



ECUADORIAN PLANTS



Cabuya plants in bloom

Since Ecuador has a wide range of climates from the tropical jungles of the Amazon basin to the high barren mountains, it also has an unusually wide variety of vegetation. Many interesting plants grow within the borders of Ecuador. One of these is quite common and can be seen in many parts of the country, especially where the weather is fairly dry. This plant is called cabuya in Spanish. It is closely related to the century plant or agave. It is not very impressive to look at since it is made up of long fleshy leaves with sharp-spined edges. Because of the many sharp thorns the cabuya is frequently used in place of fences to separate adjoining properties. Planted close together, the plants make a barrier that is very difficult for man or animal to cross.

At first glance the cabuya plant wouldn't seem to be of much practical or commercial value. However, it is actually very valuable and versatile. Probably the most important parts of the plant are the long fibers in the leaves. These can be used to make rope, sacks, door mats, women's purses, soles for shoes, furniture, and even a wide variety of decorative objects. After removing the fiber from the leaves, the Indians use the pulp that re-



Girl weaving cabuya fiber

mains in place of soap. The juice of the cabuya leaf contains a large amount of caustic soda and finds use as a color fixative in the textile industry. The residue left after the most useful parts have been removed still contains a good amount of potassium and magnesium and makes a valuable fertilizer.

The cabuya plant grows well even in rocky and poor soil that is not adaptable to ordinary agriculture making it a good crop in many marginal areas. However, it will do even better on good soil just as long as the ground has good drainage and plenty of sunshine. When the plants are about four years old harvesting of the leaves can be started. Each cabuya will produce about thirty leaves a year over a three year period. To promote good healthy growth a few leaves should be cut every few months. After about seven years the plants reach maturity. A tall thick stem grows up very rapidly to a height of fifteen to twenty feet. The flowers appear at the top of this stalk. Only when the plants are in full bloom can they be said to be very attractive. To see a field of flowering cabuya plants is really a very beautiful sight. Once the seeds have formed the plant comes to the end of its life and must be replaced. New plants can be



Cabuya processing machinery

grown from the seeds or from small shoots that appear around the base of the older plants.

In the coastal town of Montecristi, famous for its Panama hats, one of the missionaries who has lived there for many years has helped the residents of the locality to establish a large cabuya factory. The cabuya is a close relative of the sisal plant and the fiber is very similar. In Ireland special machinery is manufactured to handle this type of fiber. Nowhere else in the world is this specialized machinery available. Irish-made machines in Montecristi process the cabuya fiber and twist it into string. This is then woven by other machines to make cloth sacks for packing rice, coffee, or other similar products. Many of the residents of Montecristi weave the same fibers to make a wide variety of products including doilies, mats, door mats, sandals, etc. Cabuya has helped raise the standard of living for many in this coastal area. Although it may not be much to look at, the cabuya plant has an important place in the economy of Ecuador.

ANDEX International—

is the official publication of Andes DXers International, a DX Club operated in conjunction with DX Party Line broadcast over Radio Station HCJB and sponsored by the World Radio Missionary Fellowship, Inc. It is mailed bimonthly to all members.



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ANDEX IS FIVE

ANDEX has reached another important milestone. Our club is five years old! This issue of ANDEX International begins our sixth year. It hardly seems possible that we have prepared and mailed sixty issues of our club bulletin. All of us at HCJB want to thank each member of ANDEX for making the club a success. We trust the next five years will be even better.

We have on hand a limited number of many of the back issues of ANDEX International. We will be glad to make these available to members on a first-come-first-served basis for twenty-five cents a copy. Minimum order will have to be for one dollar. We are including with this issue a mimeographed listing of the bulletins which are still available. This is your chance to complete your file or replace any that may have been lost or damaged.

ANDEX jacket patches are still available for all who might want them. Price for these is one dollar each. They are very attractive patches made up in red, white, and blue. You'll be proud to wear one of them.

SETTING THINGS STRAIGHT

January directs our eyes to the future. Hopes run high that the mistakes and sins of the past will not be repeated. But even as we hope for a smoother and better tomorrow, we're painfully aware that we can't erase the past. Indeed we may have to carry into the new year and the rest of life some of the damaging consequences of those blighted yesterdays.

"No man is rich enough to buy back his past," observed Oscar Wilde. Sadly true. A large number of people going to psychiatrists would dearly love to buy back or forever erase pages of the past. But guilt is deeply ingrained and refuses to be easily dismissed. And who has nothing in his or her past to be viewed with regret—nothing we'd like to erase forever or buy back?

One who is described in the Bible as "a man after God's own heart" felt that way. David, the king, and author of those beautiful psalms, yielded to his passion in a moment of temptation. Forever

after, he regretted that sin which scarred his life, his family, and the nation of Israel. "It haunts me day and night," he wrote (Psalm 51:3). David wisely recognized the futility of trying merely to gloss over his past. Instead, he called for radical, permanent treatment and made his appeal to God: "Don't keep looking at my sins—erase them from your sight" (Psalm 51:9). His sin was forgiven and the nagging sense of guilt removed.

That's exactly what God offers you. Like David you must take the basic step of admitting your guilt to God. "If we confess our sins to him, he can be depended on the cleanse us from every wrong" (1 John 1:9). No matter how great it seems to you, God will forgive you if you honestly admit your guilt and accept Jesus Christ who died to pay the penalty for your guilt and to save you from your sin. "For God loved the world so much that he gave his only Son so that anyone who believes on Him shall not perish but have eternal life" (John 3:16).

When you have done this there will be a newness and a cleanness about your life. David's prayer will be answered in your experience: "Create in me a new, clean heart, O God, filled with clean thoughts and right desires" (Psalm 51:10). What better way can you find to start a new year. God will make 1979 different from any previous year you have ever known.

A Happy New Year and a Happy New Life to you!

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Tyndale House Publishers, Wheaton, IL

FUN WITH KITS

There was a time when most shortwave hobbyists constructed their own receiving equipment. In fact, many of them found this to be a very enjoyable part of the hobby. There was a lot of pride in using a receiver that one had constructed himself and demonstrating it to his friends. Things have changed drastically. A good shortwave receiver is now a very complicated and sophisticated piece of electronic equipment. Very few would try to tackle the design and construction of a modern receiver.

For the few who would still like to construct their own equipment there are a number of kits on the market. These are pre-engineered and supply all



Heathkit GG-1107 digital clock

the parts and instructions needed to produce an excellent piece of equipment. In addition to providing some savings in cost, assembling one of these kits helps the hobbyist in other ways. He has the pleasure of putting the kit together and, in the process, acquires an intimate knowledge of its design and function. If anything goes wrong later on, he is in a position to make his own repairs and adjustments. He also gains a certain pride in using a piece of equipment which he assembled himself.

One of the largest and best-known suppliers of electronic equipment in kit form is the Heath Company of Benton Harbor, Michigan, 49022. Recently Brian Rogers, ANDEX member No. 566, of Allen Park, Michigan, assembled a Heathkit component for his DXing shack. We'll let him tell you about his experience.

"If you're a new shortwave listener, you may soon notice a need for a source of Greenwich Mean Time at your monitoring post. All international stations schedule their broadcasts in GMT and it's easier to have a handy timepiece set to that standard than to go through the mental gymnastics necessary to make frequent conversions from your local time.

"If you enjoy assembling kits, one solution to this 'timely' problem might be to build one of the many digital clocks that have appeared recently. I just finished the Heathkit GG-1107 budget-priced digital alarm clock and, as with the other Heathkit products I've built, found the instructions clear and easy to follow. This clock is less expensive than some others because it reads only to the nearest minute.

"All materials, including solder and case, are provided. Tools, however, are not furnished. As a minimum, you'll need a low-wattage soldering iron, a pair of long-nosed pliers, wire-cutting pliers,

and a screwdriver. A sharp knife, or similar device to strip wire insulation, would also be very helpful.

"The clock can be wired to exhibit a conventional twelve-hour format or, if you plan on setting it to GMT, a twenty-four-hour display. Separate construction procedures for each mode are described in the instruction manual. If you've never assembled an electronic kit, this might be an excellent beginner's project. You don't need a knowledge of electronics theory. An ability to follow written instructions is the only requirement. Don't be afraid of soldering. Just remember that solder isn't heated by the soldering iron but by the joint being soldered. The joint is heated by the iron. Use only a minimum of solder for each connection or excess solder may run from one hole to another and create a short-circuit known as a solder-bridge.

"If you follow the instructions exactly, you'll probably enjoy an experience similar to the one I had when I finished my clock. I plugged it in and its bright green numerals lit up immediately. All the little timepiece has needed since is to have its imitation wood-grain case dusted occasionally. And it doesn't have to stay in your SWL shack. You can put it anywhere you'd use an alarm clock."

DXer OF THE MONTH

This month we want you to meet Béla Donauer, a DXer who lives in Edmonton, Alberta, Canada. Edmonton is the largest city in the province of Alberta and is also the capital city. Edmonton is located in the fertile prairie region of central Alberta. This province is rich in both agricultural products and a variety of mineral resources. Edmonton has been called the Gateway of the North since it is on the main highway to Sawson Creek and the Alaska Highway. Not too far to the southwest is some of the most spectacular mountain scenery in the world. Banff National Park is visited by thousands of tourists every year. Living where he does, and having a love for hunting and fishing, it is a wonder that Béla has any time to devote to DXing.

Béla Donauer earns his living by working as a truss assembler in a prefab factory. He started to do some shortwave listening in early 1977. It was not until November of that same year that he began to



Béla Donauer writes a report

take the hobby seriously. At that time he purchased a Panasonic RF-2200 portable receiver. He does his DXing with just the built-in whip antenna. During the past year Béla has written reception reports to stations in 29 countries. He has received 21 QSL cards. These have come from stations such as HCJB, BBC, VOA, West Germany, Czechoslovakia, Cuba, New Zealand, Japan, and South Korea. He hopes to get many more verifications in the coming months as he is fascinated by this phase of the hobby.

During the past summer Béla found he had very little time for shortwave listening and had to limit it to five or six hours a week. Most of his listening is done between 0100 and 0500 GMT. He has another cheaper portable receiver which he uses on occasions. However, he prefers the Panasonic RF-2200 which is an excellent set. The precise tuning and accurate frequency calibration are very helpful. He says, "It is a beautiful feeling to be able to tune in familiar stations and always find them right away." To improve his reception Béla is working on a better outdoor antenna.

ANDEX is the first club Béla has joined. He became a member just a year ago and received membership number 2744. Up to this time he has not joined any other clubs. One of his favorite stations is HCJB. He enjoys Passport as well as the DX Party Line which is very helpful in his shortwave listening.

We are happy to have Béla Donauer as a member of ANDEX and are proud to present him to our other members as the DXer of the Month of January, 1979. Béla, we trust you will spend many pleasant hours with your RF-2200 during 1979!