

# Listening In Articles

October 2009

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## CHNX 6130 kHz Halifax, Nova Scotia

**I**N 1926 CHNS started broadcasting a few hours each day. The official first day was May 12. CHNS was Nova Scotia's first radio station. Studios were in the Carleton Hotel and CHNS broadcast on a frequency of 930 kHz, using a 500 watt transmitter. Two years later they moved to the Lord Nelson Hotel. In 1930 CHNS moved to 910 kHz, but back to 930 in 1934.

W.R. MacAskill NSARM accession no. 1987-453 no. 3833 [www.gov.ns.ca/nsarm/](http://www.gov.ns.ca/nsarm/)



*above: an early photo of the Lord Nelson Hotel*

The Canadian National Railways used the CHNS facilities and staff to run Phantom Station CNRH until they closed down their network in 1931. There was no CRBC or CBC station in Halifax until 1944 and CHNS acted as the CBC outlet until then, producing many network shows, including covering the Moose River Mine disaster of 1936, which made CHNS regular J. Frank Willis, a household name across North America with his five minute hourly broadcasts from the mine site for five straight days until the miners were rescued.

On March 29, 1941, a continent-wide shift of radio frequencies took place. CHNS moved from 930 kHz

to 960 kHz.



*above: Maj. Borrett saying good-bye to Arlie [ Arleigh ] Canning, Cecil Landry, Frank Willis and [ Lewis ] 'Tookie' [ Tooky ] Murphy en route to Moose River, 1936. They were to broadcast from the accident site for CHNS radio. (From Nova Scotia Archives)*

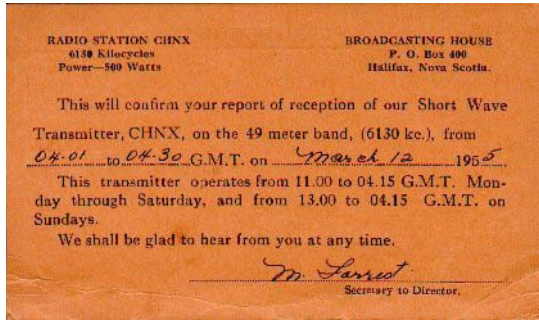


*above: CHNS broadcaster in the Remote Car No.1 at Moose River, NS, 1936. (From Nova Scotia Archives)*

In 1944 the CBC established its own station - CBH - in Halifax. CHNS continued on as an affiliate because it was this year that the CBC established a second network. CBH was a Trans-Canada station

and CHNS was a Dominion station.

In 1962 the Trans-Canada and Dominion networks were consolidated into a single CBC radio service. CHNS had been the Dominion affiliate while the CBC's CBH was the Trans-Canada station. Following the merger, network service continued on CBH while CHNS became independent.



1955 QSL received by Phil Finkle, California

The following comes from a flyer received from CHNS/CHNX in 1970.

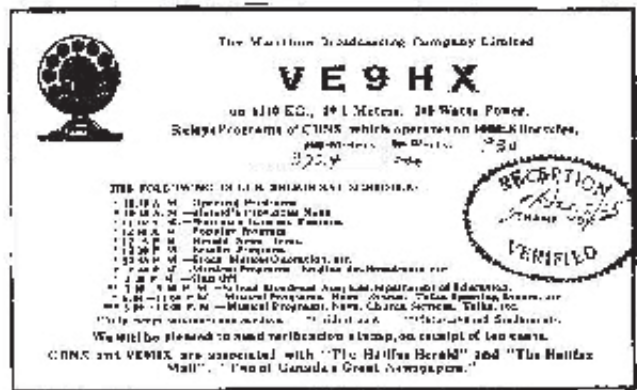
“CHNS Radio and CHNS Shortwave began simultaneous broadcasting in 1931 in Halifax and has remained in Halifax since its inception. We currently operate at 10,000 watts, day and night contour, and at 500 watts on shortwave on the 49 metre band at 6130 kHz.

“CHNS originated in the early 30s, the first round the world shortwave broadcast, when broadcast pioneer J. Frank Willis, carried out the first radio remote broadcast covering the Moose River Disaster. This broadcast was relayed around the world to members of the British Commonwealth and many other foreign nations.

“The primary coverage area of CHNS is within the Province of Nova Scotia, Canada, although the night pattern provides excellent coverage to Prince Edward Island, Newfoundland, and Labrador. We receive an average of 25 letters a week from Scandinavian countries, Britain, Australia, New Zealand and the United States, where our shortwave reception is reported.”



Originally the shortwave outlet was identified as VE9HX and put out 200 watts on 6110 kHz. In the early days, besides a QSL, the station also provided EKKO stamps to listeners.



In 1975, Chief Engineer Ralph Parker built new quarters for the CHNX shortwave transmitter. This picture was found on the [www.uer.ca](http://www.uer.ca) website. Taken in 2008 it shows the building which housed CHNX. Apparently it has since been demolished.



Chief Engineer Mark Olsen said in 2000 that CHNX had not operated at 500 watts for years and recently had been putting out only 40 to 70 watts, based on the exciter output. QSL reports found online indicate they were at 40 or 50 watts since at least the mid-1990s. In early 2000 CHNX was off the air due to a failure in the transmitter, and it was uncertain if they would return it to the air due to costs.

However, in the fall of 2000, the station was heard in England and North America, IDing as “You’re listening to CHNX rebroadcasting the programming of Oldies 96, CHNS, in Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada on sixty one thirty kilohertz on the 49 meter band.

Our transmitting site is located in Rockingham, a suburb of Halifax, and running 24 hours a day. This is CHNX shortwave." CE Mark Olsen reported that they had returned to the air on October 24th with 40 watts into a G5RV antenna.

In September of 2001, CHNX left the air, again due to transmitter problems and a lack of funding from the parent broadcaster, MBS Radio, kept the shortwave outlet silent. CE Mark Olsen also left the station. MBS Radio operated country music station CHFX 101.9 FM and classic rock CHNS 89.9 FM, both in Halifax, as well as a number of other stations.

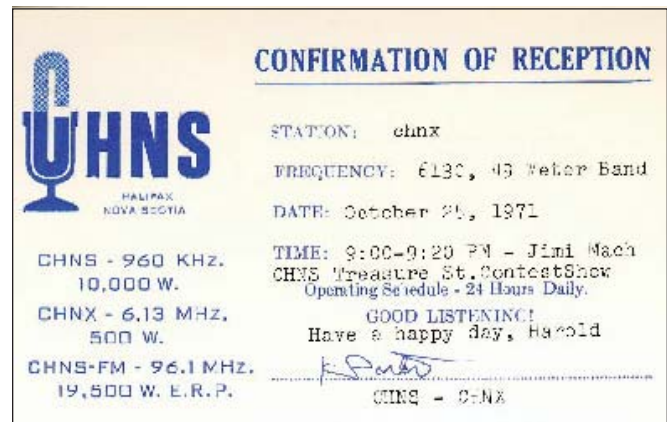
Meanwhile, Cumber DX attempted to finance the shipment of a donated transmitter to CHNX. Larry Baysinger of Guatemalan stations Radio K'ekchi and Radio Amistad had offered a 500 watt transmitter if someone would pay the shipping. However, with no funding from MBS Radio for the shortwave outlet, the deal couldn't be completed.

On July 29, 2006, CHNS made the move to FM as "89.9 Hal FM" with a classic rock format, ending 60 years on mediumwave.

CHNS gave a start to some well-known Canadians. Joe Bowen, Sports Director, left in 1982 to become the Toronto Maple Leafs radio play by play announcer.

Mike Duffy was there 1965-69 and then went on to a career with CTV. In 2009 he was appointed a senator by Prime Minister Stephen Harper.

Hank Snow's professional career started at CHNS Radio in 1933 where he had his own radio show. He changed his name to "Hank, The Yodeling Ranger" because it sounded more western.



#### References:

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- The SWL QSL Card Museum <http://www.antique-corner.com/SWLQSL/>

## The Early Wireless Era in Pakistan

By Adrian Peterson

As we are so painfully aware these days, the Asian country of Pakistan features frequently in the bulletins of international news. The peoples of this country have undergone the ravages of warfare, the massive destruction of earthquakes, and the harsh realities of weather extremes, ranging from freezing blizzards to searingly hot summer winds.

It is an ancient land whose origins go back more

than four thousand years to the time when a major civilization constructed large cities on the banks of the Indus River. Their writings have never been deciphered even to this day.

Even though the atlas does not seem to give us this picture, yet Pakistan is quite a large country. It is sandwiched in between India and Afghanistan, and it extends one thousand miles from the tropical Arabian Gulf to the high wintry mountains on the edge of the Himalayas. Their capital city is the modern Islamabad, their largest city is commercial Karachi, and their total population is in excess of one hundred million.

The national language of Pakistan is Urdu, written with a variation of the Arabic script though large numbers of the people, particularly the educated younger people, also speak English. In addition, there are also many regional languages, such as Punjabi, Sindhi, Baluchi, and several mountain tribal languages.

The development of wireless communication took place quite early in Pakistan, though in those days these areas were still provinces, or states, within what was then the old British India. These stations operated under the early primitive system of wireless communication, using electrical, spark transmitters and Morse Code.

History tells us that the first wireless station that was erected in the territory of Pakistan was located in the port city of Karachi and it was on the air under the callsign WKR. In those days, callsigns had not yet been regularized on an international basis, and it would appear that the letters "WKR" did have a meaning: the letter "W" indicating "Wireless", and the letters "KR" standing for "Karachi Radio". This station was inaugurated for Morse Code communication with shipping and for regional communication within British India in the year 1913.

Interestingly, it would appear that another similar station was established in Lahore around the same era, though there are no known records listing this facility. What happened was that an Italian explorer on an expedition to Central Asia frequently determined his exact location, his longitude, by means of wireless signals transmitted from Lahore. If that information is correct, then we could guess that the wireless station in Lahore might have had a similar callsign to the station already on the air in Karachi. The Morse Code identification for the station in Lahore station could then have been, "WLR", standing for "Wireless, Lahore Radio".

The official lists of wireless stations throughout the world inform us that a series of four new wireless stations were installed in major cities of Pakistan, soon after the end of World War 1, all in the year 1919. By this time, international radio conferences had allocated regularized callsigns for wireless and radio stations in each country throughout the world, and British India was allocated callsigns beginning

with the letter V, honoring the magnificent and lengthy reign of her majesty Queen Victoria.

These new wireless stations in Pakistan were identified as:-

VWK	Karachi
VWP	Peshawar
VWQ	Quetta
VWL	Lahore

Just a few years later, all of these spark wireless stations were upgraded to valve, or tube operation, and new callsigns were granted to each, as the 1933 list shows. Thus the station in

Karachi became	VVK
Peshawar	VVP
Quetta	VVQ
Lahore	VVL

Interestingly, around this era, two additional radio communication stations were installed in Karachi, one for communication and the other for direction finding; and an additional new station was installed up north in Rawalpindi under the callsign VVX.

Thus it was, back in the late 1930s, that there was now a total of seven communication radio stations on the air throughout the territory that is now known as Pakistan.

## SW Radios and other consumer products.

by Keith Perron, Taiwan, and posted to the DXLD YahooGroup, September 24, 2009

Last Friday I was having lunch with the head of sales at Sangean who told me something interesting. Their big seller for SW radios is the ATS-909. He told me they have two different versions of the same radio. One is made in Taiwan the other is made in China.

The ATS909 version made in Taiwan sells in Taiwan, Japan, South Korea, Middle East, Germany, Holland, UK, France, Thailand, Russia and some countries in Latin America.

The ATS909 version made in China sells in: Canada,

USA and Australia.

Why?

The one made in Taiwan sells for 450USD (all parts and assemble). The one made in China sells for (starting at) 299USD (some parts made in Taiwan, but most made in China.

He said in the past they have tried to distribute the Taiwan version to the US, but they were told by retailers it was too expensive. What's the difference? The one made in China has a 1 year warranty, the one made in Taiwan is 2 years. The one made in China has had 4 times more returns due to quality issues. Since 1991 Taiwan Quality Control for consumer electronics is based on Japan's system

This is very normal. He told me SONY products sold in Japan are made in Japan, but SONY products sold to Canada and the US are made in China, because no one wants to spend the money, but at the end of the day it ends up being more expensive.

Sangean has 3 classifications, as does SONY, LG, Philips, Panasonic and Mitsubishi, meaning higher quality items sold in these countries.

Level A: Japan, Taiwan, South Korea, parts of Europe, parts of Latin America.

Level B: Canada, US, Mexico, South Africa, Australia

Level C: China, parts of Middle East and developing countries

Here in Taiwan, because of political reasons, the Made in the PRC label is frowned upon. People here say why do we need to buy from China if we make it here or buy better quality from Japan.

Same as with cars. Here in Taiwan you have a choice of buying a BMW or Mercedes made in Germany or China. The China versions hardly sell, even though the price is less. Same as Honda and Toyota. Even scooters; a new Vespa in Taiwan, made in Europe costs 120,000Taiwan \$, the same model but made in China is 90,000Taiwan \$, but guess which one sells?

Maybe I've been away from the West too long, but I feel that governments and consumers in the West

are not interested in pushing good quality or using there own "made in" label.

## HCJB Global News

via Mike Terry, DX Listening Digest

The end date for international broadcasts from Radio Station HCJB in Ecuador has been moved up as the missionary radio ministry defines new strategies for future outreach.

Anticipating the opening of the new Quito airport near the station's international transmitter site in Pifo, staff members have already dismantled all but 14 antennas and towers.

Present shortwave broadcasts in Portuguese, Spanish, German and indigenous languages, including Quichua, had earlier been announced to end no later than April 1, 2010. These international broadcasts will cease between September and November 2009.

Announcing the earlier closure date of Pifo, Graham Bulmer, HCJB Global's director for the Latin America Region, said, "These times stretch us, causing us both to doubt and to grow in faith and hopefully drive us to confess our dependence on God. We believe He is guiding us. We hold all things with open hands and pursue understanding of what God expects of us as stewards of the resources of His kingdom."

The Pifo closure will impact Radio Station HCJB's Quichua Language Service with some programming moving from the shortwave frequencies to local AM and FM channels. Investigations are also being made regarding the possibility of transferring HCJB-2, the ministry's 37-year-old FM station in Guayaquil (Ecuador's largest city), into the hands of local partners.

The mission's newer strategy, begun in the 1990s, has been to reduce its emphasis on shortwave in Latin America while focusing on "radio planting" or assisting local ministries realize their dream of beginning a Christian radio ministry. More than 300 local stations have been helped in these endeavors worldwide, including about 60 in Latin America.

HCJB Global also continues to expand its training

ministries across the region.

"The way people consume media has changed," said HCJB Global President Wayne Pederson. "So we have the opportunity to change to delivery systems such as satellite, FM Internet and podcasting. The closing of shortwave in Latin America is strategic because of the planting of local FM radio stations across the region and around the world. These stations are staffed and programmed by local believers who can speak to the culture in their own communities."

Pederson recently told the staff that a high priority for the mission is its initiative for Latin America called Corrientes that launches in October. The coalition of more than 10 Christian organizations involves training Latin Americans for bi-vocational mission work around the world.

[http://www.hcjb.org/news/hcjb\\_global\\_in\\_the\\_news/hcjb\\_global\\_voice\\_moves\\_up\\_end\\_date\\_of\\_shortwave\\_broadcasts\\_from\\_ecuador.html](http://www.hcjb.org/news/hcjb_global_in_the_news/hcjb_global_voice_moves_up_end_date_of_shortwave_broadcasts_from_ecuador.html)

## Passport to World Band Radio® in Limbo

As with any good recipe, a range of ingredients has to come together if a reference book is to succeed. Solid content is, of course, essential. But in recent months other considerations have had an increased bearing on the future of Passport to World Band Radio®. So it is that the 26th Edition of Passport to World Band Radio® is being held in limbo.

Despite this, for now we are continuing to maintain the WorldScan® database and uphold all proprietary material. Among other things, this should help allow for an orderly return to production, under IBS' aegis or otherwise, should conditions allow.

For Passport® readers and our small team, alike, this is a seminal moment. After all, Passport to World Band Radio® goes back a quarter century and has had something like a million readers worldwide. But the future has its own rhythm that confounds prognostication.

There may yet be more chapters to this story. Stay tuned.

Best regards,  
Lawrence Magne, Publisher  
Passport to World Band Radio  
International Broadcasting Services, Ltd.

Via Alokesh Gupta, July 16, 2009

## Solomon and Vanuatu SW Update

Glenn Hauser, DX Listening Digest, July 9, 2009

\*\* SOLOMON ISLANDS. On the June 29 edition of RNZI Mailbox, which should be available on demand via <http://www.rnzi.com/pages/audio.php> until July 26, Adrian Sainsbury talks about his recent visits to Vanuatu and Solomon Islands to work on the SW transmitters. (Was there no May 31 edition? The previous audio file is dated May 17.)

He says that as DXers know, SIBC 5020 has been off the air for some time awaiting spare parts, which are hard to find, and then it takes a long time to get them to the SI; maybe back in a few months. 9545 is on the air, or rather 9542 due to a problem with the oscillator in the transmitter, which they are also working on, but don't expect it to be on frequency any time soon [actually quite close to 9541.5 gh].

Both SI and Vanuatu are picking up DRM from RNZI for relay. Honiara is on the edge of the coverage area, so requires a large inverted-V antenna for some additional receiving gain.

The civil war in SI ended six years ago but a lot of people are still traumatized by it; however, it's safe for tourists to visit. The country doesn't get much tourism, which is not yet commercialised. There are lots of Australians there keeping the peace (notes by Glenn Hauser, July 10 for DX LISTENING DIGEST)

\*\* VANUATU. Two new 10 kW SW transmitters are being installed now; big inauguration should be mid-July but testing begins this week [and there have already been lots of reports of 3945 -gh]. Frequencies are 3945, 5050 and 7260. Plans to use 3945 at night and 5050 in the daytime; 7260 for daytime in

the summer, likely not until November. [RNZI have been registering 5050 for some seasons now on behalf of Vanuatu, but it has never been used or reported yet --gh]

RV also have a new transmitter building which is well air-conditioned. The new transmitters should last a long time if they are properly cared for, avoiding corrosion, etc. Studio equipment has also been upgraded with a fair amount of Oz and NZ aid; their own technicians have been trained to look after it. Two Americans are there installing the American-made transmitters, and Steve White of RNZI accompanied Adrian also to SOLOMON ISLANDS [q.v.], and has stayed there a while longer as Adrian returned to NZ. Steve will commission the new equipment when it is finished. DRM reception of RNZI is good, and used for relaying news broadcasts. SW is for the outer islands but should be heard further afield too (notes by Glenn Hauser, July 10 for DX LISTENING DIGEST)

## Radio Australia Celebrates 70 Years

In December, Radio Australia will be celebrating its 70th Anniversary! RA wants its listeners—both long-time and new--to be an integral part of the festivities. Here's how you can join in.

RA invites your personal written and audio contributions about your relationship with Radio Australia. Your essay and/or statement should include some or all of the following information:

**\*\*How long have you been listening to Radio Australia?**

**\*\*How do you hear RA? - shortwave, the Internet, World Radio Network, partner station, etc. (any or all of these and when/how)**

**\*\*Has this changed over the years as RA placed increasing emphasis on delivery platforms other than shortwave?**

**\*\*What in your opinion sets Radio Australia apart from other international broadcasters?**

**\*\*Has Radio Australia taught you things about Australia and its way of life you would not otherwise have known?**

**\*\*What can Radio Australia do to ensure that you continue listening to our broadcasts?**

**\*\*Have you have any anecdotes to tell us from your time as an RA listener? (For instance, did you turn to RA for coverage of a specific event; do you have fond memories of your favourite presenter, news-reader or programme?)**

It would be preferred if contributions were written or spoken in your own style in a personally coherent, story-like, "conversational" form, and not as a series of answers to the above questions. Those who are able and willing to do so should feel encouraged to record their message and attach it as a MP3 file along with the text of their message.

Occasionally, long-time listeners are moved to send RA "scanned" attachments of ancient QSL cards, photographs or other "historical" bits and pieces which makes them feel particularly and personally linked to RA. Such material would be warmly welcomed.

RA will have a 70th Birthday website which will feature these written and recorded contributions. Portions of the recorded contributions will also be used on-air.

RA looks forward to contributions from our listeners in Asia, the Pacific and around the world. Past and present RA listeners in the US, Canada, Europe and Africa are warmly encouraged to participate as well.

Emails should be sent to:  
[radioaustralia@radioaustralia.net.au](mailto:radioaustralia@radioaustralia.net.au)

For those who still put pen to paper the postal address for contributions is:

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