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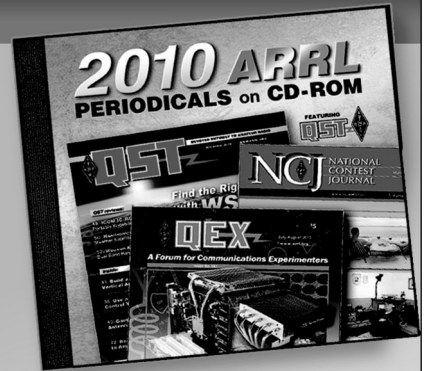
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QST Issue: Dec 1958

Title: Columbia University ARC, W2AEE, older than MIT (1906 to 1908)

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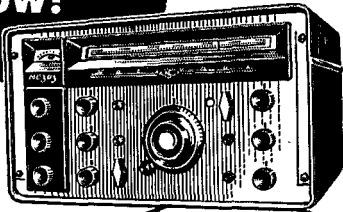
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BLITZ

BUG

PAI. PENO

The loom of lights from St. Croix blinked through the slight drizzle of rain and became clearer as the rain stopped. I put *Yasme* back on course and we both looked around for the lighthouse which, only a short time ago, was dead ahead. It had vanished and I suggested to Jules that it might have been put out of commission by the force of the wind. The lights ashore were no guide but the depth indicator showed depths varying from 20 to 40 feet and I knew we were in too close. The soundings on the chart gave me little help until Jules called down to me that he had sighted a white and GREEN flashing light, dead ahead.

I shot up into the cockpit and swung *Yasme* out to sea immediately. We were heading directly into a large fringe of reefs immediately in front of the air beacon light. Somehow we had been blown to the center part of St. Croix and had managed to avoid disaster only by using the depth finder. Checking the chart I found that present sounding tallied with the ones on the chart and that we had been blown 12 miles east of the lighthouse we had been aiming for originally!

I headed *Yasme* due south until we got "no bottom" on the depth recorder. Then, heading west for an hour we again picked up the lighthouse on the SW tip of St. Croix. Hauling up the mizzen sail again, to steady the boat in the rough seas, we slowly plugged around the point into Fredericksted roadstead.

It was then 3:30 A.M. Tuesday morning and I was pooped. I brewed up some coffee and Jules and I sat on the cockpit enjoying a well-earned rest. Julio and Falke had slept through the lot and were completely unaware of our previous troubles!

At 4 A.M., I managed to make rough repair to a broken jib sheet and we hauled up anchor, started the engine and departed on the last leg of our journey, 40 miles to St. Thomas. The 40-mile crossing was uneventful.

To sum up, we worked 2346 stations in 84 countries. All the equipment survived that trip as proved by subsequent activity at VP2VB and VP2KF and is still going strong. Seems as though the gear will outlast me the way I feel now!

Strays

Last July the MIT radio club laid claim to being the oldest in the country. We have heard from K2LWQ, president of the Columbia University Amateur Radio Club (W2AEE), that he has documentary proof that the Columbia University club was in existence in 1908, and that there is some evidence that it may have been formed in 1906.

By the time you read this, Sweepstakes will have come and gone. As we write, we're still stringing antennas. Just remember to get those logs in the mail by December 3, 1958.