

# KKN39:

by Al Zilman

Many utility shortwave listeners have heard the CW station KKN39 on 4956.5, 13387, and 17413.5 kHz. Although some have listed KKN39 as being located in Washington, D.C. (as KKN50 is at Remington, Virginia, 50 miles southwest of Washington), others have speculated that, based on propagation, KKN39 is in Florida.

In particular, mention has been made of a site just west of the Dade County Zoological Park/Gold Coast Railroad. This location off Coral Reef Drive, SW 152 Street, is also called the Richmond Naval Air Station. The property has a sign listing various military units as well as "USARCA/NCS."

Note that "USARCA" and "NCS" (National Communications System) have separate phone book listings. In fact, the phone book lists "NCS-Regional Communication Systems, Richmond Naval Air



Harry Baughn

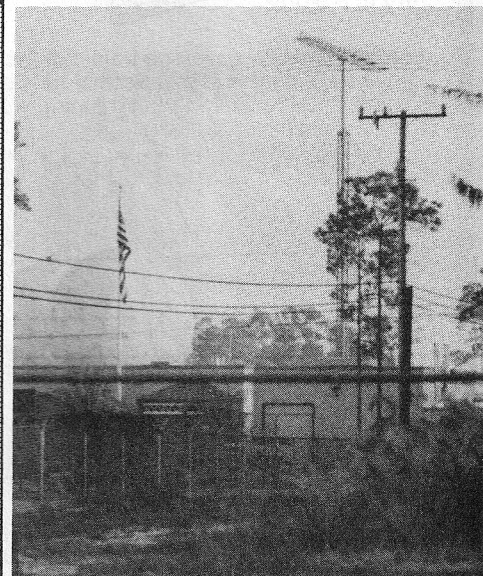
## A Strange Coincidence

While on vacation in March, Harry and associate editor Rachel Baughn kept their eyes open for radio-related photo opportunities. They quickly discovered that Florida is a bonanza of monster antennas! Shortly after snapping several shots of a huge array from AT&T, they happened upon a National Communications System facility just south of the intersection of 94 and 997 with several eye-catching antenna towers.

Speaking with the private security guards on both the outgoing and return trips uncovered tidbits of information. One guard admitted his ignorance as to the primary purpose of the installation – and he wanted to keep it that way – but, he said, they "use computers a lot," (as opposed to voice transmissions?) in communications directed toward South America. He also said the facility was only two or three years old, and that two more towers were yet to be added to the array.

Another guard indicated that, although it was an Army facility, the majority of personnel were civilian, and that it was a transmitting site; a receiving site being located elsewhere to avoid interference. Personnel were present at the site around the clock.

Imagine the shock of recognition when Rachel returned to the office to find that that very same site had been identified as State Department KKN39! As Dave Jones will tell you in "Federal File," it pays to be prepared to capture the unexpected, wherever you may be!

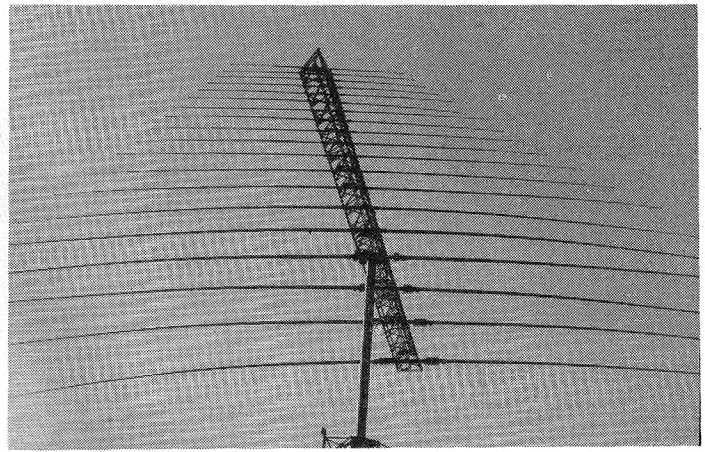


*NCS/Richmond NAS - Not KKN39 after all, but probably the receive facility*



# A Federal Mystery is Resolved

*Log periodic at KKN39 (Krome Ave)*



Station" (KKN50 at Remington, Virginia, and its receive site/satellite facility at Brandy Station, Virginia both have NCS signs).

The NCS/Richmond NAS facility has various HF antennas, including several log periodics, and two satellite domes. (There is also a USAF radar dome on the property.) The tall structure at the Gold Coast Railroad museum has many VHF/UHF antennas, but perhaps only the parabolic microwave dish on it belongs to the NCS activity -- more on this in a moment.

But where is KKN39? At the NCS/Richmond NAS facility described above, the signal levels of KKN39 were a rock steady S9 on 13387 kHz regardless of time of day using a short antenna. Experience with that particular setup would indicate that KKN39 was about five to 15 miles away. (After that, the signal drops off to

unimpressive levels until one is several hundred miles away.)

This author then initiated a successful "fox hunt" that found the transmitter facility. It is about 1.5 miles south of US 41, SR 90, SW Eighth Street, Tamiami Trail on Krome Avenue, SR 997, SW 177th Street, old SR 27. (Most major Miami streets have several names causing confusion with different maps. In fact, the Dade County phone book map mistakenly refers to Krome Avenue as 977th Street.)

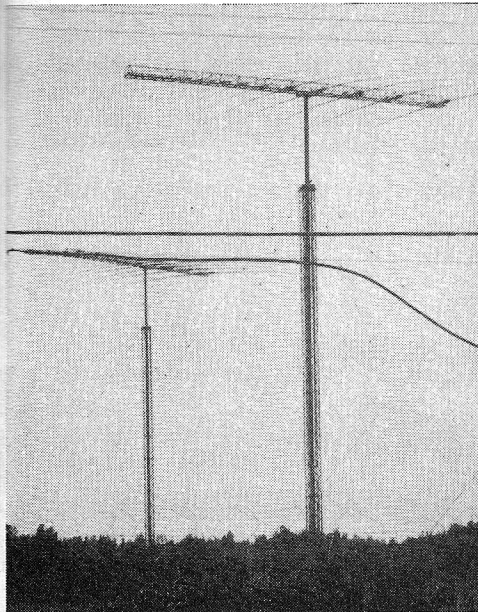
This is seven miles northwest of the NCS/Richmond NAS site and about 15 miles west of downtown Miami. The sign says "Transmitter Facility, Regional Communications Activity, National Communications System, U.S. Army," and KKN39 signal levels were 60 dB over S9 (full scale).

This site has various HF antennas, including log periodics, and is surrounded by a barbed-wire topped fence. A parabolic microwave dish showed it to be the other end of the NCS/Richmond NAS link. (It now appears that the NCS/Richmond NAS facility is the HF receive/satellite facility.)

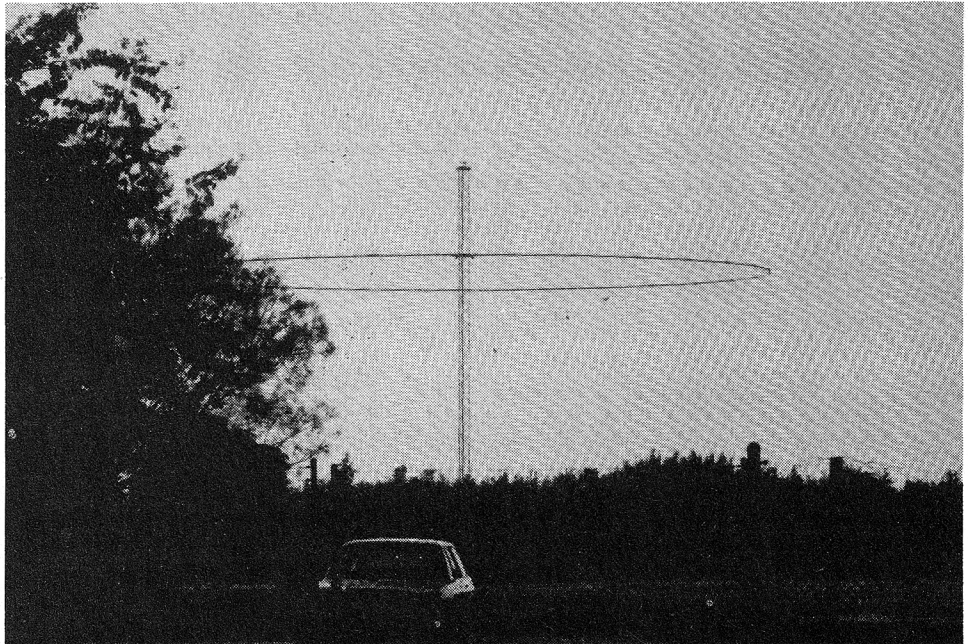
No "numbers transmissions" were found to originate from this facility. In fact, it is at a distance from Cuba that would make it a poor choice as an HF facility to hit Cuba -- it is too close for any but the lower HF frequencies.

Monitoring of the common five digit Spanish broadcast in the Miami area indicated that they were not local and were consistent with a Cuban source.

Can anyone precisely locate KRH50? Is it actually London?



*KKN39 transmitting log periodic antennas*



*A "conical antenna" at KKN39*