

RADIO " SAN MIGUEL " C. P. 114

Riberalta - BENI - Bolivia

October 5, 1972

Dear Gerry,

Fr. Tom Higgins has just returned from a long trip and therefor only yesterday was able to give me your pleasantly surprising and most welcome letter. And I too must "felicitar" you on your excellent Spanish, which is better than most of us here could write. It is certainly gratifying to know that Radio San Miguel can get up to the States when the band has excellent conditions. We have an old Gates BC250, which is really a Standby unit, but has been modified by us for continuous service. Instead of the 812s, we use 813s, modulated by 811As, and put out about 250 Watts. We use a simple dipole up about 40 feet. I'm still waiting for a Balun which should improve things a bit, and get ~~the~~ RF off the coax and into the ether.

Many thanks for your very FB report, Gerry. You had the meters correct, but had a slip of the pen putting down the frequency as 7,000 kc. I'm sure you meant 4,700 kcs. I would gladly send you a banderina, Gerry, but unfortunately we really don't have a one on hand. We only have a 100 a year made, and generally that is more than enough for our needs, but this year they went a bit early. If I can find an extra one somewhere around town here, I'll certainly keep you in mind and dash it off to you. After all, it's not every day that we get a report from the USA. Your report is correct, Gerry. You were listening to our Amateur Hour which we have on Thursday and Saturday night. Lately, we have discontinued the Thurs. nite hour and remain with only the Sat. nite program.

FORMAR E INFORMAR ES NUESTRA META

Sept 2, 1972

Dear Gerry,

Your interesting letter (and in very good Spanish) arrived when I was in the States. I am at present in the cattle territory about 172 miles southeast of Ribalalta - it's out in the no man's land. I came here via avioneta - otherwise it would be 12 days horseback ride. (I have to change ball points & now & then put them in a candle flame to get the ink to flow).

Padre Mike Buch CP9AB (only CP9 in Bolivia) is now director of Radio San Miguel. I'll give him your letter & ask him to check your data on the transmissions you received. I am CP8BU but haven't set up my Galaxy V Mark II as yet. I used to be CP9AC 6 or so years ago when I lived in the Department of Pando.

My home base as a Maryknoll priest is Ribalalta where I have been in a parish the past two years & substituting in Radio San Miguel for a number of months. My boss sent me out here to make a missionary journey via horse to the ranches. There has been no visit of a missionary here for 11 years!

Brother Casimir Buzginsky is CP8AB & he is on SSB, usually upper end of 15 and/or 20 meter band every Sunday a.m. 1700 to 1700 GMT (10 to 1 Bolivian time) & Mondays & Fridays at 2400 to 0300 GMT (8:00 p.m. to 11 p.m. our time) with W2 GHB in Bethpage NY & W4 ~~W4~~ ^{ZBW} in Morrow Georgia & a few other stations. You might

+

PADRES DE MARYKNOLL
RIBERALTA. BENI
BOLIVIA

try to pick him up on the ham band. He would be glad to hear from you - also myself when I get my set rigged up.

Fr Mike will be glad to send you a banderino of Radio S. Miguel. We don't have any cards printed up. Radio S. Miguel is dedicated to "promocion humana" & is directed to the local area (about size of N.Y. state) which includes the whole Department (state) of Pando & the Provincia (county) of Vaca Díez in the Department of Beni.

In our area there are 3 towns, Cobija (2200 population) capitol of Pando, Guayaramerin (10,000 population) & Riberalta (16,000 population) capitol of the Province of Vaca Díez. There is only one road in the whole area - 50 miles long dirt road finished a couple of years ago between Riberalta & Guayaramerin. Rest of travel is by river or horse or foot, or air.

The main source of income is rubber & Brazil nuts. The cattle is more south in other provinces of the Beni Department.

There are plans to extend roads from La Paz, Santa Cruz & Cochabamba; but it will be many years before they reach our territory.

Well, Gerry, hope we meet on the air waves some day. God bless you & yours & thanks for your letter.

Padre Thomas C. Higgins

CP8BD

Tom