

Hans Knot International Radio Report

June-July 2021

Welcome to this edition of the radio report and next to personal memories of the readers we have in this issue some special items which came in by e-mail. We start off this issue with a wonderful photo, which was found on a special Facebook group by Walter Zwart, who informed Martin van der Ven.



Three-masted gaff schooner 'Olga', photographed in the 1930s. The schooner was built by Deutsche Werke AG in Kiel and delivered to Captain Ernst Simon from Hamburg in 1921 under the name 'Margarethe'. In the 1920s, the ship made long voyages to South America and the West Indies. In 1927, the ship was sold to Captain Hinrich Carl Otto Koppelman from Wedel, who renamed his new acquisition 'Olga' and next only employed her on European voyages.

The ship later changed owners several times and was used [as we all know] as a floating radio station. The end came to the former German schooner, last named 'Mi Amigo', on 18th March 1980 when she broke loose from her anchors in a storm and was totally lost on the Long Sand Shoals off the Essex coast.

Source: Herbert Karting - *German Schooners*, Volume V
Photo: Collection Capt. Tham Körner, Langwedel

Next attention for an excellent video featuring history of Radio Caroline as well as the Voice of Peace. With thanks for the link to Noam Thal in Israel. Featuring Abe Nathan, Peter Moore, Ray Clark, Johnny Lewis and many more. 50 min long.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SY5qA2eW50g>

I sent the link to Ray Clarke and he came back with the fact that a few years ago also a Japanese television production team visited the *Ross Revenge* for a documentary. Anyone within the readership who ever saw this one and has a copy to share? HKnot@home.nl

Time for the update from the Pirate Hall of Fame:

Hi, I have just updated [The Pirate Radio Hall of Fame](#).

New this month:

- another vintage edition of *Radio News*, this time from 28th February 1967;
- a Spotify playlist of the Swinging Radio England 'Boss 40' chart from 30th July 1966;
- and Ray Clark interviews a broadcaster who started on the mv *Mi Amigo* in early 1977 and can still be heard on Radio Caroline today, Martin Fisher.

Best wishes, Jon

www.offshoreradio.co.uk

Next and interesting story from Chris Brisland received early May 2021

As the BBC has confirmed that a number of it's BBC local radio services will cease broadcasting on Medium-wave during May/June, here is an article I have written, recalling my memories of BBC Essex

on 411m, 729 K/c's, along with some of the history of these transmissions, and a last listen on a vintage Dansette radio.



The forthcoming End of BBC Essex, on 411 meters, 729 Kilocycles in the Medium-wave. As some of you will already know, the BBC has recently announced that 10 more of its Medium-wave transmitters for local radio are to be axed during May and June 2021. This includes both the BBC Essex transmitters at Chelmsford (392m, 765 K/c's) and Manningtree (411m, 729 K/c's.) I'm not going to go into the politics or rights and wrongs of this here, but it does mean that all affected stations will no longer be receivable on a vintage wireless set.

I am doing my own little tribute to the BBC Essex transmission on 411 meters, 729 K/c's, as for more than a decade I used this transmission to listen to Keith Skues' programs on my collection of vintage wireless sets, which not only resulted in the e-mail feature that I used to do into his shows, but ultimately, the creation of the special facebook page. (10 years ago, in May in fact!) Like many others, I also have some very happy memories of the 'Pirate BBC Essex' programs, which were broadcast in 2004, 2005, 2007, 2009, and 2017 - many of these were exclusively on BBC Essex Medium-wave, whilst the regular output continued on FM only for the duration.

Talking of Pirate Radio, (which we were!), there is a historic link between offshore pirate Radio and BBC Essex - in particular relating to the soon to be defunct Medium-wave transmissions. The book 'Pop

Went the Pirates II (Keith Skues, 2009) states that on 3rd February, 1986, 'A Secret Operation to scupper the remaining radio Pirate broadcasting off the Essex coast was being mounted by the Department of Trade. Officials refused to give details, but admitted that the aim of the manoeuvre was to clear the 558 Medium-wave frequency allocated by International Agreement to the BBC, but being used by the pop pirate Radio Caroline.



Ross Revenge in later years Photo: A J Beirens Heritage

The BBC feared it might be forced to find an alternative and inferior frequency for its new local radio station, BBC Essex, if 558 were not cleared by the station's planned opening in late October. This could cost the Corporation tens of thousands of pounds extra.' I believe the intention had been to use 558 to cover the whole of Essex from a single transmitter, however the Department of Trade was unsuccessful in it's bid to get Caroline off the frequency, and in the event, BBC Essex ended up having to use three frequencies for its county-wide Medium-wave Coverage, these being 729, 765 and 1530 (1530 closed in 2018.)

Although the station was (and still is) broadcast on FM as well, it has to be remembered that in the 1980's there was still a surplus of portable and car radios, which could not receive FM, hence it was

considered necessary for stations to simulcast on both wavebands to maximise their audience. Also, BBC Essex FM reception is patchy with some of areas of the county not being able to obtain adequate reception; in those pre-digital days, Medium-wave was the only alternative for people in these areas.



For almost 35 years these transmitters have been providing news and entertainment to the region, not to mention some historic and sometimes shocking moments will have been announced to people through those transmitters - i.e., the great storm of 1987, the death of Diana, Princess of Wales, September 11th, Grenfell Tower, Covid 19 and Prince Phillip's Death to name but a few. There are people in Essex who first heard about these major events on either 729 or 765, and of course those wonderful 'Pirate BBC Essex' broadcasts, most of which were broadcast exclusively on Medium-wave.

On a self-indulgent note, my own voice has actually been carried on those transmitters, once in 2009 when Steve Merike interviewed me on Pirate BBC Essex, again in 2011, (see below) and finally in 2020, when I was lucky enough to be one of several listeners to Keith Skues' show to be invited to record a farewell message for his final program. Not to mention of course I was honoured to have my 'Wireless of the Week' e-mail features read out on Keith's show and subsequently broadcast through these transmitters for many years, starting in circa 2006 and lasting through until 2020.

<https://www.facebook.com/Wireless-of-the-Week-226227664055040>

I can also remember back in 2011, when BBC Essex covered the official opening of the LV18, (the last manned light vessel to be in active service, also the boat used for most of the Pirate BBC Essex broadcasts) listening on 729 in my car as I drove down and realising that as I passed the Manningtree mast through the North Essex country side, I was listening to it while looking at it at the same time!



The late Dave Cash and Chris Brisland

Once in Harwich, I tuned in to 729 on my Ever-ready Sky queen (1953 valve portable - 411 meters on this set of course) and showed it to some of the BBC Essex crew. They were impressed with how clear their station sounded on it, and presenter Steve Scruton then interviewed me about it live on air, before playing a couple of sixties classics. It was also the source of some amusement - it was pouring down with rain that day, and the only thing I had in my car to protect the radio was a pink blanket! Happy memories!

The following year I was also on board the LV18 when BBC Essex treasure Quest came on board. I tuned in to 411 meters on my 1955 Pye P114BQ (battery valve suitcase style portable radio) and watched the treasure hunters made their way though the ship, broadcasting live as they went, hence I was watching them as the sound of their voices emanated from my vintage radio.

Like many people I was in Harwich from 12th - 14th August 2017 for the very final incarnation of 'Pirate BBC Essex' and, armed with some vintage portable radio's had great fun exhibiting them and showing them off to broadcasters and members of the public as they received (via 411 meters) the sounds of sixties nostalgia live and direct from the LV18. I can still remember standing outside the exhibition center on Ha'penny Pier and listening to Johnnie Walker closing down Pirate BBC Essex on my 1953 Ever-ready Sky queen, followed by a huge round of applause from the huge crowd of people standing and watching on the quayside.



LV 18 Harwich Photo: Steve Szmidt

When the BBC Essex service on 411 meters, 729K/c's closes on May 20th (Not sure yet if that's when the transmitter physically shuts down, or when that will be when it starts broadcasting a looped message advising listeners to find the station elsewhere) it will put an end to just over 34 years, 6 months of BBC Essex on that frequency - for me the best memories will always be 'Pirate BBC Essex' and of course using it to listen to Keith Skues' late night programs via my 'Wireless of the Week'. I shall try to capture the final transmission if I can, however in the meantime and in-between time, I thought we could have a final listen with my classic 1958

Dansette model 111 transistor radio. In the photograph, (earlier in the story, you can see myself and Dave Cash admiring the radio in August 2007, when all BBC Essex Medium-wave frequencies had been turned over to 'Pirate BBC Essex' (hence it was tuned to 411 meters on that occasion as well!) The Dansette was in fact my final regular 'Wireless of the Week' on September 27th, 2020 when Keith Skues presented his final regular show. I listened to it on 411 meters using this set, with my family and then heard the goodbye messages which had been recorded by a number of his listeners, myself included - that was odd, hearing my own voice coming out of one of my vintage radio's! Best wishes and keep safe one and all, regards Chris Brisland.

There was also big news late April about Tineke de Nooij, who we all know from her long period from Radio Veronica in the sixties and seventies of last century: Source: Spreekbuis. In more than 60 years, Tineke de Nooij has been active on radio and TV. And she is still the Queen of Radio. Friend and former Radio Veronica DJ Ad Bouman therefore presented De Nooij with the Media Oeuvre Award 2021 on her 80th birthday in a special broadcast of her own Omroep MAX radio show TinekeShow.



Tineke with the Oeuvre Award

Photo: Omroep Max

The award is an initiative of Spreekbuis.nl, the largest online platform for media professionals. The jury report states: Already at the age of 12, she could be heard on the radio for the first time. At 18, she started working for Radio Veronica. There she wrote broadcasting history as the first female disc jockey in the Netherlands. And she has been active in the national media for the longest time. Tineke is and was a radio and TV presenter, voice-over, entrepreneur, afternoon TV initiator, director, podcast maker, producer, columnist and is committed to many charity projects with the Tineke Trophy. Enough reasons why, according to the jury, she deserves an oeuvre award, but the jury particularly emphasises her enormous professional skill that her colleagues, but especially her listeners, may enjoy.'

According to jury member Richard Otto (publisher of trade media platform Spreekbuis.nl), it is very natural for De Nooij to receive this award. "Her entire career she has managed to get Dutch people in front of the radio and TV. Even at 80, she's still the biggest hit on NPO Radio 5," says Otto.

Ad Bouman: "Without Tineke I probably would never have joined Radio Veronica. She managed to convince one of the offshore radio station's recording engineers to take me on. Besides my own programmes, I was the recording engineer for her programmes Koffietijd, Jazzjournaal and later Tineke. In the male-dominated world of Veronica, Tineke was quite a man."

The Media Oeuvre Award is an annual prize from trade platform Spreekbuis.nl for the still active media professional, who has had a major impact on the Dutch media landscape in his or her career. Previous winners were Jan Slagter and André van Duin. The winner is selected by the jury, consisting of Niels Baas (NLZIET), Bas Nieuwenhuijsen (Aether/Spreekbuis.nl) and Richard Otto (Publisher Spreekbuis.nl). The Media Oeuvre Award is made possible by NLZIET.

Next an e mail from John Hagg: 'Hi Hans. Once again another excellent International Report! Reading the part relating to Norman Barrington, I am reminded of a couple of longstanding queries I have regarding Offshore Radio books that appear to have been abandoned or possibly never started! On Norman's radio site I read, a number of years ago, on The Guestbook section a request from David Hebditch (a celebrated investigative author -'PORN GOLD' and many others) for employees of RNI (and he listed them all!) to contact him to help him research the RNI spy ship allegations. Around the time he put this on the website his long time collaborator Nick Anning (another investigative reporter of good pedigree) sadly died suddenly.

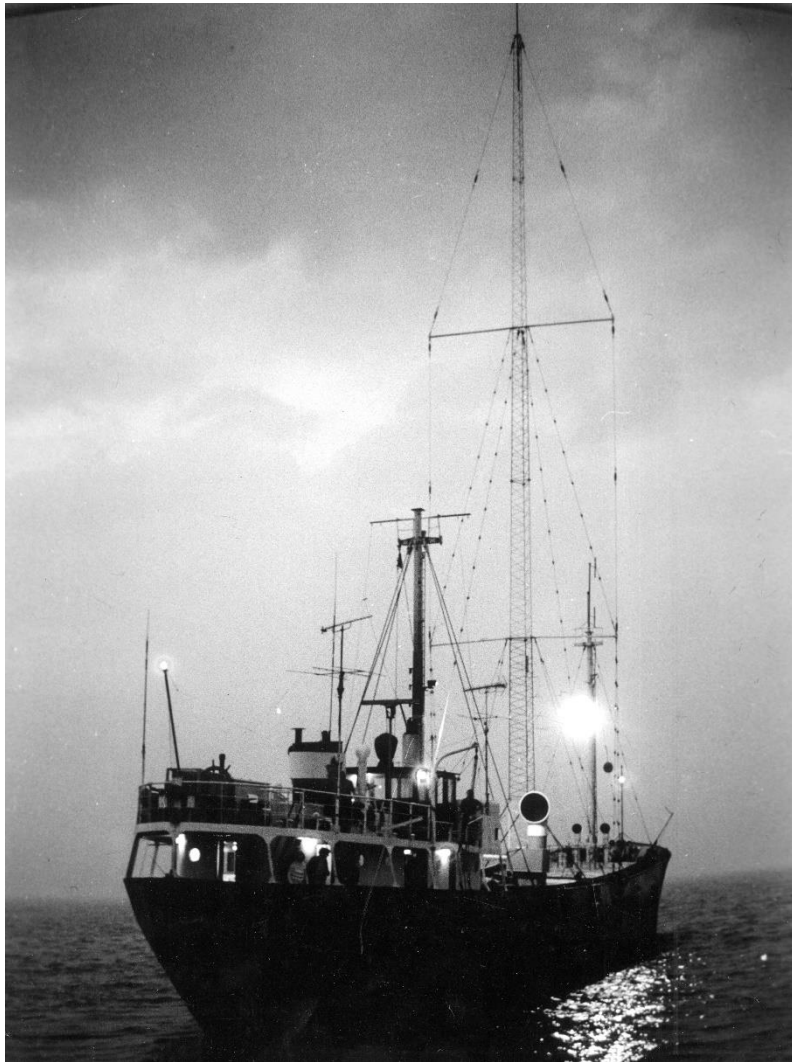
Does anybody (Norman perhaps?) know what became of this project? Did he get any responses / did the death of his writing partner reduce resources available to proceed / did he make any preliminary enquiries and write off the idea as 'fantasy'? Can anyone satisfy my curiosity on this one? Despite all the East German / Lockerbie / Tyrolean Music on Shortwave numbers station stuff, that has been trotted out over the years I feel most of us think there is nothing to it. Agreed?'

Well I forwarded this part of the e mail to Norman and he answered with: 'I certainly do not know if anything came out of their investigations. If it had, I feel sure I would be told. It is appealing to think that there some skullduggery at MEBO Ltd. But that is not evidence.

What added weight to that story, was the unprecedented jamming of RNI on medium wave by the British government, and the jamming of RNI's shortwave output by Norway, implying a concerted effort to make RNI's life difficult. Why single out this station?

I would certainly recommend that John Hogg, contacts Edwin Bollier, who is alive and kicking, and more importantly approachable. He has even given me likes on small articles I have written about RNI. He is

a keen defender of the late Megrahi, accused of the Lockerbie Bombing. Bollier is keen to prove, Megrahi innocent, and that one of his MEBO timing devices could not fit inside the Toshiba tape recorder as suggested in court. Bollier has posted a video showing it is impossible. Of course he was friendly towards Gadaffi, loaning him the MEBO II to relay Libyan propaganda. So not beyond involving himself in politics. Even the manufacture of timing devices shouts intrigue.



MEBO II Photo AJ Beirens Heritage in SMC Archive

So John Hogg, you should take over where Hebditch left off. Perhaps the time is right.'

And of course I sent this answer to John Hogg who came back with:

'There is almost certainly no story to be told and one of my reasons for thinking that is it would make a good book whether fiction or even non-fiction. Despite that, apart from Paul Harris, not one serious intelligence correspondent or espionage thriller writer of note has ever picked up on it! To my knowledge only one writer, Len Deighton, has ever included any mention of offshore radio in his plots ... very briefly at that.

The theory that RNI influenced the 1970 General Election result has been commented upon by David Butler in his book on that election but not quantified and Private Eye magazine with an article "CONSPIRACY" commented on the Conservative party making dubious use of free election propaganda from the MEBO II but Ronan and Simon Dee were the focus of Special Branch enquiries into this.



Paul Harris 1969 collection FRA England

Paul Harris has never followed up his revelations in 1970 despite there being ample opportunities from 1990 onwards to examine documents held in the former East Germany to attempt to stand up his account. You can weave a story or a conspiracy theory by falsely putting together a number of facts. Example, and here is one of my own concoction: when RNI made some broadcasts on a frequency allocated to Czechoslovakia they claimed they had

permission from them to use it. In the late 1980's John Stonehouse (and another ex- Labour MP) were exposed as Czech spies from around 1969 onwards (Thatcher declined 'in the Public Interest' to prosecute). An odd coincidence ? Yes!

I would not even contemplate contacting Edwin Bollier on this matter! I was just wondering what a serious investigative writer made of it. Apparently nothing! Look forward to anybody with knowledge of David Hebditch's findings coming forward.'

But there were more questions from John:

'My second query relates to the book 'Caroline' by Stewart Payne. Although some pre-publication leaflets were handed out at your last RadioDay in 2014 this one appears to have sunk without trace. I had heard that Mr. Payne (a long time Caroline supporter) had been taken ill and work had stopped. My speculation would be that also attempting to communicate with the late Ronan had proved increasingly difficult and inability in bringing forward any new knowledge for publication also meant the project became less worthwhile. Any news on this one Hans?'

I think there's only one person who can answer this question and that is Stuart Payne himself. And as he's also reader to the report it's up to him whether to answer or not.

John again: 'Whilst on the subject of books. I was originally intrigued at the prospect of (Mervyn Haggard/Caroline Brooks) unearthing new facts about Radio Caroline and publishing his work. His long running blog, however, seems to have told most of his story anyway and I think there is a shock in store if he thinks he will sell a lot of copies to offset all his research costs. To be honest, we all know pirate radio wasn't just about playing pop records and that there were business interests and agendas beneath it all some malevolent; some from outside the UK. But I doubt his findings are of sufficient significance to historians and others to generate more than a flicker of general interest if and when it ever gets published.

Anyway, I hope you can help with these items and I look forward to the next edition. Stay safe and good health to you all. John Hogg.'

Next an email from Channel Islands, in this case beautiful Guernsey; 'Hi Hans, I have just been browsing the list of people involved in Offshore Radio Broadcasting and I think the name of John should be Johns, Pete or Johns, Peter a south African who popped up some time around 1975 or 1976 and did several early morning stints on Radio Caroline from 00.00 to 04.00 hours or close down, he had a very laid back presentation style programme and may have been an engineer type fellow which would follow as he seldom was heard on air like Peter Chicago was. (His name is not listed in the Pirate Hall of Fame seventies list HK)

Also Kevin Stuart was David Brown who gave his real name out on his very first ever Radio Caroline programme 02.00 to 05.00 hours back in 1977, the next programme he changed to David Brown. Kevin lives in Guernsey and helped start Island FM with John Tyler and Tony Adams who both started on Radio Caroline just after 1983, also Richard West of Radio Caroline and Voice of Peace is better known as Richard Harding which is his real name who is now managing Island FM in Guernsey Channel Islands. I was a bit surprised to see my name Robert Clancy but my presenter names have been Steve Baker and Steve Roberts back in 1974 to 1989, I became Steve Baker at the time because I was in bakery trade.

Do you mean you were on Caroline with those names? Neither those are listed in the Pirate Hall of Fame. If you can prove you were there you could be listed. Your own name is mentioned as you're one of the people who kept the offshore radio scene alive with the work for Monitor Magazine.

You left out Barry Bridal who also lives in Guernsey who was a RCA transmitter engineer and also did engineering work offshore around 1974, Radio Atlantis? Don Scott of Monitor Magazine fame also did

transmitter engineering work on Radio Atlantis while Andy Anderson was away getting married to Linda Anderson who came back with him to broadcast on Radio Atlantis.

I will go through the Monitor Magazine archives files as I'm sure there are more known names to add to the list, BTW Phillip Birch of Radio London (Big L) was connected to our local ITA Channel Television station and helped get our local commercial television station on the air, he lived in both Jersey and Guernsey.

Mr. Robert Stanley Clancy'

Again some nice photographs taken by Theo Dencker reflecting Sealand have been added to the offshore radio photo archive:

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/offshoreradio/albums/72157705879241595>

'Hi Hans, Chris Brisland again. I thought I would share with you and the readers to your report this video I have made of my 1936 Philco Model 444 valve radio picking up the closedown of BBC Essex on Medium-wave. People who used to listen to Keith Skues' programs on the BBC may well remember that I used to e-mail in to his shows with details of the vintage radio I was using to listen to him on, in what became known as the 'Wireless of the Week' feature. It was thanks to this transmission that I was able to do this, and hear his programs in style. It was also this transmission that broadcast the programs of 'Pirate BBC Essex' on several occasions. So sad that it's gone, but happy memories nonetheless. Video right here:

<https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=1193908377728628>

Thanks a lot Chris very well appreciated. Lots of readers who took the information of your story to themselves surely will watch the video too.

If any one in the readership has a memory to share or maybe found back negatives from years gone by feel always free to send these to

me for publication in the international radio report. Just use HKnot@home.nl

Out in front! A race horse named 'Radio Caroline' wins the 2.40pm race at Haydock on May 21st with odds of 12/1. Radio Caroline' is owned and trained by Mick Channon and is the one on the right side.



Next a story which is a follow up from an earlier one years ago: 'Good morning from South Wales Hans, this is Bill Everatt from Celtica Radio.



The present team of the station Celtica Radio

It's been a while since I last emailed you. I just thought that I'd let you know what an enjoyable read your International Radio Report is.

I'm still keeping very busy, and Celtica Radio is still on air, we have another birthday coming up this month. It seems just a short while ago that we were setting up Celtica Radio. Funny how time flies when you're having fun.

Although several years ago we did feel very sad when Radio Hafren had to close due to the financial situation. This meant the loss of our terrestrial analogue transmission platform too. Of course, we offered all of the people at Radio Hafren, who wanted to continue broadcasting, a place with us. Some decided to retire, some did come across and I'm happy to say we still have a Hafren contingent.



On air Studio

This year, we're celebrating 21 years on air and we are looking forward to our 25th anniversary. We're still in the same ownership and still have some of the original broadcast team. Including Dave Cook, who was the first voice to be heard on Celtica Radio. To celebrate our 20th year on air we had jackets made for all our members. They look very smart. All in dark blue with the Celtica Radio logo in a reflective silver.

I know some people in the broadcasting community dismiss radio stations that broadcast exclusively on the Internet. But we have thousands and thousands of regular listeners from all over the world and a growing database of thousands of artists who have directly contacted us seeking airplay. On the TuneIn Radio App we have many more followers/subscribers than most UK local radio stations! Additionally, we have survived for longer than many traditional radio stations, sustaining our service throughout. So, we must be doing something right. Plus, we have a great relationship with Radio Seagull and even a little bit of cross pollination with them too! I even get to make a couple of shows for them...



756 transmitter

Not bad for a station that the 'qualified experts' said wouldn't last a month!

A couple of years back the team was thrilled to welcome the ex-Swansea Sound Welsh Language presenter Gareth-Wyn Jones, one of

the most experienced Welsh Language broadcasters in the world. Together with Rachel Stock BA [Radio] and Kirsty Green, an extremely talented and knowledgeable Rock Music DJ.

We are making early plans for our 25th anniversary and will announce them much closer to our Air Date of the 21st of June 2025.



Your readers are always welcome to contact us at info@celticaradio.com

Thanks a lot Bill Everatt for updating us on this unique long standing project and up to 25 years 'on air'.

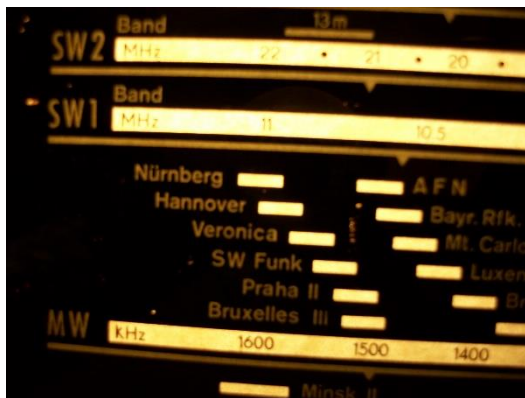
Remember I mentioned the exclusive site with the intensive work from Martin van der Ven with radio-sets with the name of one or more offshore radio stations on the dial? Well the list is growing and there are now 199 sets mentioned

<https://offshore-radio.de/radiosets/list.htm>

And talking about this subject there's more to mention: 'Hello Hans and greetings from the Isle of Wight! Many years ago an old friend of mine gave me a radio gram. After helping me carry it home I noticed it had the woodworm, so it had to go. I kept the radio chassis for a while, then got rid of that too, foolishly. But I kept the glass dial. Much later I gave it a good look and to my surprise, it had

Veronica on it. All I remember is that it was a German set. One day I'll frame it. Back in the day the signal here was only possible during the day being weak, but quite clear especially when it was on 192.

Best Regards Michael



Thanks a lot Michael, a pity the set is not there anymore as it could have been number 200 as this one is not yet in the above mentioned list.

Next an e-mail from Ian Johnston:

'Once again excellent as usual Hans. I am always pleased to read the latest newsletter from you as it brings back memories. Thanks for all your good work. Ian.

Message from Jan Yahu Pawul: 'Oh man! I've lost that sad news of December 2020 and found today April 2021. I cooperated with Sherri if created special blog dedicated to EMP: <http://emperor-rosko.blogspot.com/> as same as her special interview for my book: <http://emperor-rosko.blogspot.com/p/the-difference-between-ignorance-and.html> She was so nice to me and very helpful. I was fascinated her picture with Rosko of '60 - she was sooooo beautiful lady as pop-revolution symbol-girl. Oh man, Oh man! Our world going away with the wind.'

Thanks Jan and take care. Talking about the Emperor here is again from California: 'Hi Hans, another fulfilling lesson in radio history! I always dig deep to find a picture you may not have or used. 90% of the times I fail, so try this one! I know what you mean about busy during Corona, you're not alone radio is one of the rare businesses that has grown during the pandemic. People listen more as they are at home or wanted to be informed.

I have launched Roskoradio via www.emperorrosko.net for fans, it is a collection of shows from covering the last 50 years in mixed rotation. I would never ask for a plug! (Invoice is on the way HK). Keep up the good work and plan on nice evening out if we can ever be on the same continent at the same time!



Alfie and Emperor Rosko. Photo Donated by Emperor Rosko

Rosko's DVD is now available

The Emperor Rosko wants you to go green too, just like his low carbon footprint studio in Hollywood, California and Aqua city in Poprad, Slovakia. Rosko narrates over an hour of his most treasured home movies, showing the rock'n'roll world's first 'world class' DJ, his life and his holidays. See Rosko and his family, in action at BBC Radio One and out on location with thousands of fans; maybe you are on here?

Now here's the chance to see how the Emperor, who is featured in almost every Hans Knot International Radio Report since 2004, doing his things through 6 decades. Join the Emperor Rosko. It's a trip of fun and excitement of Rock & Roll happenings, which can take your breath away.

How to order your own copy of the DVD and other Rosko surprises just go to <https://roskogear.com/>

21 Photos were added to the other ones about Veronica and taken in the seventies of last century by famous photographer Theo Dencker in the Offshore Radio files on Flickr

<https://flickr.com/photos/offshoreradio/albums/72157713565569173/>

After 40 years Ben Bode from the MV Magda Maria as well as Radio Paradijs and more has opened his photobox and part of it is now on our massive Offshore Radio Archive on Flickr:

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/offshoreradio/albums/72157719350500577>



On April 24th UK's Sky was airing a documentary about The Who's iconic 1967 album 'The Who Sell Out'. The television programme was filmed aboard the Ross Revenge, Radio Caroline's radio ship on the River Blackwater, Essex. The documentary is part of the Sky Arts Classic Album series.

The album, 'The Who Sell Out', is a collection of songs interspersed with fake advertisements, supposedly from the offshore station Radio London. The album was released after the Marine Broadcasting Offences Act came into force (14 August), i.e. after Radio London had ceased broadcasting.

For the album, The Who deliberately used Radio London jingles instead of Radio Caroline jingles. If the Who had used Caroline's jingles at that time, that would have been in violation of the Marine Offences Act. After all, Caroline was still on the air via two ships at the time the record appeared, but had been declared illegal by the British authorities.

The film company Eagle Rock Films approached Radio Caroline last year with the question of whether they could film an important part of the documentary on the Ross Revenge. The filming took place in September last year.

One of the studios on the Ross was decorated with props and actor James Harris (photo above) played the role of a DJ from Radio London, all dressed up in hip clothing from the 60s. The film also features interviews with the surviving members of The Who.

From one album to another one: 666 from Aphrodites Child, a memory by Don Stevens:

Tony Allan of Radio fame and the 666 Album from Aphrodites Child actually brought me to Radio Caroline because of Tony's addiction to the album, let me explain. I got to know Tony through Script

Magazine and Nicki Oakley and Tony soon became a regular visitor to my home once he set eyes on my record library, and the first album he pulled out was the double Aphrodites Child '666'. His face was a picture, stunned to see the album, seems he knew of it, never had the chance to enjoy it, which over the next few months he did almost daily, I did smile. He also loved my Thijs van Leer 'Introspections' and Focus 'Moving Waves', Golden Earring's 'Moontan' with the Rader Love Candy's Gone Bad mix (Fab), Blind Faith album, my electronic albums, Earth and Fire and many albums by US bands.



Tony looked so pleased with my collection, remarking one day that for a Top 40 soul, R'n'B and pop DJ I had a record collection that would do an American FM jock proud. One day, Anne my Canadian wife asked me if Tony had asked me to go out to Caroline and I said no he had not as we, she and I, were doing enough Caroline work ashore and that was more valuable and I wondered why she asked?

It seemed that Tony had been asking Anne how she would feel if, in an emergency, I was to go out to the ship and cover if they ever went short of airstaff, and Anne seemed to have said she would not be worried as long as she and Tracy (my daughter) were looked after, and seems that was the end of the conversation, and this took place in October 1974.

Then, one wet and lousy day in December Tony was enjoying dinner with us when he said, across the table to all of us, that Ronan needed to get the guys off the ship and he did not have a replacement air

crew, and Tony said direct to Anne, can you spare Don for a few weeks? Anne looked startled and then asked me if I would go, so I turned to Tony and asked if it was really that bad, and he nodded and said yes, with Christmas and New Year so close the office screwed up on the staff placements. I turned to Anne and answered that if we could make sure she was okay then I'd go to help out, and after all, that would be, for me, a fulfillment of a long held desire, to walk the decks of the Mi Amigo.



Don Stevens on the Voice of Peace 1977
collection Don Stevens

Tony was very quick, and within a week we had everything sorted, Ronan arranged everything for Anne and Tracy through Oonagh so they would have weekly cash payments to cover all outgoings and all that remained was to get Tony and I out to the ship, not easy with Christmas days away, but, at least Ronan had his air crew.

Eventually, after much hassle in France and Belgium through January into February, we, that is, Simon Barrett and myself got to the ship, Tony was so pissed off in Brussels, he gave me all the money and contact list and buggered off to Amsterdam and asked me to get to

the ship. Good old Tony, I got to know that side of him very well over the next 12 years or so.

But, if Tony had not found that '666' album and other classics in my collection I doubt very much if he would have even considered me for a Caroline gig, he heard my shows on Concord and Dynamite and I was very Top 40 and on Dynamite I was jingle jangle with the PAMS, so, not surprised Tony did not see the expected James Brown, Motown and Northern Soul albums he anticipated in my library.

Tony and I worked together later, I hired him for South Coast Radio in 1983, he worked for me in Israel in 1977/78 in clubs, almost got me shot by Shmuel Hoogy the gangster owner of the KARISH (The Shark) dancehall in Ramle after Tony disappeared with his son to Tel Aviv, and Abie Nathan had to get Tony out of Israel whereupon a week later he was aboard the Caroline wearing the latest Voice of Peace T shirt.

He worked with me at Atlantic Sound too and then he asked me to sit in on NOVA breakfast for a few weeks till Chris Cary got a full time replacement for Declan Meehan, and then again, Tony worked with me at my station WLS Galway and he even got involved in the Orbit Radio project for London (still have his voice overs and jingles) but UK legislation stopped that project.



[Tony Allen Soundcapes Archive](#)

So, despite what managers say, I found Tony easy to work with and often a great laugh too, and I know he'd be enjoying the fact that Ford are selling cars with a track off the '666' album.

More excellent photos taken by Theo Dencker are now in the Offshore Radio Archive on Flickr. Two links, one to photos of the Magdalena from Radio Mi Amigo 272 and the other one exclusive material from the Magda Maria and Radio Paradijs

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/offshoreradio/albums/72157719316448613>

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/offshoreradio/albums/72157719371612735>

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. Here's part 2. Part 1 ended with the decision from Ben Toney to leave the Big L organization and going back, together with his wife, to the USA.

Once Ben Toney had gone, Tony Windsor seized the opportunity to press his case for being made Programme Director, but his personal problems and integrity threw some doubt over his suitability for the job. In a surprise move, Alan Keen was appointed to the position.



[Alan Keen Soundscapes archive](#)

"When Ben left I said to Philip, 'I'll carry on being Sales Director and I'll also take on the Programme Director's job.' I was involved and interested in music as a hobby. I used to do sessions with big bands and small bands. Philip agreed and I started meeting people called, 'record pluggers'. Within a few days a guy from Philips came in plugging records. I'd been working with him a couple of months earlier on a gig where he had been playing the tenor (sax). His job was Promotions Manager of Philips. I felt very compatible with music people and I discovered very quickly that it was a very time consuming job. The play-list, the jocks, the promotions - we got very much into promotions - I took all of that on. I then handed over my list of contacts from the sales area to other people. I gave them the biggest agencies I had because I wanted to stay on programming. It was great. I was having a laugh and it's fun. I remained in that position until the very end."

Even before taking over programming, Keen's interest in music was shared with deejays from the ship. "On the week off, Ed Stewart played the bass, Paul Kaye played the guitar and I played the piano. Every third week, on a Sunday morning when they were off, we used to go to Ed's parents' house in Wimbledon and we used to have these jazz sessions. The deejays and the team from the London office would just go there on Sunday mornings and we'd just play and have fun with cans of beer and so on.

In 1964 I wasn't into pop as much as the deejays were. My musical tastes were jazz, but then I started looking into the pop area and quickly discovered there was very good music in the pop charts at that time. Some of it was awful, but some of it was extremely good. Different sounds were coming in, the early Motown sounds were great."

Tony Windsor was rather bitter that he had been passed over in favour of Keen. "TW was disgruntled when Ben left and he didn't get it and I came in. TW was bit of a political animal. He resented me taking over as programmer and accepted it because there was no alternative. We went into a pub and it had just been announced that I was becoming Programme Director. In front of everybody he confronted me and said, 'Okay Alan. How many records are you going to play an hour?' I said, 'Eighteen.' He was trying to embarrass and humiliate me in front of the guys. It didn't work. I was considerably younger than himself and I took over the post that he expected to get because he'd been number two to Ben, but there were reasons."



Curzon Street Photo Collection Bob LeRoi

One reason was the concern over payola. Although nothing was proven, Eddie Blackwell witnessed some strange occurrences. "I think that in that business you've got to be realistic and you've got to recognise an awful lot of bribery and so on, goes on: massive lunches, entertainment and so on. I don't think anyone took any money, but they would sometimes try and get the disc jockeys to play things. I remember one day, a case of champagne arrived at Radlon Sales addressed to Tony Windsor, which we suspected was to encourage him to play a particular record. We left it in the middle of the room because we knew he was coming in. Tony came in and we said, 'Tony, we can't make this out. There's a case of champagne that's just been delivered.' We suspected it came from a record company and we

diverted it back from Harwich as it was going out to the ship. He said, 'I wanted that sent here, this is for you.' He opened the case and started handing out bottles of champagne. I don't think that there was very heavy bribery, but you can bet that in the background the music publishers and the agents were pushing our guys because we were reckoned to be the number-one plug, in the UK."

The late Kenny Everett was targeted by a record company on one occasion. "I was in the office and one of the minions came up, one of the sales-persons, and said some record company, quite a small record company, said, 'We'll give you £150 to play this record.' Something deep inside said, 'Trouble.' I just dropped it and he never mentioned it again."

Alan Keen knew that the station was open to accusations over payola, and he enforced a new regime to stamp out dubious practices, by ensuring that only records he sanctioned were included on the playlist. "It was changed from the day Ben Toney left. When I took over, Tony Windsor would not have had that influence that he had earlier. I didn't trust anybody else of that old clique. The jocks never had any influence on choosing the numbers at all. Tony Windsor never had any influence in my time. I was responsible for that chart and I would take a word of advice or recommendations from other people, but I alone made that decision. The one thing you must remember is that I was absolutely paranoid about payola. Suppose a jock said, 'Hey Alan. I was in London last week and I went to xyz record company and there's a new record I'd like to go with as a climber.' Now and again you could say, 'Yes', but often you would say, 'No'; and why do you have to say no - because of the risk of payola. I'm not suggesting they did take payola, but it was of paramount importance to me."

Dennis Maitland became aware of the issue regarding payola and how Alan Keen dealt with it. "It was reported that payola existed. The people that were reported on that were Ben Toney and Tony Windsor. We found no substance in it, but after that (Ben leaving), certainly

the top 20 was organised by the London office rather than allowing the ship-borne guys to organise the top 20. It was done in conjunction with Alan Keen who made certain there was no question of payola, but certainly there were rumours to that effect. In fact they were more than rumours. There was quite direct accusations about getting into a top 10 for £100 or something. Certainly in the States it had happened and certainly it was implied, and indeed stated, that we were actually taking payola. It wasn't one of the things that we in the front office knew anything about, and there was nobody taking it as we were aware. We were never able to establish that there was any truth in it, but we did take the action that from now on it (the chart), would be planned here in the London office."

Godfrey Morrow was also conscious of the firm grip Keen took on the play-list. "No record went on-air without Alan Keen knowing about it. So if the jocks were silly enough to play a record that wasn't scheduled, they'd get their balls chewed, and Alan, to my certain knowledge, didn't take any payola. He would have been out on the spot. I think there might have been a fair amount going on with other stations. It was fairly rigidly controlled - the records that were played on London - and it was purely by merit."

Mike Lennox noticed the changes that accompanied the appointment of Keen. "I think once Alan took over, the inner relationship of the disc jockeys faltered somewhat. Alan was a businessman and he'd never been in this business before. Toney was the buffer, then when Toney went I think there was bit of a power struggle there. When Toney went things deteriorated I think, in terms of the balance of the disc jockeys. That was my impression. On the other hand I guess I would have to say it depends on what the bottom line was showing. Perhaps he (Keen) improved the bottom line in terms of the profitability of the station. I really wasn't paying a lot of attention to how much was going on, business-wise, with the station. Ben was only there for a short time when I was there. He had a very 'hands off'

sort of approach that I could see. Alan was alright. There was a turning point in there. When Toney left, a lot of the real spirit left."



Mike Lennox and Mitch. Photo Pirate Hall of Fame

Keen quickly had to deal with another change in the organisation, when Earl Richmond departed a week after Ben Toney. Richmond never got along with Tony Windsor, and other members of the team criticised him for being aloof. In the Radio London column, featured in Disc, Richmond wrote: 'I have had to leave Big L for domestic reasons, but I shall continue to freelance for them. My reasons for leaving? I have three youngsters - Stuart (15), Christopher (12) and Martin (8) and the way things are going I was hardly seeing anything of them.'

More another time. Copyright Brian Long 1994.

Well that's all for this issue, more in late August. Have a good summer or winter, wherever you're living on mother earth and enjoy life as good as possible. All mail can be send to HKnot@home.nl