

Hans Knot International Radio Report

February/March 2021

Welcome to the first issue of the International Radio Report for 2021. Thanks for all the Christmas and New Year wishes which came in here in Groningen and I have to say that we both appreciated the amount of wishes. I hope you've all the strength to go on with the fight to Corona and that before summer there will be a far better situation.

Of course in this issue I will answer some e mails from readers as well as brining in some longer stories again. There is so much on the shelves to bring to you that once again I had to make a selection.

In last issue I promised that soon an article would be published in our on line journal for media and music culture, which has been done:

About Ronan O'Rahilly, the driving force behind Radio Caroline, many stories circulate. Some of those say he also was the manager of some bekknown pop groups and singers. By know these tales all have been disproved. Still, as Martin van der Ven tells, O'Rahilly once may have started a band: the Caroline Showband. Read more in the excellent article:



www.icce.rug.nl/~soundscapes/VOLUME23/Caroline_Showband.shtml

In the following link a lot of info about the Scheveningen 96 which became Ger Anne in 1968 as tender from Veronica when Dirk Verweij bought the ship. Also many photographs.

<https://www.scheveningen-haven.nl/info/schepen/index.php?nummer=96&lijst=0&af=SCH>

Next an e mail from Jan van der Meulen from Leeuwarden:

'Dear Hans, thank you very much for once again providing wonderful information about a period when I too had my ears glued to the tube radio. I really appreciate what you are doing to keep these memories alive and audible. I think it's good to say that to you for once.

We don't know each other. I am more or less a dormant 'visitor' of the offshore radio groups and sites. I visit these weekly, sometimes daily. I collect a lot of airchecks, especially from Radio London, (the FAB 40 via Oldiesproject is almost complete) and not forgetting Paul Kay, I think also one of your favourite radio personalities too.

Even my children sometimes poke fun at me with: "Big L time is three o'clock and Radio London is now closing down". This under the reproach "Dad is stuck in the sixties". I was 17 at the time.



Roger Day. Photo: Robbie Dale

Radio is still a very welcome way of passing the time these days. Versus internet radio I receive almost all the old stations in a somewhat different format. A lot of Roger Day via Caroline

Flashback and Uncool Radio. He is already active for almost 55 years after first meeting Dave Cash, unbelievable.

Finally, I wish you and your family all the best. Kind regards, Jan van der Meulen, Leeuwarden.'

Thanks a lot Jan and it's always a fine feeling to hear from someone who's following my work and feels it's time to write to me. I hope you can enjoy the history on radio for much more years.

Next e mail time from the USA: 'Thank you Hans! I love getting these reports from you. They always get read the evenings of receipt. Sorry to read two former offshore people passed away and have taken the sky radio route. Even to those of us who never met them, they'll be missed, simply because they were part of airwaves.

Reading your radio report I received today, I found something that I consider to be the holy grail of old radio/tv magazines!

<https://worldradiohistory.com/> Thank you very much for that addition! I have a particular love for old magazines relating to radio, tv, tape machines and broadcasting. It seems I'll have inexhaustible material to read till the day I perish! I love it! I'm so excited I can't wait to get started. I might wear out my monitor's screen with this one. This is the most fantastic offering in your report yet! I am happy, happy happy! Phil in Minneapolis.'



WWJ Detroit taken from the above mentioned World radio history archive



A message from Dick Offringa (see photo above) from Emmeloord. Also an active listener for 60 years, but also a programme maker: 'Since September 2016, the golden oldie station Radio Emmeloord in the Netherlands has been broadcasting via medium wave 1224 AM and internet. Since halfway through the year 2020, it has also been broadcasting via DAB+.

Radio Emmeloord tries to bring back the atmosphere of the offshore stations in its broadcasts. Most of the 25 presenters regularly play old jingles and airchecks from those offshore days.

This includes old Top 40's and old Tip Parades from Veronica as well as Radio Luxembourg Top Twenty's. In addition, there are DJs who really come from that era. Weekly Ron O'Quinn (Radio England), Bob Le-Roi (Radio City) and Paul van Gelder (Radio 227) can be heard.

About twenty hours a week there are English-language broadcasts, most of which are streamed live from England. Furthermore, there have been many location broadcasts in recent years. Because interaction with the listeners is considered to be very important.

In request record programmes, requests come from all over the world. And everyone enjoys it and can play their own choice of records.' www.radioemmeloord.nl

Thanks a lot Dick and hope you and your team can go on for many years.

Next a longer article by reader Philip Dawes

'Dear Hans, I was deeply saddened and shocked to read of the passing of Sherri Lynn, which she changed by deed poll from her birth name of Brenda Pidduck, born in Rhodesia. You may recall me contacting you several years ago when I read that Sherri was on your list?

Even though I only met Sherri (Brenda) on three occasions in about 1968, they were memorable. I phoned Tony Blackburn and told him that I had established the Pollution Research Bureau, (PRB), as a publicity venture to bring greater awareness of the problems of pollution of the land, sea and air. I told Tony that I was planning a pollution publicity event and needed an attractive girl to assist with it. He willingly agreed and announced it on radio and gave out my phone number as contact. Two beautiful girls contacted me, separately, one being Brenda.

Over a coffee meeting with Brenda, I mentioned the time and date of the pollution publicity event, about six weeks away, to be held in Trafalgar Square, London. Various people were coming to assist, including photographers, and we will have several giant 6 foot diameter (152cm) black balloons depicting pollution. Brenda agreed to help, and gave me the address of a solicitor's office close to Trafalgar Square, where she was worked.

The day of the event came. Various helpers were blowing up the giant black balloons and photographers were on hand, but Brenda was late.

I decided to walk to her office, which was only about two hundred yards away (180 metres). I walked up to her office on the first floor. There was Brenda, splendidly attired in a brilliant white satin trouser suit, with brightly coloured embroidered words depicting air pollution, land pollution and water pollution on both sleeves and on the front of the jacket and the thighs. But she was struggling to zip up her trousers. Her boss was hovering about politely trying to help, but to no avail.

Brenda said she made the trouser suit herself, but that the waist was just a little too tight. She had a safety pin ready for the top of the trousers, but the zip's slider would not go up more than a quarter of the way. I could see the problem. I said to her, "let me help, and when I say so, I want you to breathe in fast." I then thrust my right hand down her pants, the tips of my fingers in line with her pubic bone, which was the lower end of the zip, to the utter astonishment and embarrassment of her boss.

He dithered a bit, not knowing what was to follow! Grabbing the zip slider with the thumb and index finger of my left hand, I said hastily, "breathe in," Then, pressing the zip slider against the fingers of my right hand I pulled them both up together. Zipped up! "Now quickly fasten the button," I said. Success! She then used the safety pin to connect the two parts together as security. Brenda was a happy bunny! Her great seamstress work was a triumph. We proudly walked down to Trafalgar Square for the photoshoot. Our photographers started taking photos. Then a cop came up and said, "you can't do that here!" We quickly decided to walk to Hyde Park and the Serpentine, where we hired a couple of small boats for more publicity photos.

I wanted to do more pollution publicity shots with Brenda wearing her beautiful white satin trouser suit, and phoned her asking if she would be willing to come to my house in Caversham, Reading, in

Berkshire. She agreed to come in a week or so. In the meantime I had bought a large piece of dark coloured cloth as a backdrop and lighting and set them up as the studio in an upper room.



Pop Singer Brenda Pidduck, (Sherri Lynn), was once a bodyguard to Rhodesian Prime Minister Ian Smith

On the day Brenda arrived with a suitcase, or actually it was evening. I had prepared a meal with wine, for us to dine after the shooting. Everything was perfect. We were prepared to start the shooting. She was about to go upstairs to change into her white satin pollution suit. But then all of a sudden it changed! My wife arrived from holiday visiting her mother in Germany. She came unannounced. Ouch! She looked at Brenda and the beautifully prepared dining table. Oops! Brenda was embarrassed, naturally, although she knew I was married. But there was nothing planned other than our pollution publicity photoshoot and the dinner. Although to be honest, there was mutual attraction between us. She was exceedingly beautiful and had a caring charming personality. All this came flooding back to me

with tears in my eyes when I read of her sad passing. Bless you, Sherri!

Wishing you Hans a joyful and successful New Year. Kind regard,
Philip Dawes

Next an e mail from Stuart Clark, who wrote:

'Hi Hans, first of all I'd like to thank you for another brilliant year of reports, it's always a joy to see them ping into my inbox.

Here's an interesting link: <https://www.intellectbooks.com/how-belfast-got-the-blues#:~:text=The%20popular%20history%20of%20Northern,not%20previously%20understood%20or%20explored.>

Despite being an academic book, it's incredibly easy to read and contains lots of mentions of Radio Caroline and Philip Solomon, who was originally from Belfast. There's also details of a landbased Caroline copycat, Radio Showband, and lots of great '60s pop trivia. I'm loving it! Cheers and greetings Stuart Clark.'

Thanks a lot Stuart and what Stuart didn't know was that the book was already ordered by me and I've asked co-editor of the *Soundscapes Journal for Media and Music Culture*, Ger Tillekens, to write a review. So that will appear in one of the next issues of the report.

Next mail in the box from Norway: 'Greetings from Northern Star Media Services AS. It seems we will be able to carry on with our now four stations also in 2021.

I've also put some clips from listeners' reception reports on the web. The Northern Star stations: Many web channels, we recommend Radio Garden, RNS the «mother station» is also on Apple Music and TuneIn:

<http://radio.garden/listen/radio-northern-star/ncg4AqUL>

<http://radio.garden/listen/the-ferry/81WQd7BY>

<http://radio.garden/listen/the-sea-am-1611/rYLPj5Od>

<https://radio.garden/listen/the-northernbeacon/CgHR8Dde>

The Northern Star stations: Distance reception

www.stellamaris.no/1314_Radio_Northern_Star_Kotka_FIN_2020-12-11_0855Z-.mp3

www.stellamaris.no/1611_Radio_Northern_Star_Newfoundland_CAN_2019_Nov-9-1928Z.mp3

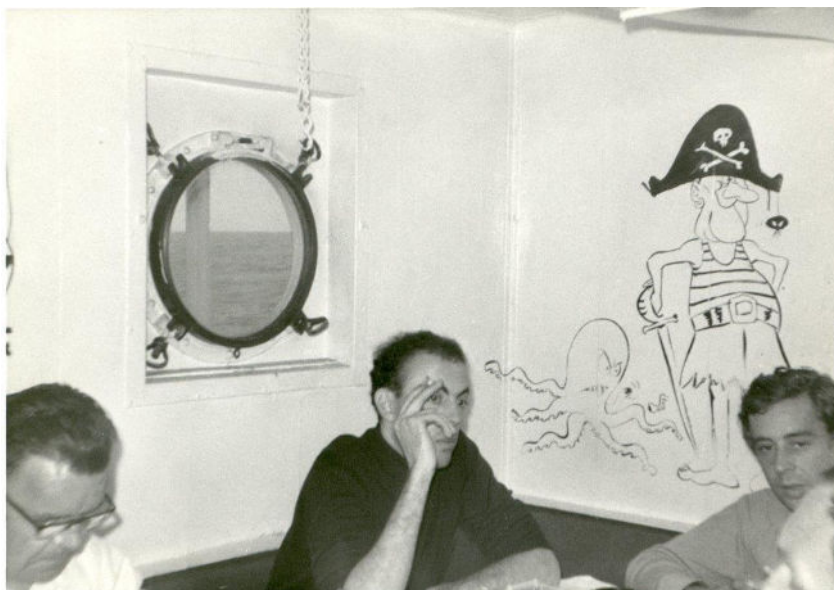
www.stellamaris.no/1611_The_C_LaId_Budor_NOR_2020-11-05_19_59_30Z.mp3

www.stellamaris.no/5895_VFG_RNS_Newfoundland_CAN_2020-7_Nov_0900Z.mp3

www.stellamaris.no/5895_Radio_Northern_Star_Salzburg_AUT_07_1220_0500Z.mp3

Best regards Svern Martinsen

Chief Editor/Broadcasting Coordinator



Some weeks ago I published the above photo on SMC Facebook page: Time for a photo from the messroom Laissez Faire in 1967. **On the left unknown probably Ted Walters, John Ashton, Mark Sloane. Drawing on the wall Alan Black. Photo: Tom Collins**

Earlier mentioned Svenn from Norway had a very interesting reflection when seeing the photo: 'My friend and former broadcaster the late David Gilbee/Dave MacKay broadcasting on "Britain Radio", "Radio 227" and "Radio 355", called me in Mid-February 2008. He'd remembered something that added to the rich heritage surrounding what was the menhaden ship "Earl J. Conrad jr." of Reedville, VA(1973-2011). He said: "The galley of the Olga Patricia ran from port side to starboard across the ship. It was open to a corridor to both sides.

On the starboard side adjacent to the galley was a dining room. It was a small room, with a large steel table and red plastic seating all the way round. The walls were white painted steel." One of his colleagues, the late Alan Black, was a very good cartoonist. "He used a Magic Marker and doodled cartoons on the wall of the diner." «But under it will be Alan's cartoons!" Pictures from the galleys of the Earl J Conrad Jr/Olga Patricia: www.stellamaris.no/chapter10.htm The first two are from the starboard, and the last two from the aft galley.

And the photo archive Offshore Radio headed by Martin van der Ven and me is still growing. At the moment of writing there are 24.250 photos in the archive. Recent updates, amongst others, are two series of photographs taken on board the Voice of Peace or in Israel during the period 1980-1981 by Benny James.

[Benny James: My Voice of Peace Photo Album \(Part 1\) | Flickr](#)

[Benny James: My Voice of Peace Photo Album \(Part 2\) | Flickr](#)



Benny James in the on air studio Voice of Peace

Next information about an article from the Daily Mail about an eighties Caroline deejay: 'Paul McKenna has claimed witnessing 'immense cruelty' while attending a Catholic school gave him a 'taste for compassion' and helped him develop his mind manipulation skills. The hypnotist, 57, from Hackney, east London, told how while he had a happy childhood thanks to his 'supportive, kind and optimistic' parents, he was miserable during his time spent at Jesuit-run St Ignatius' College in Enfield. He described his stint at the Catholic voluntary aided secondary school - for boys aged 11-18 - as a 'very unhappy experience', calling it 'a relentless, brainwashing process' which instilled 'guilt'. <https://www.dailymail.co.uk/femail/article-9159687/Paul-McKenna-says-seeing-immense-cruelty-Catholic-school-gave-taste-compassion.html?fbclid=IwAR1S1APJjbUuOOG6SbHaeJgI8Up9OqGBBafJJY057UUnTo5PuKfUn38sTAQ>

I mentioned 1980 already when attending the readers about the wonderful series of photos about the Voice of Peace. More came in

from the same period and the same station as Mike Davies found a listing back with nicknames on the Voice of Peace from which were not listed yet in the longlist we have on www.hansknot.com

Gavin Ford - Gavvers

Tim Shepherd - Grimley

Dave Asher - Belgian Pig

Alex Lee - The Pope

Steve Richards - Redlight Richards

Paul Fraser - Joe 90

In the meantime a big thank you to Mike and I've also added some more nicknames myself. For the recent listing go to:

<https://www.hansknot.com/nicknames.htm>

And also an e mail came in from Portugal: 'Mr. Knot, I still follow you with great interest. Thanks for preserving the pirate heritage! I do not know if you are aware of the following: The Italian film L'Isola delle Rose premiered on Netflix on December 9th. Send me a Postcard - Shocking Blue appears in it at length.

But that is not what I wanted to talk about: This film is a cross between the story of REM Island and Sealand , set in 1968 in Italy , is very well made with a very high entertainment value. Better than the other 'pirate film' , Rock the Boat, in short.

Until I saw this film I didn't know the Italian 'pirate' version, and it has nothing to do with Abi Nathan. And this film is already the number 3 most watched Netflix film in Portugal, where I have been living for months, in voluntary exile. In the Algarve to be precise.

Good luck and hang in there! In 100 years, the historians of that time will be grateful to you. Keep your distance: two metres is better! Greetings Willem van Kooten aka Joost den Draaier.'

Thanks a lot for taking the time to respond and giving the information about the movie, which has been on here during the Christmas period. In the meantime the English version is available too.



By the way a big hooray to Willem van Kooten as he celebrated last month his 80th birthday. Stay healthy and enjoy the years to come.

Next it's David Philips who did send this photo from two old newspapers,



Hans I came about these newspapers purely by chance in 2008. I was in Norhfleet, close to where the Forts were built, and I was helping a friend with restoring a house he bought. In the Kitchen the floor was covered with Linoleum. When we lifted it up, side by side as in the photo, were the 2 newspapers!! Unbelievable. The linoleum must have been put down at the same date as the papers.'

I received the following question from Bert Foks: I would like to know something about the REM Island and, as a specialist, you may have an answer. When I was at secondary school (circa 1964) there was a membership action for a legal version of the RTV Noordzee as TROS. After winning a large number of new members, I received a metal "trophy" in the shape of the REM island (see photo).



I am trying to find out whether there are any more of these objects in circulation, but I cannot find anything on the Internet. Not even on your website. Do you know this trophy?

I gave him the following answer: 'I am aware that there was a reward if listeners or viewers wanted to commit themselves to the campaign set up by RTV Noordzee to continue as a broadcaster in the future. A comparison can of course be made with Veronica's

campaign to recruit members for the VOS, the later VOO, and Radio Noordzee's Hou em in de lucht campaign, for which I recruited members in Groningen and the surrounding area.

I have never heard of anyone who actually received such a trophy but they were plentiful witness this photo in which Mr Brandel is surrounded by the symbols'.



Brandel Photo: Source unknown

And now the question to the readers: Who also has such a symbol or knows someone with a mini REM island? Answers as always to

HKnot@home.nl

An article in the Kent on line was send to me and written by John Nurden. Sheerness lifeboat rescues three men stranded on Second World War Maunsell sea fort

Three men have been rescued after being marooned and spending a night on a Second World War sea fort. The trio had to be taken off Red Sands Tower four miles off Whitstable by the Sheerness RNLi lifeboat.

Lifeboat spokesman Vic Booth said: "The three young men became stranded on the Red Sands tower after their two rigid inflatable boats drifted off on the tide. Read more here:

https://www.kentonline.co.uk/sheerness/news/three-men-rescued-from-abandoned-sea-fort-241366/?fbclid=IwAR3uAF_5jGbd8IxMhw4AJ6PZeBmY5DOoOUJeYPOJhfxAO_FJvQ5FQ4-agfw

Next a longer article written by Don Stevens. Of course more and more people, who've been working in radio through the last 6 decades, are leaving us for the station up in the sky. Popular South Australian broadcaster Ken Dickin passed away on Christmas Day in his Adelaide home. He had been battling prostate cancer for more than a decade Ken also worked on the Voice of Peace and other stations in Europe and it's Don Stevens who looks back with memories to Ken.



Ken Dickin on the Voice of Peace Photo collection Don Stevens

'With the passing of Ken Dickin, which made me a bit depressed, good people always go before the bad folks, I spent yesterday looking for the Voice of Peace airchecks I have of him when he was the most popular DJ in Israel.

I remember he was going to a party while on shore leave in Tel Aviv just off Kikar Hamdina, and he had to leave his taxi because of a massive traffic jam, the cab driver said he had never seen anything like it, must be a funeral, so, Ken and his two VOP friends started walking to the address, as they got closer the traffic jam became

crowds of people, standing in the road, on the sidewalk, and in the distance loud music.

Ken finally got near the building and made the mistake of saying to a group of people, 'Excuse me Mate' and the people immediately started shouting, 'he is here, here he is, Ken' and he got surrounded by so many fans. The traffic jam was for him, seems the guy who invited him to the party told all his friends at college and the result was half of the youth of Tel Aviv turned up to see this great broadcaster.

A lot of my success in Israel was also due to Ken, such a generous man, when it was my birthday he arranged for me to go ashore with him for 24 hours and Jules Retrot to a party in North Tel Aviv just off Ibn Gvirol, he and Jules had arranged it with their friend Esty, a great evening, met so many Israeli radio fans and many who, later on, promoted me in the media, Ken was delighted, he said he always avoided media, had too much of it back in Australia, but, as it is for Peace, and you being a good talker, promote the station and yourself all the way. I also met my girlfriend at this party, we went on to have a lovely daughter together who now lives in Holon.

Ken also gave me a number of tips on broadcasting to Israel, he pointed out to me the importance of diction and speech clarity, it helps students of English to learn from you. Ken was always clear and with that deep Aussie voice he attracted listeners. I told him that Keith Ashton had asked me to use 'Special English' which I did, having had two good Aussie's tell me the same thing, and I became the Top Foreign DJ in Israel 1976 thanks to the readers of LaHiTon magazine.

Ken was a very important part of Keith Ashton's relaunch of the Peace Ship especially as it was sitting idle in France and Abie had so many people looking over the ship with a view to selling it. Keith Ashton (who could sell fridges to Inuits) persuaded Abie to leave

France, let him run the broadcast side of the ship, and he, Abie, could spend the cash on all of his peace projects. Keith Ashton left his show on Capital Radio London, grabbed Ken Dickin, Phil Brice and Jules Retrot and set off to make a radio revolution, knowing the Aussie guys he had would know what to do once they got to Israel.



As soon as they arrived, the transmitters were turned on, and the 4GG format taken from that Australian station was implemented, which must have stunned the radio market in the region, it would have stunned London audiences. Keith Ashton went ashore having arranged meetings with advertising agencies from London and he ended up striking an exclusive deal with Tavas, who had people with American radio experience and when they heard the Voice of Peace they replied 'we can sell that' and sell it they did.



Keith at Radio Capitol

Promotional Photo Keith Ashton

Ken was integral to the 'sound' of the format as his bubbly style anchored the output, plus he was featured on many of the station idents as was the late Bill Mitchell, who made many drop in's for the station free of charge because of his Jewish roots and his love of Free Radio, many of these were still in use 20 years later.

My move to Israel was prompted by Ken's desire to return home and Keith Ashton and Ronan O'Rahilly persuaded me to take up a position at the Voice of Peace, working with Ken and being taught by him in the ways of the 4GG format, allowing Ken to fly back to Oz and a fresh career in the industry he loved and loved him.

I kept in touch with Ken sporadically until my PC crashed and I lost my address book, I back up everything now. So, Ken Dickin, what a guy, he brought a new air sound to Israel and allowed Keith Ashton to deliver his promise to Abie Nathan, a station that milled cash for good causes, and, we really did make the money. On Ken Dickin's shows (always full of commercials) he had Dubek tobacco, British Leyland, Stock Vermouth, TWA, Elite Coffee and chewing gum and a host of others like OK Beer and Maccabee, advertisers could not wait to pay premium to be on his show, why?

Because he had the biggest radio audience in Israel and also a big following in Cyprus and Turkey. We often sent airchecks back to Keith on shore as he liked to hear the commercials and how they came across on the TX, he was a consummate radio man, always after quality, presentation and tight output. He was very quick to report back to me that my use of 'Special English' was working out, feedback he was hearing enjoyed how easy it was to understand Don Stevens and even Ken Dickin had suggested using the style, well, it worked for both of us. It was Keith Ashton's attention to detail that made the VOP such a success in 1975/76 and how much he was missed after he and the Aussies left, leaving the station to the mercies of the British broadcasters and Abie Nathan with a rapid

loss in popularity and revenue, without Keith at the helm, Abie ran the station into the curb.

As a man, Ken Dickin was a gentle guy with a big heart, no flash, no pose, he was a team player, always there to help and assist, and often served up good advice. His voice was amazing, how does a sound like that come out of such a small guy, but, it did, and he had a superb voice. Now Ken Dickin is with the other pioneers of good radio, and, unlike most Aussie broadcasters he sits in the Pantheon of Pirate Radio Ship broadcasters, a true defender of Free Radio and Free Speech, our loss is The Great Makers gain ❤️❤️❤️

Straight roads Ken on the rest of your journey, so lucky that I had the opportunity to work with you and know you too ❤️ Don Stevens.

Of course a big thank you Don for putting your memories down for us and later this year more memories from Don Stevens coming into the report. Now something about a ship model. It was Jan van Heeren who published a photo in the SMC FB Group from a giant model of the Veronica ship Norderney with its builder, Ad van den Herik.

Photographer: Cees Schilthuizen.



Reader Wim de Lang has memories from the time the Norderney was in Dordrecht: 'I have fond memories of the contact with Ad van de

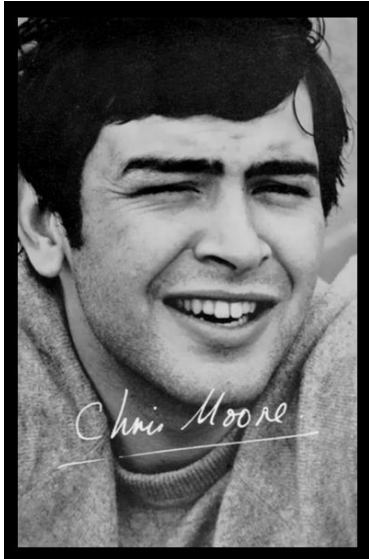
Herik at the end of the 70s of last century. The Norderney was then moored in our city Dordrecht. Ad and I were allowed to visit the office at the Kalkhaven, with the then owner of the Norderney, Jacques Mooren. He showed us the plans he had for the ship. Jacques gave me an original Agfa tape with commercials, that was still on the ship. Also the single 'Oh Well' by Fleetwood Mac which was still on board.

One day I went with Ad to the ship, that was lying at Penn&Boduin. Ad was allowed to help the workmen, who had to demolish the entire inside of the ship. So I still went on board with him and saw the washbasins and the cabins. An emotion that I still cherish.

Outside the ship was a considerable pile of wood, originating from the studio. As a souvenir, I took a part of the wooden wall rack with me, which can often be seen in photographs. I still have it.

From Jacques Mooren, Ad received a personal gift, namely the logbook of the Norderney. When I spoke to Ad some two years ago he told me that he still takes great care of it and cherishes it. No, he would never give it up. This was a personal gift from a man who is no longer in Dordrecht. All those things come back to me when I see this photograph. Beautiful times. Wim de Lang.'

On January 2nd Chris Moore died. He was one of the founders of Radio Caroline. Mike Plumley wrote an excellent article about Chris his life for OEM. 'Christopher Moore, who died on 2nd January 2021, a few weeks after receiving a diagnosis of esophageal cancer, is best known for his role in setting up the pirate radio station Radio Caroline, along with Ronan O'Rahilly and Ian Ross. This was one of the key events in pop culture in 1960's UK.



Promotional photo Caroline organization

Christopher was born in Washington DC on 16th April 1940 and was brought over to England at the age of 8 by his American mother. He was technically an American, and very little is known about his mother or his English stepfather, whom she married. He was soon packed off to boarding school. Little is known about his early life - his mother seems to have had different careers, one as a diplomat for the United Nations. One old friend was tantalised by tales of encounters with contacts of his parents, some of whom were household names from the world of diplomacy and espionage of the 1950's. They lived in a large flat in Knightsbridge.

You can read it complete here:

<https://www.offshoreechos.com/Main%20page.html>

Time for Jon at the Pirate Hall of fame: 'Hi, I have just updated The Pirate Radio Hall of Fame. New this month:

- The sad news that Chris Moore, the presenter of the very first show on Radio Caroline, has died;
- we have more fascinating recordings found in Leon Tipler's tape archive including (we think) the first commercial ever aired on Radio Caroline;
- there is another vintage edition of *Radio News*, this time from 31st January 1967;

- and we have compiled a Spotify playlist of the last ever *City 60* chart. If you were a fan of Radio City back in the day, you can now enjoy the excellent music they played in February 1967 again.

My thanks to everyone who has contributed to this update. Best wishes, Jon www.offshoreradio.co.uk



Recently in our SMC group also Alex Hoek wrote about his visit to Israel, years ago, and to a basement: Recently here was a message about the wheel of The Voice of Peace. I post some photo's I took when visiting the Kibbutz of Givat Haviva years ago. Don't think much has changed. After a very warm welcome I had the opportunity to see all the material of the ship and the personal belongings of Abie Nathan, which are archived in the basements. It felt good to hold a lifebuoy of the VOP and to see there is still so much saved from the ship before it went down. Let's hope that one day they will be able to display all of this in a proper way. More info about my visit at: https://www.alexcity.nl/voice_of_peace.htm

Remember the special Christmas competition we had in cooperation with reader Phil Hilton. Only 3 semi-difficult questions were asked and an Offshore Radio Book, sold out for many years, to win? The competition was not only in the report but also in our SMC FB Group, so at least 4500 people in total had the change to send in their

answers. Seems to be that all readers are too old for competitions like that. Not one entry! Lucky the e mails are coming in on a daily base with a lot of memories, questions, ideas and more.

Let's not forget to visit the excellent site from Mary and Chris Payne about wonderful radio London and everything related to that. Find the most recent update here:

<http://www.radiolondon.co.uk/kneesflashes/happenings/2012julyon/july2012.html#news>

Next a link which I got early February from the Emperor Rosko

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZJ663Ek9vtc&feature=share&fbclid=IwAR2VAoa1O-eLeEYGWmGBCY4ywwxOgYjX6c23z_Q4r7uBYSSK89qRwa0zqAg

Rosko: 'That bit of preciousness I believe it was in Paris and the late Derek Chenery (just a line producer back then). He was over to bag me for Radio One. I think that is him wondering around the studio. You know he rose to greatness at Radio One, perhaps it was my charisma du jour!'

And the blond lady you saw was Sylvia Vartan, who was married to Johnny Halliday, who was in the video too.

Next an e mail from Dirk Rutten in Belgium: 'It's been a while. Hopefully all is well with you. Meanwhile I have moved to my classic motor boat, the MV Ludus. Ferry Eden wrote me that he would come by when I installed the transmitter mast. I'm afraid that's not going to happen, but maybe something through the internet. Coincidentally I am in the dock where the Norderney stayed for years in Antwerp. Next year I hope to visit the Ross Revenge in any case. During the move I found some nice things in my archive:

- a reaction from the British Home Office. This was in response to a letter I had written to the PM about Radio Caroline, this after an appeal in the Caroline Newsletter. Coincidentally, this letter dates from March 1980, the month that was fatal for MV Mi Amigo.

There's also a personal correspondence with Britt Wadner, when she was operating Radio Syd in Gambia. Looking forward to your next report. Greetings, Dirk Rutten.'

Great that you share those with our readers. In this issue first the 1980 letter from the Home Office.

sm



HOME OFFICE

Waterloo Bridge House Waterloo Road London SE1 8UA

Direct line 01-275

Switchboard 01-275 3000

Radio Regulatory Department

Dirk Rutten
Berkenlaan 17
B - 2410 Herentals
BELGIUM

Your reference

Our reference

RD/GT/1079

Date

26 March 1980

Dear Mr Rutten

Thank you for your letter of 1 March to the Prime Minister about the Marine, etc, Broadcasting (offences) Act, 1967. Your letter has been passed to this Department for answer.

The Act is not, as you suggest, used to 'stop people writing about something they believe in', and there are no plans to amend it.

Yours sincerely

C F BONE

Very interesting is an article, with thanks to Luc Masuy, published in the month of May in 2019 in Radio World on line, about the history of airchecks. This goes far much further back than we think.

<https://www.radioworld.com/columns-and-views/roots-of-radio/airchecks-evolving-role>

As promised I will re-publish segments of the very interesting research Brian Long has done almost 30 years ago and was only spread around in a little group of readers. Brian Long gave permission to bring some of the subjects, written in 'The London Sound' into the radio report and to a wider public. Don't forget that many people, who were interviewed, are not with us anymore. The new series will not be chronological to follow the research but bring back some special memories. Like why Ed Stewart introduced the item 'School Spot'.

The programme schedule, that applied at the end of 1965, continued into 1966. Ed Stewart introduced a popular feature into his show, the fifteen-minute, 'School Spot'. The idea was that school children could write in mentioning their school and have a record dedicated to their class mates. The school would then be put, 'on the map', a mythical document that Stewart would update on every 'School Spot'. This happened at 16:45 hrs., each weekday, to coincide with the arrival home from school of its target audience. In January 1967, it was moved to 17:00 hrs., when students wrote in, complaining that it was on too early.



Ed Stewart Big L Publicity Photo

"I just made it up myself. That sort of thing you never actually asked anybody about, you just did it. No news is good news. So if you didn't hear anything obviously it's accepted. It came about because I knew there were a lot of kids listening at that time of day and the obvious thing to do was to say, 'Since you're out at that time, let's put you on the map.' You found out where your listeners were and how far afield they were because all of a sudden you had schools from London, south of London and places you didn't think we reached as a station. It was a good gauge as to your listenership."

The popularity of the 'School Spot' extended to Holland, with Dutch schools writing in. Stewart introduced another programming item later in the year, with his, 'Twenty-to-Five Spot', to precede the 'School Spot'. This revolved around a different artist every week, and at the prescribed time each day he would play a record by them.

Dave Cash had a programming feature in his show, 'The Battle Of The New Sounds'. He played three new records a week and asked listeners to vote on which one they favoured. The response usually produced a mailbag of around 5,000 letters. As an inducement, winners would be drawn from the votes to receive a year's membership to the Big L Disco in Charing Cross Road.

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"We wanted to get some new things in, and it was an idea I think I came across on the tour of the States. It was just in the back of my mind, somewhere I'd heard it, it wasn't an original idea. Just get a pile of new records and put them up for people to vote on. Because we had to have a 'write-in' situation we could only do it once a week."

Despite these features slightly altering the format of the station, Ben Toney raised no objection. "These guys all had little gimmicky things that they personally wanted to do to improve their shows and I encouraged it. One or two of them went out and had a group to record a little personal jingle for them and things like that. Gimmicky things do enhance your programming, they give people something to think about, other than just records."

When extended hours were introduced, the additional time was occupied by programming Paul Kaye between 21:00 hrs. and 24:00 hrs., and Duncan Johnson from 00:00 hrs. until 02:00 hrs. Ed Stewart believes Kaye was looking for this opportunity to develop a show based around news. "I think it was an idea he had, something to do with news. He was Head of News and he felt that we weren't doing enough, because all we used to do was rewrite the BBC's news and he felt we should do something more than that. I can remember doing it myself, but when I couldn't quite get my typing together or there were really big stories, I'd rush down from the News Room - which was up on the poop - to get down to the bilge so to speak. So you're running down two story's, two flights of stairs and along a passageway and down. I'd get there almost as they're about to press the jingle, completely out of breath and go, 'Radio London news', do - do - do, and try and get each thing out in one breath."

Kaye's new programme was called, 'Kaye Club'. He described it on a promotional tape, sent out to potential advertisers. "Hello and welcome to the club. My name is Paul Kaye and as the man said the club is open at 9 p.m. It's a fairly new innovation to continue transmission this late; the result is that the club is open to anyone."

The listeners are of all ages. Letters received show that they enjoy the chance to have their opinions on any, and every, subject mentioned on the air. The show includes a look at the news at 11 p.m., and a system whereby recorded telephone conversations with listeners are broadcast. Anything can happen at the Kaye Club. We may get raided yet."



Paul Kaye Big L promotional photo

Duncan Johnson's show was billed as, 'Late Night Music', but from 1st April, on his return from a three week Canadian holiday, it took the title, 'London After Midnight'. Eddie Blackwell was involved with this programme. "We had done a marvelous pilot programme, Duncan and I, called, 'London After Midnight', where we played the laid back sort of music. We were trying to sell it as an idea so that we could go 24-hours. The only times we went 24-hours was a bank holiday or something."

The programme schedule read from that point on for some time:

06:00 hrs. Dave Cash (The Rabbit Patch or The Breakfast Show)

09:00 hrs. Tony Windsor (Windsor's Castle)

12:00 hrs. Dave Dennis (Dave's Den)

15:00 hrs. Ed Stewart (The Stewpot)

18:00 hrs. Mark Roman (The Roman Empire)

21:00 hrs. Paul Kaye (Kaye Club)

00:00 hrs. Duncan Johnson (London After Midnight)

02:00 hrs. closedown

A few weeks later the breakfast show was lengthened by half-an-hour, to start at 05:30 hrs. Each morning, the day's broadcasting opened with the PAMS 'Hometown Song' and when the station closed in the early hours, the Big Lil theme (the Sonowaltz) was played.

Deejays not assigned their own shows: Mike Lennox, John Edward and Earl Richmond, were used to cover for colleagues on shore leave, but the new transmission hours, combined with the shift rota, meant that more disc jockeys needed to be employed. 1966 was to be a very turbulent year in the recruitment of deejays. Before any appointments were made however, a sudden change occurred in the management structure when Ben Toney left on 31st of March. For whatever reason, be it the nature of his job or by choice, Toney had been rather ostracised when working in Curzon Street.

His motivation suffered a blow in January, when he was told that his salary would increase from \$700 to \$800 a month, but that he could no longer claim expenses. He was therefore out of pocket by approximately \$250 each month, compared to his income before the pay award. Toney then claims that Arthur Steffan, Radio London's American lawyer, wrote to him saying that as he had been resident in the United Kingdom since his marriage, he constituted a danger to the operation because he was classified as a seaman on shore leave. His contract would have to be terminated. After leaving Radio London, Toney was employed by Don Pierson on developing the programming for Radio England, but as he felt his suggestions were being ignored,

and because his wife had expressed an interest in moving to America, they left the UK, in June that year, to live in Texas.'

Brian Long 1994.

to be continued

Brian Long's contribution, with many thanks of course, marks the end of this edition of the report. As always, feel free to send questions, memories, photos and more to my email address HKnot@home.nl

In the meantime I wish you all the best, try to stay away from the Covid and I hope to come back with a new report in two months' time

greetings Hans Knot