

Extracts from AJ's Log - as published in March, 1974 High-Q

Believe it or not

Way back in the BL days (Before Loudspeakers), a coast station where I worked used “soft pencils” for copying messages. The signals were so weak that the scratch from hard pencils on the message pads drowned out the signals.

One winter at the QTH where I was located, the snow was so deep that when the beam rotator developed trouble, I had trouble finding the tower, then when I did, I had to dig “down” through four feet of snow to get to the rotator motor. And the tower was fifty feet high!

A story from the west coast concerns a Japanese ship heading for San Pedro, California. Old KOK of MacKay Radio at Clearwater, famous for his 60 cycle sync spark that could be heard all over the Pacific, called him with a question in English. Something which was apparently not covered by an International “Q” signal. There was a long pause while the Japanese operator consulted his English-Japanese dictionary. Finally he answered KOK and said “Please send more slowly - this virgin operator”.

LARC