

## NOVEMBER 1978 FREQUENCY SHIFTS SIMILAR TO 1941

By Cary Siapson

The recent change from 10 KHz to 9 KHz separation in virtually all parts of the world except the Western Hemisphere reminds old-timers of the day in 1941 when most dial positions in the United States, Canada and Mexico were changed.

Like the recent 9 KHz change on November 23rd, the 1941 change took place as of one specific hour, and although stations had tested in advance of that time, they had to remain on their old frequency till that magic hour.

NARBA signed to correct mess

The purpose of the 1941 change was to establish NARBA as the North American Broadcast Agreement was known. NARBA had been signed to try to bring order out of a mishmash of frequency-jumping that was almost ruining the secondary coverage of many stations.

Most of the changes involved stations simply moving up the dial one, two, three or four positions, so that a group of clear channels was created for Mexico, Canada, the United States and the Bahama Islands. However, a number of stations were switched to totally new places on the dial as old channels were abolished.

### Nations Assigned 1A Clear Channels

Private Canadian stations were forced off the more favorable frequencies that remained as Canadian 1-A clear channels, and CBC stations took them. A scheme of sharing clear channels was worked out with the provision that directional antennas would keep the sky wave radiation below certain levels at the border of the nation that was dominant on that channel. This meant that order would be restored to the broadcast band. Up to that point, Mexican "border" stations had been showing up on clear channels with no control by the Mexican government.

And, let's face it, there were no frequencies that were reserved for Mexico, so they had an excuse for permitting the channel-jumping.

### 540 Through 730 kc

Stations assigned in this group were not required to move, except the private Canadians such as CFRB, 69C.

### 740 through 970 kc

The first totally new "frequency" created in 1941 was 740 kc. WSB and others were moved up 1 channel and 740 became a Canadian 1A. 800 kc was created as a Mexican 1A and stations above 780 were moved up 2 channels. 900 kc was created as a Mexican 1A and stations on 880 and above moved up 3 channels. 1010 was a "drop-in" as a Canadian and Cuban 1A. Because each nation would protect the borders of the other, WINS was permitted on 1010 in New York City with a sharp directional antenna protecting both borders.

### 980 through 1160 kc

KDKA (980), WBZ (990) WHO (1000) all moved up 4 channels. The old 1010 was "disbanded" and all stations had to move to other frequencies, including CHML, CKCD, CKCK, CKWX, KCGF and KQW (now KCBS) KYW and WDZ (1020) moved up 4 channels, the old 1030 was eliminated and CFCN, CJBR and CKLW went to other channels. 1040 stations moved to 1080. 1050 moved to 1070. 1060 through 1160 moved up 3 channels, but WAPI went from 1140 to 1070, WWVA went from 1160 to 1170.

### 1220 is new Mexican 1A

A new Mexican channel, 1220, was created, and the changes to accommodate this involved adjacent channels. WCAU moved up 4 channels to 1210, WQAI moved up only one channel to 1200. Everyone on 1180 had to relocate to another channel. These included KEX, WGGY, WINS and WMAZ.

### 1200 through 1450 kc

All of the Class IV and III stations above 1200 moved up 3 channels. The regular broadcast dial had ended at 1500 up to that time, but was to be extended to 1600. This required some more sleight-of-hand. The old 1450 stations ended up at 1480. The 1460 through 1490 stations, all clear channels, moved up

tion- in New York. Share-time stations WWRL and WCNW couldn't remain on the Class IV frequency since it would then be adjacent to WHOM which ended up on 1480. So, WWRL and WCNW were moved to 1600, clear up at the top of the dial, where few receivers could tune.

### 1460 to 1600 kc

1540 was created as a Clear channel for the Bahama Islands, 1550 a Mexican 1A, 1560 as a Cuban 1A, 1570 a Mexican 1A and 1580 a Canadian 1A.

In the pre-1941 days, the stations above 1500 operated as "high-fidelity" outlets on an experimental basis and were on 1530 and 1550 only, so their broad response modulation wouldn't interfere with other stations. The 1530 stations were moved to 1590 and the 1550 stations (WQXR and KPMC) moved to 1560, protecting Cuban shores.

This is a summary of the mechanics by which the various nations were given clear channels and the practice of channel-jumping was ended.

It has some similarity to the change in Europe and "down under" that took place November 23rd of this year.

