be an equally interesting involvement for girls. It doesn't take a profound knowledge of electronics to enjoy the world of listening available on the shortwave radio bands. To prove this point we are happy to be able to present, from time to time, some of the young ladies who have joined ANDEX. This month our DXer of the Month is Miss Joy Cronin, a girl who lives on Long Island, New York. Her home town is Bay Shore. Located on the southern shore of the island, and about 25 miles east of New York City, it has a population of about 20,000 people. Being very close to the Atlantic Ocean should make it an ideal spot for listening to stations from Europe, Africa, and South America.

Joy became interested in shortwave listening a little more than a year ago. She started serious DXing in February of 1978 and it was during that



Joy Cronin's DX corner

same month that she heard HCJB for the first time. Soon after that she joined ANDEX and became member No. 2988. Her only other club is the Radio Prague Monitor Club. The latest information she has sent us indicates that she has heard 34 stations in 29 different countries. Thirteen of these stations, including HCJB, have responded to her reception reports by sending verification cards. Some of these can be seen on the wall above her Hallicrafters SW-500 receiver. She listens to HCJB frequently so has our program schedule on the wall beside her receiver for quick and convenient reference. For an antenna she uses a 100-foot horizontal wire.

Joy finds time almost every evening to listen to some programs on her SW-500. She finds it very helpful to record many of the programs on a Realistic cassette recorder. Then, when she has some spare time, she can go back over the tapes and prepare her reception reports. Most of her listening is done between 0000 and 0300 GMT. Since she is a senior in high school she does not find much spare time during the day. Among her other interests are coin and stamp collecting, watching car races at the local race track, and watching and playing ice hockey.

Joy would also like to correspond with DXers in other countries. She would like to have a pen pal, either boy or girl, about seventeen years of age. Someone who is also a stamp collector and would be interested in trading local stamps would be great. If you live outside of North America and meet the other requirements, why not write us and tell us you would like to correspond with Joy. We'll be glad to send your name and address on to her. She would be happy to hear from you.