

ANDEX



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RADIO NACIONAL ESPEJO - PUYO



Shortwave transmitter used by HCGB7 in Puyo

Many rivers flow from the Andes mountains carrying water to the lowlands. Some of these flow to the west and drain into the Pacific Ocean. Others run in the opposite direction and, after many hundreds of miles, eventually reach the Atlantic Ocean. One of the latter is the Pastaza, a major tributary of the Amazon. If you were to drive to the central portion of Ecuador's eastern jungles, you would start from the town of Ambato. Soon you would find yourself losing altitude very rapidly as you drive along the edge of a fascinating river. The road is narrow and winds around the many curves in the river far below. Many smaller streams have to be crossed and frequent waterfalls are seen. At certain times of the year orchids bloom in profusion. It is a trip you will never forget. Finally, after about two hours, you round a curve and see nothing ahead but relatively flat land. You are entering the jungle region and have left the mountains behind. However, the altitude is still more than 3,000 feet above sea level.

The river you have been following is the Pastaza which by now is wide and turbulent. You have

also entered the Province of Pastaza, named for the famous river. A few miles farther down the road and you come to the town of Shell. This town gets its name from the Shell Oil Company which established a base in the area many years ago. It is now a large military base and the site of HCJB's jungle hospital. Another few miles and Puyo, the largest city in the province is reached. It is the provincial capital. The area is warm and tropical. An average of twenty feet of rain falls in a year. For radio equipment, humidity can be a real problem. Puyo is the home of two shortwave stations.

This time we want to visit Radio Nacional Espejo. Our visit was made on a Sunday afternoon and we found Sr. Julio Hernán de Zamora at home following his Sunday dinner. He was very hospitable, but unfortunately the station does not operate on Sundays. He gave us a tour of the simple studio facilities located in his home. We did not take a picture of the studio since several of the Ampex tape recorders had been sent to Quito for repairs. Instead, we photographed the transmitters which are located in a cement-block building a short distance away. Both transmitters, for medium-wave and shortwave were constructed by Ecuadorian engineers. Poles made from tall palm trees support the two half-wave antennas.

The station, HCGB7, operates normally from 1100 to 0400 GMT. Frequencies used are 855 kHz with 1,000 watts of power, and 5,040 kHz from a 2,000 watt transmitter. Programs are of a wide variety and include news, sports, music, and many commercial shows. Julio told us that one of the most difficult problems they face is that of power to operate the equipment. Puyo has never been known for its reliable power supply. There are frequent blackouts which make it impossible to

maintain a dependable schedule. They do their best but are at the mercy of the local power company. Any plans for future expansion will have to wait for a more dependable source of power.

Radio Nacional Espejo in Puyo has been confused in the past with the station in Quito operating under the same name. However, these two stations are now completely independent. Looking for this station in Puyo should be a challenge to any serious DXer since it is not one of the commonly reported stations. Julio assured me that they do like to receive reports from DXers outside of Ecuador. All reports should be sent in Spanish and unused Ecuadorian stamps are greatly appreciated to pay for return postage. Julio Hernán de Zamora was very friendly and helpful to us and we are sure he will treat you in the same courteous manner. Address your reception report to Radio Nacional Espejo, Casilla 744, El Puyo, Provincia de Pastaza, Ecuador. We wish you success as you look for HCGB7 on 5,040 kHz!

HISTORY OF RADIO

By Kenneth Vito Zichi

Part 4

This time we pick up the story of the development of radio in 1926. It was at this time that organized licensing of broadcasters began in the United States. Although Uncle Sam had been in the picture ever since the beginning of radio, and especially so since the Radio Act of 1912, the power provided to the government to police the ether were far from strong. The provisions stated in that act did not allow for rigid restrictions on broadcaster's liberties.

The court case, United States versus Zenith, finally provided for a real free-for-all on the airwaves. In it, a district court decided that the Secretary of Commerce had no authority to be as stringent when issuing licenses as he had been in his effort to control interference and bring order to broadcasting. The immediate result of the decision was the total chaos of stations moving around and increasing power in an effort to be better heard. This sounds kind of familiar, doesn't it!

Congress soon passed the new Radio Act of 1927 which established the Federal Radio Commission, the forerunner of today's FCC, and provided the maxim that broadcasters do not own the radio spectrum. They merely use it and should have the interest of the listening public at heart when operating.

With the scene suddenly quite peaceful, something unexpectedly popped up. Television was again in the headlines. Though experimentation with the "radio with pictures" medium had begun far earlier, TV fever began to catch on. This was sparked by the general good times and rapidly increasing technology. It was 1928 and the spirit of the American public and business was not tied to reality. The stockmarket crash of 1929, and the resulting depression, not only dashed any hopes for the American dream, but also made things look bad for the future of broadcasting.

In the long run the depression proved to be a boon to the radio industry in the United States. More and more people turned to their radios as an alternative for the entertainment they could no longer afford. The medium tied the nation together as nothing else could. In this atmosphere, experimental TV was born.

Throughout the 1930s, various TV systems were tried and several times the FRC granted commercial licenses to TV stations. Several times these same stations were returned to experimental status. It was also during this time that FM, as demonstrated by the inventor of the superheterodyne AM receiver circuit, Major Edwin Armstrong, was introduced and allotted band space in what is now the low public-service band around 40 MHz.

The first television tests were not made with the flickering electron gun that we use today. It was much simpler, from a fabrication point of view, to use a mechanically rotating disc to produce the

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scanning motion necessary to transmit a picture. The first TV designs used exactly this on channels one through thirteen. It was after World War II that the UHF channels and the present FM frequencies were added.

This brings our history of radio up to an important landmark, the beginning of the war and the ban on receiver manufacture. Advances in both TV and FM were delayed by the war. However, broadcasting proved to be a major force in keeping the nation together in the adverse times. Regular war reports by such people as Edward R. Murrow and H. V. Kaltenborn became part of a shared American experience.

From American Shortwave Listeners Club
16182 Ballad Lane, Huntington Beach, CA
92649, Used by permission

To be continued

DXer OF THE MONTH

This month we would like you to meet a young DXer from Finland, Kari Kivekas. Kari got his start in the shortwave hobby just about a year ago and finds it very fascinating. As a young student he finds his chief interests are in the field of electronics. It is only natural that he should become involved in DXing. He enjoys both DXing and shortwave listening and is collecting many nice QSL cards as well.

Kari finds two or three hours a day, on the average, to listen to the world on his portable transistor receiver. Since Finland shares a common border with the Soviet Union, it is not surprising that his receiver is a Selena model 212 made in Russia. These sets are very popular in many parts of Europe and do an excellent job for a modest cost. Kari does most of his listening between the hours of 1600 and 2100 GMT. For an antenna he has constructed a 25-meter random wire outside his home. A portable cassette recorder and a recent edition of the World Radio TV Handbook add considerable pleasure to his listening hours.

Finland is a beautiful country of lakes, swamps, and forests. Finns call their country Suomi, which comes from a Finnish word meaning swamp. With about 60,000 lakes, Finland should be an ideal region for fishermen! In fact, lakes cover about 11% of the area of the nation. Some 80,000 islands lie along the rocky shores. It is not at all surprising



Kari prepares another reception report that Finland should be famous for its many outstanding athletes. Finns enjoy skiing, speed skating, swimming, as well as all track and field sports. Kari lives in the city of Pirkkala. He can consider himself very fortunate to be able to do his DXing in such a delightful environment.

Kari joined ANDEX a few months ago and is member No. 3289. He is also a member of the Radio Warsaw DX Club in Poland. We welcome Kari Kivekas to his new hobby of shortwave listening and know he will do a lot of interesting travelling during 1980 by means of his Selena radio. We are also proud to be able to introduce him to other ANDEX members as our DXer of the Month for February, 1980. Good luck, Kari!

CARTOON CORNER



ANDEX MEMBER No. 3500



Special ANDEX member from Denmark

Denmark is a small country in northern Europe. It consists of a peninsula jutting upwards from Germany and many nearby islands. Denmark is a picture-book land of small green farms, blue lakes, and white beaches. It is one of the oldest kingdoms in the world and Danes are proud of their flag, the world's oldest. It has flown since the 1100's.

Preben Stablewski lives in Taastrup, Denmark. He recently joined ANDEX, and when his membership application was processed, it provided a new milestone in the growth of the club. He is ANDEX member No. 3500. It is our custom to send a special gift to every 500th member and also to honor him by featuring him in our ANDEX bulletin.

Preben has been interested in the shortwave hobby for about five years. He does his DXing with a Kenwood R-300 receiver, a 30-meter random-wire antenna, and a medium-wave loop. He heard HCJB for the first time back in 1976 and recently has been listening to some of our English-language programs. He spends three to four hours a day with his shortwave hobby but his work will probably force him to cut back some during 1980. A portion of his large collection of QSL cards can be seen in the picture of his listening post.

In order to provide an income, Preben works as a senior mailman. He is also an active soldier in the Salvation Army. He enjoys music and spends many happy hours playing his horn in the local Salvation Army band. As a Christian he finds the religious programming from HCJB very inspirational so he listens frequently to our Nordic Service beamed to Europe.

We congratulate Preben Stablewski on being our Member No. 3500 and wish him many more years of enjoyable DXing. Now we push on towards our next goal, member No. 4000!

SCIENCE SPEAKS

At no period in the history of the world has science provided so much for so many in so short a time. The spectacular scientific advances in almost every field have given man luxuries and conveniences that were only dreams a generation ago. Notwithstanding the amazing and significant contributions of science, the future of civilization is darker and more uncertain than ever before. Science, philosophy, and higher education have not been able to bring about the needed change, the change in the heart of man.

Here is what Dr. Cecil P. Martin, M.D., Sc.D. has to say concerning the role of science. "Science gives us knowledge of our physical bodies and surroundings, but no insight into spiritual things. The latter can only come through the Spirit of God giving us understanding of the revelation of Jesus Christ. Disbelief in Christ arises not from lack of evidence, for the evidence is really conclusive, but from our spiritual unwillingness to accept the Gospel. Many, therefore, ignore the Gospel and try to build a substitute for it out of psychology, sociology, and political ideals, a fruitless task that ends in frustration and disappointment. But to those who take Christ at his word, he fulfills his promise and manifests himself in countless ways. They know him and his power to save, and if this knowledge is not real, then I know not what reality really is."

Dr. Martin is a famous anatomist. At the time he wrote the above statement he was an emeritus professor of anatomy at McGill University Faculty of Medicine in Toronto, Canada.