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CANADIAN FAMILY LIFE -- IT'S TWINS!

John Oldfield

Some of the newer members may not be familiar with these Canadian radio families of twins and triplets. Unlike the FCC, Canada's CRTC doesn't "give away" a license to every (well almost, it seems) town that asks for one. In towns outside the prime coverage area of a big-city station there is a need for local radio service, but the CRTC feels that a full-time independent station could not survive financially in the small town market. There are other reasons, but even in Canada money is king (or is it queen?)

To provide these sometimes remote towns (or areas outside the normal coverage areas of the big-city stations) with at least a clear signal, or if the town is large enough (enough advertising), provide some loca live programs, the CRTC OK's a station for the town. This station relays or "twins" its mother, the nearby big-city station. A twin (or sometimes two or three twins) and mother form a network.

Most twins serve only a small area (poor coverage in mountains), and you can therefore expect to find most of them on the graveyard (local service) channels: 1230, 1240, 1340, 1400, 1450, and 1490. Some twins are on good DX regional channels, but DXing the graveyeard can be rewarding.

The CRTC now expects at least two hours per day of local live programs from the twin's own studio. The balance of the day is spent just relaying mother. Some twins have no studio, but as the town or area grows, a studio is added. Local programs mean a lot, especially in mountainous B.C. where over half of all stations are twins or mothers of these kiddies. A few twins, like CFWB and CKBR provide more than two hours daily. CKBR Brooks is live for over eight hours daily, taking only the news and sports from mommy, CJDV Drumheller. They join their mother later in the evening. Some mothers would like that.

Rarely does a DXer hear a twin/triplet live on its own, since most of the live programs are aired during the daylight hours. Things like hockey games, elections, a speech from Mayor Glotz, and other such disasters, are the rare exceptions. In all but a few twin basket cases let's assume that from a DX viewpoint, these twins are all parallel to their mothers.

Twin hunters near the Canadian border might try the Dr. Mollar method of DXing Mexican parallels when trying for twins. With an extra radio tuned to the mother station, it may be easier to hear the twin. A tape of the twin plus other stations IDing on the same channel would certainly prove to the mother station (this is where the reports should go) that it was the relayer, not the "relayee" that you heard. It's easy to cheat, but our hobby is DXing.

Don't be confused by IDs. Many ID only as "The Big R" or "Cariboo Radio", as the CRTC isn't too strict about call letters. CKEK/CFEK Cranbrook/Fernie were noted using just "East Kootenay Radio" for hours. Some networks have separate IDs on pre-timed tapes, and you may hear a "CHWK" ID on 1490, quickly followed by "CKGO Hope." On 1490 you'll hear lots of "C-jock 12-20" IDs but rarely one for the twin, CJPR. Check your NRC log, and watch too for our Canadian accent, hi. All Canadian stations MUST play 30% Canadian music AND log it for the CRTC. Write down those song titles. A "Guess Who" record may get you that rare verie. Even CKLW, The Big 8, must play our Canadian culture.

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Maybe this answers some of the questions re the relayers. A list of the twin/triplet network follows. Corrections are welcome as those in the east are mostly guesswork.

The Canadian Familes

s- studio and separate programs m- mother

Alberta

CJYR 970 Edson (m)/ 1450 CKYR Jasper --Yellowhead Radio CJOC 1220 Lethbridge(m)/1490 CJPR Blairmore (s)-C-jock/Pass Radio CHEC 1090 Lethbridge(m)/1570 C... Taber (s) -- Check Radio CJDV 910 Drumheller(m)/1340 CKBR Brooks (s) -- Dinosaur Valley CFCN 1060 Calgary 6 mHzCFVP Calgary -- short wave //, low

British Columbia

CKEK 570 Cranbrook (m)/CFEK Fernie (s) East Kootenay Both join CJAT 610 Trail who hosts an ANG Mid-6 AM show CKKC 1390 Nelson (m) / CFKC 1340 Creston (s) Kootenay Country CKXR 580 Salmon Arm (m)/CKCR 1340 Revelstoke (s)/CKGR 1400 Golden. R Country- The Big R- "CKXR CR-GR" - First Voice West of the Canadian Rockies

CKOK 800 Penticton (m)/CKSP 1450 Summerland/CK00 1240 Osoyoos(s)/ CKGF 1340 Grand Forks -- Okanagan Boundary Radio CHNL 610 Kamloops (m)/ CJNL 1230 Merritt (s)/ CINL 1400 Princeton/ CLNL 1400 Clearwater -- NL Radio in B.C.'s South Central Interior.

CKCQ 570 Quesnel (m)/ CKWL 920 Williams Lake (s)/ CKBX 1240 100 Mile House (s) -- Cariboo Radio Network

CJCI 620 Prince George (m)/ CIVH 1340 Vanderhoof (s) / plus two 50 watt LPRTs: 1480 Ft. St. James/ 1450 Fraser Lake--Central Interior Network.

CFBV 1230 Smithers (m)/ CFLD 1400 Burns Lake (s)/ three 50 w LPRTs: 1450 Houston/ 1480 Granisle/ 1490 New Hazelton. Bunkley Valley-- Francois Lake District. CFBV and CJCI will form a 9 station net 1030-6 AM AN7 pending CRTC ap-

proval (the 5 LPRTs are applications too.)
5 550 Prince George (m)/ C... 1240 Mackenzie (s)-- under construction.

CFTK 590 Terrace (m)/ CKTK 1230 Kitimat (s)-- TK Radio--CHTK's sisters.

CKNL 560 Ft. St. John (m)/ CFNL 590 Ft. Nelson (S)--Northern Lights Alaskan Highway Radio Network; same owners as CHNL-CJNL-CINL-CLNL.

CHUB 1570 Nanaimo (m)/ CHPQ 1370 Parksville-Qualicum (s)--Island Radio.

CFCP 1440 Courtenay (m)/ CFWB 1490 Campbell River (s)--Coast Radio

CHWK 1270 Chilliwack (m)/ CFVR 1240 Abbotsford (s)/ CKGO 1490 Hope (s). Fraser Valley Radio. All have pre-timed separate ID's.

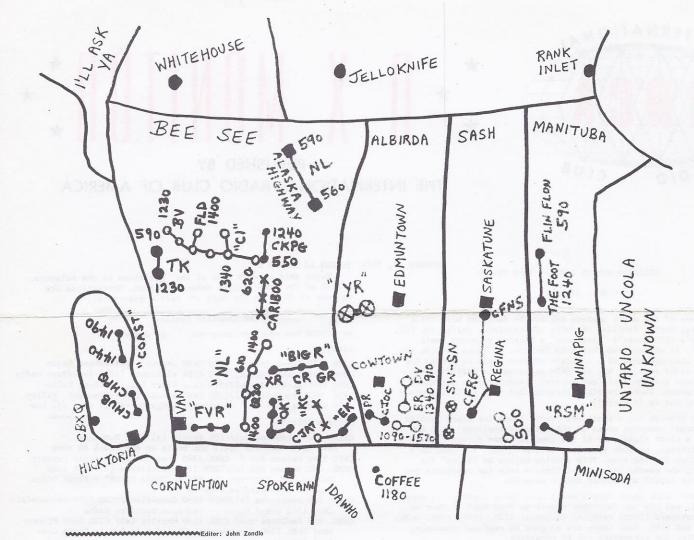
CKWX 1130 and CBU 690 Vancouver both have short wave relayers.

CFAR 590 Flin Flon (m)/ CJAR 1240 The Pas (s)-- Arctic Radio CFAM 950 Altona (m)/ CHSM 1250 Stenbach (s)/ CJRB 1220 Boissevain (s) -- Radio Southern Manitoba.

Saskatchewan

CFSL 1190 Weyburn (m)/ CJSL 1280 Estevan (s) -- Soo Line CKSW 1400 Swift Current (m)/ CJSN 1490 Shaunavon (s)-- South= west Saskatchewan Radio.

CFNS 1170 Saskatoon/ CFGR 1230 (CFRG 710d) Gravelbourg are now both parallel from ONE studio at CBC Regina. CBC French.



central dx forum 608 N. Martin

Note: The first 2 reports were sent to the Hammond address and were forwarded here. The material may be a little old-jz.

Glenn Hauser-1312 W. Oak Ave.-Enid, Please note my new (actually, reactivated) address. I visited KGYN-1210 Guymon OK in mid-September, where I had an engrossing conversation with the C.E., Mike C. McClure. He's really a hot engineer, knowledgeable about both technical and business aspects of broadcasting in the 5-state area. If you visit, be prepared to stay up all night! He's much too engrossed in more important things to give much attention to DX reports, many of which are routine one-a-day scribbles from the primary coverage area. He assured me exceptional reports from outside NA do get more personal attention. I went through a year's worth of reports, collecting names for club bulletin samples, and can make a few observations on how to report to KGYN. Return postage is a waste, since all mail goes thru a postage meter. I could have collected a couple dollars worth of US and Canadian(!) stamps—and would you believe an IRC, from Canada? The first obstacle is to get the secretary to open your letter. If it's obviously a DX report (and she has a 'nose' for them), it may be passed on unopened directly to the C.E. in whose desk it may languish until he goes thru them at the end of the year to clean up loose ends, and tally where the listeners are. (continued next issue-jz)

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SECOND CLASS POSTAGE PENDING AT SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA

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