

A RADIO VISIT TO TROPICAL AMERICA

Estacion COGF—

"Voice of the Yumuri Valley"

By ALEX SIMPSON

THIS, the first of a series of articles to be published in the "Record" on the radio stations of Central America, is devoted to a description of the shortwave station owned and operated by Senor Bernabe de la Torre, a young man who is rapidly making a name for himself in Cuban radio circles. The author, a prominent N.Z. DX Club official, owes much of his information to the fact that he reads, writes and speaks Spanish fluently and has many correspondents in Latin America.

SENOR BERNABE DE LA TORRE, who constructed and owns COGF, with its longwave station CMGF, has recently constructed the new longwave station CMBQ in Habana. He is now the Technical Director of CMBQ, and his two transmitters in Matanzas are now relaying the programmes of this station.

The special programme which was dedicated over COGF to the N.Z. DX Club on May 29 resulted in a good response in the way of reception reports from club members, although the reception happened to be exceptionally poor.

The home of the de la Torre family faces the beach in Matanzas, from which is derived the address, "Playa (beach), 51," and the name "Matanzas" has its origin in the early struggles which took place at this spot, between the original inhabitants, the "Siboneys," and the Conquistadores.

All correct reports are acknowledged with an attractive verification card, and any used stamps which members may care to enclose will be appreciated.

Transmitter Details

AS can be seen from the composite photograph, which shows the transmitter, studio and control room, the transmitter has three main section panels.



Bernabe de la Torre.

ESTACIONES CMGF 1120 K. COGF 11800 K. 25.42
ECOS DEL VALLE DEL YUMURI
PROPIETARIO BERNABE DE LA TORRE
PLAYA 51 - MATANZAS - CUBA

The first one contains the exciter unit of radio frequency with its power supply, over-maintaining an adequate temperature in the crystal. This exciter unit is made up of a 59 tube as oscillator (master oscillator) controlled by crystal; a 59 tube as frequency doubler; a H.F. 100 buffer amplifier, and a H.F. 200 as driver to final stage of class C.

The second panel section contains the final pass or radio frequency class C, which is made up of four T 200 tubes, working in push-pull parallel, with some 2000 watts input. This panel also contains the modulator with its driver, the modulator consisting of four 822 tubes, and the driver of two 845's.

The third panel contains the rectifier and filter for the class C amplifier, modulator, bias rectifiers, overload relays, etc.

The power transformers and modulation transformer are of the oil-submerger type, and are mounted about two feet behind the panel chassis.

The antenna is of the half-wave type, fed by centre line tuned at one-quarter wavelength, and is approximately 60 feet above sea-level.

FROM THE FOUR WINDS

(Continued from page 38.)

Mew has received 3AK, KGIR, KTRH and Cairo 1. Chas. K. has only two in, 2AY and 4BK. He has also VK2CP on S.W.

Mrs. Dowling also has only two, KGMB and KGU.

Mrs. Brighton is another with two, 5SE and 2PK.

Lloyd is still going strong with the following back, KLS, 6ML, KPMK, 6IX, VUL, 6WB, 4GR, 6GE, KGO, 4RO, 6PM, 4VL, and XENT. He also has a list of S.W.: YDB, PMN, 2RO3, COB2, W3XAL, W2XE, JZJ, TPA2, TPA3, SBG, VK6ME, and RNE.

Bill H. is not doing very much at present. He has back only one in KLS.

Eddy has defaulted this month. See that you have a big list for the next notes, O.M.

Reg. has only two reports back, KPQ and KMOX. Don't forget about the next meeting, O.M.

Jack Mc. has veries back from 3AK, 3SR and 2GB.

Max has one—KFBK. He does most on S.W., and has the following: OLE, VK5BW, W3XAL, W2IXY, KA1BH, W1OM, TG2, GBC, PMN, ORK, COB2 and TPA.

Laurie has 7LA, 2QN, 7EX, 3DV, 2WG, 2KA, 2GF, 2UE and 3UZ. Roy has come to light this month with WMAQ, KFAC and 2BE.

Bob Allan has 5AV, 3SH and 4MB back. You missed a great night at our last meeting, O.M. Try to be at our next one.

Harry E. is another S.W. fiend and has a large list. He has received back: W6CQS, W6OI, W6IKQ, W6LR, W6BKY, ZMBJ, VK2AIF, VK2AHJ, VK2NS, VK2AFU, VK2QV, 2ACC, 301, 7JB and VK2BN.

Members, please note that the next meeting is at 8 p.m. on Saturday, December 3, at 166 Mary Street, Invercargill. I want a full muster. Cheerio and best of DX. —C. F. Ludlow (87S.).

CUBA

THIS being our summer season, dzing here has not been what it should, although it could have been worse! During daytime dzing is practically impossible as QRM and QRN is terrific most of the time. At night DX picks up a little and some stations are heard with good signal strength. The 20-metre band shows good dzing with peak reception after midnight when many "hams" are heard providing good signals, specially VK's and KA's.

Hams heard last month were: LU1QA, LU4CZ, HK1EF and HK3LC (both new), HH2E, VK-2ADE, VK2BK, VK2HF, TI2RC and TI2OFR, HI9I, G2AL, G5GS, VE3XX, K6GAS, K6FQF, K6KGA, HR2A, ZL2BE, YN3DG, KA1YL, KA1ME, KA1ZL, W8MRM, W1GEF, W2HD, W6LY, LU5AN.

There is a station on 9275 k.c., using the call ZP8 "Radio Nacional" at Asuncion, Paraguay, South America, testing and requesting reports to be sent to Coronel Martinez, No. 274. It was heard from 8.05 to 8.30 p.m. E.S.T.

YN3DG which was heard as amateur, is the call of a new station using the slogan, "Estacion Gilblan" at Leon, Nicaragua, Central America, on 7130 k.c., heard from 9.15 to 9.30 p.m. and signing off with the paso-doble "El Relicario." Seems to be a commercial station with experimental licence.

LRA "Radio del Estado" on 9685 k.c., is heard regularly in the evenings from 6.30 to 9 p.m., E.S.T. It is on top of LRX "Radio El Mundo," so do not be confused. Correct reports should be addressed to Oficina de Difusion, Palacio de Comunicaciones, Buenos Aires, Argentina.

The University of Antioquia, in Medellin, Colombia, is transmitting

very interesting cultural programmes, with no advertisements, through their own station HJ4ABU on 8653 k.c., right under COJK, with best reception around 8.30 p.m. E.S.T. They request reports, to be sent to Apartado 217, Medellin, Colombia.

R. F. Rubio (DX132 O.), Havana, Cuba.

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