

Hans Knot International Radio Report August/September 2021

Welcome to this summer edition of the report, which a variety of subjects, memories and more. On the other hand it is a very sad issue as at least a handful of radio people passed away during the last two months.

Guus Jansen died Friday 2 July 2021 at the age of 87. A name that will ring a bell with many a radio and by extension offshore radio fan. As a major shareholder of music publisher Strengholt, it was he who believed in a second Dutch-language radio station alongside Radio Veronica in 1971. On 6th of March 1971, the Dutch-language programmes, featuring among others Jan van Veen, Joost den Draaijer and Ferry Maat, could therefore start from the broadcasting ship MEBO II.

Jansen appointed John de Mol Sr. as director. Radio Noordzee Internationaal (RNI) found shelter in the Hofstede in Oud-Bussum (Naarden). It became a mythical place where many years later Radio Noordzee Nationaal, Noordzee FM, the Gouwe Ouwe Zender and nowadays 100%NL and SLAM! were also accommodated. Radio always had a special place in Guus Jansen's heart, and his career with the Dutch-language broadcasts of Radio Luxembourg in the 1960s will not be surprising.

He presented 'Teenager Muziek Parade' (named after the music magazine of the same name) every Sunday afternoon from 13:30 to 14:00 CET. The first broadcast was on 16th of October 1960. The programme also featured Dutch Indo bands such as Electric Johnny and his Skyrockets, The Black Dynamites and, of course, The Tielman Brothers, who were already very successful abroad. This was unique because this music was completely ignored by the Hilversum stations, much to the anger of the fans.

Jansen also held the scepter for Muziek Parade. This teenage monthly magazine organised talent shows for young artists. Guus Jansen managed to become an indispensable person at Strengtholt. And he acquired an important package of shares, usually at the forefront of the publishing business. He was active in acquiring copyrights, the rights to songs. He was, in the good sense of the word, a handy guy, a driving force. He drove around in a big American car.



Photo Chris Smeekes and Guus Jansen jr. copyright René van Abeelen.

Janssen and Strengtholt (founded in 1928) have always been farsighted in a rapidly changing media landscape. Innovation and flexibility were and still are important factors. Not much is known about Guus Jansen. In one of the few interviews conducted during the 75th anniversary of the company in 2003, he explained why:

"My choice of anonymity has always been a pragmatic one. There was simply no reason for me to appear in the media and if I didn't have to, I didn't feel like it. I have experienced at close quarters with many people what a burden it can be to be a public figure and constantly be in the spotlight. If Strengtholt had gone public, which

we were seriously considering doing about ten years ago, things would have been different. As a top manager, you'd have to do that.

Guus Jansen sr., became general manager of A.J.G. Strengholt's Uitgeversmaatschappij N.V. in 1966. In 2003, he resigned as chairman of Strengholt's Board of Directors. Among other things, he was responsible for the magazine Muziek Parade. He made his fortune with the sale of this magazine. As a man behind the scenes, Guus Janssen played a significant role in the development of the (commercial) media in the Netherlands (and beyond).

with thanks to Tom Bremer.

Next an e mail from Andrew Emmerson, who wrote: 'Well done, Hans! This was one of the most varied and fascinating reports ever! I wonder how old The Emperor Rosko is. Let's look it up on Wikipedia... 78! He is very well preserved for that age!'

Thanks Andrew he will read your compliment and just after your e mail came in there was another one from LA: 'Hi Salutes to you Hans. Your report suddenly arrives and brings all work to a standstill! We all laugh and cry over the nuggets you dig up. I am in your report a lot because I am still a pirate at heart! I will pick out your 'memory maker' of the month to comment on! Essex /BBC and the dropping of their signals, as you say a crying shame, but it happens in the name of budgets and progress.

Breaking it down into Essex (a beautiful place to rock) and BBC author /DJ Ray Clark, my former PD and current mate. I am sending you a picture I am sure you have never seen, Ray and I when we were Essex FM and the AM banger, The Breeze! I had a great time doing BBC Essex pirate week and made and met many fans. The last great bastion of real love of music and pirates, so sorry to see them vanish.



THE OFFSHORE RADIO YEARS RE-VISITED (NEW SERIES)
 Volume 17 - Radio Caroline Story - The English Years (1974-1980)

THE OFFSHORE RADIO YEARS re-visited - VOLUME SEVENTEEN

THE OFFSHORE RADIO YEARS re-visited
volume seventeen
The Radio Caroline Story
The English Years 1974-1980

New series

Blu-ray Disc

NORY DVD-17

THE OFFSHORE RADIO YEARS re-visited

Ronan O'Rahilly DJs on deck - September 1978 19-3-1980

THE OFFSHORE RADIO YEARS REVISITED Volume 17
RADIO CAROLINE STORY - The English Years 1974-1980

When the Dutch government passed their Marine Offences Act in 1974, the offshore radio stations off their coast all closed – except for Radio Caroline, which upped anchor and sailed back to a position off the English coast.

The British government, who thought they'd seen the last of offshore radio, some years before, were not happy, and so began a dark period, of persecution and prosecution of Radio Caroline, and those associated with her.

Radio Caroline's album format drew a huge audience across the UK and Europe, enhanced by Radio Mi Amigo, that shared airtime on the MI Amigo.

The radio ship MI Amigo, was however showing her age, and plugging holes in her leaking hull became more of a regular occurrence. On the 16th March 1980, she broke her anchor chain and began drifting. Caught on a sandbank the hull was damaged and the ship began leaking. This time the ship began to fill with water, that the pumps couldn't control.

The Sherrens (she) rescued the crew, and a short while later the MI Amigo sank beneath the waves. Many people thought this was the end of Radio Caroline, but it was to be merely a break in transmission, before a new era of offshore radio was to begin.

This documentary looks at the story of Radio Caroline from 1974, until the MI Amigo sank in 1980.

This DVD is part of the series - The Offshore Radio Years - which looks at the history of offshore radio around the world, including those in Scandinavia, off the Dutch and English coast, and off the USA, New Zealand and Israel.
 For details of other offshore radio DVD's, visit www.offshoreonhous.com, or write to Offshore Exho's, PO Box 1514, London W7 2JJ, England.

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that shared airtime on the Mi Amigo. By 1980, the Mi Amigo, was showing her age, and plugging holes in her leaking hull became a regular occurrence. When in March that year she broke her anchor chain and began drifting, her hull was damaged on a sandbank. The ship began leaking and filling with water, that the pumps couldn't control. The Sheerness lifeboat rescued the crew, and a short while later the Mi Amigo sank beneath the waves. Many people thought this was the end of Radio Caroline, but it was to be merely a break in transmissions, before a new era of offshore radio was to begin. This documentary DVD/Blu-ray looks at the story of Radio Caroline from 1974, until the Mi Amigo sank in 1980.

Duration of this DVD/Bluray: 120 minutes. [Click here for details:](#)

<https://www.offshoreechos.com/DVD.htm>

The Offshore Radio Guide commenting:

'For me, the period from 1974 to 1980 was Caroline's best ever, especially because of their album music format and presenters like Stevie Gordon, Ed Foster, Martin Fisher, Tom Hardy, Stuart Russel, Mark Lawrence, Richard Thompson and Mike Stevens (to name but a few).

Hand on heart: Can you remember any video recordings of Radio Caroline from that time? Or good quality photos? Now you have the opportunity to take a nostalgic trip back in time to almost 50 years ago. Francois, Chris and Bill from OEM have undoubtedly made the best of the difficult situation that there is indeed very little film footage in good quality. For decades, everything literally played only in our ears. Now we have the opportunity to get to know the faces behind the voices. The now released film has become a two-hour-long surprising bombardment of countless photos, video clips, historical recordings and everything else that shaped those years.

I guarantee for wistful goosebumps feelings. In other words, this

DVD/Blu-ray is indispensable for any offshore radio fan. All respect, the people from OEM have done a super job (again!).'

Martin van der Ven

On July 2nd was another passing away within the offshore family. This message came in at Facebook from Mike Davies (Coconut): 'Very shocked to hear tonight that my old shipmate Mike Craig has passed away. I worked with him quite a few times on Radio Caroline. The first time being that scary winter of 1987/88 when a handful of us kept the Ross Revenge crewed and broadcasting. Without Mike's efforts, the station would not have stayed on the air during that period. I will remember him for the varied conversations we had, especially one when he professed to know nothing about the then current Middle East situation, and we had a very long discussion that continued through the night. His veggie curries were pretty good, and I remember how we kept testing one as it slowly cooked, and how Mike added various spices so that when we finally got to eat it in the early hours it was of the truly lip burning variety!

RIP Mike, I have nothing but fond and interesting memories of time spent in your company.' On the internet pages from the Pirate Hall of Fame you can read about his wonderful career:

<https://www.offshoreradio.co.uk/djs8w2z.htm#watts>

Another sad message in the afternoon of Wednesday July 7th from Spain, which came from Juliana Meehan: 'Wally Meehan passed away last night. It was unexpected even though he had Parkinson's Disease for a long time. But he was not too good in health for the last few weeks. For those who did not follow the radio scene in the sixties I can mention that Wally worked for a short period on Radio Caroline North. But he did not stay too long on the radio ship Fredericia, due to the introduction from the Marine Offences Act in August 1967.

Many years ago he met up with Jon Myer - from the Pirate Hall of Fame - on the Isle of Man when Wally still had the ability to tell his interesting life story:



Wally Meehan in the sixties photo collection PHofF.

"Before I joined Radio Caroline North, I was a guitarist and vocalist with the 'Nevada Showband' in Ireland. We toured all over the world - Las Vegas was the one of the highlights. I left the band after the tour of the U.S.A. I tried to get another band together in Dublin but it did not work out. I then moved to London, where I was in a trio. Again, we travelled a lot."

During travelling he had also the possibility to tune into Radio and soon he was a lover of Radio Caroline and decided to contact the station in London. "Not long after, I was asked to drop in for a chat, which naturally I did. I did three interviews and it was there I met (station founder) Ronan O'Rahilly. We got on very well. He remembered me from the showband days in Ireland. The week I got married, a letter arrived for me to collect my flight tickets from London Airport. That was the beginning of my Radio Caroline days.

I was given a big welcome on board by all the DJs. I remember they played a record called *Five Little Fingers*. I just could not believe I was part of the famous Radio Caroline crew. That day was the best day of my life. It is one of the best moves I ever made. The worst day was when we had to leave the ship due to the Labour government, who pulled the plug on the pirate ships."

When the deejays and technicians, who decided to leave the Fredericia when the MOA became law it was Ronan O'Rahilly who was in Liverpool to welcome the 'crew': "On the flight back to London Ronan spoke very little. It had hit him very hard. I remember, he also had an arm in plaster. After that I joined another band and also became an international DJ. I cut a single in 1981 called *I Ran All The Way Home*. It made no.25 on the Radio Dublin chart."

But the love for radio stayed and Wally came with the idea of an in store radio station, an idea which came over from the USA and was in Great Britain introduced by United Biscuit, to get more pleasure working in the factory. Wally again: "I suggested it to the Tesco branch in Northampton shopping centre as that was their flagship store. They agreed it was a good idea so I was one of the first in-store radio DJs in the U.K. I stayed with Tesco for 20 years."

But there came an end to living in England and Wally Meehan and his lovely wife Juliana decided a change in lifestyle. Wally about Spain: "It is great here. I was asked to join a new radio station that had just started called TKO-FM, here on the Costa Blanca. It was great to be in from the very beginning and was known on the air as Tony Moore."

Wally Meehan joined us a few times during the RadioDays in Amsterdam. In 2012 he was in a special panel called: The Big Wide Wonderful World of Radio Caroline North, where he was joined by former colleagues like the late John Aston, Mark Sloane, Roger Scott, Alan Turner and Andy Wint, with moderator Paul Rawley.

After that Wally Meehan made a surprise performance by singing 'The Ballad of Radio Caroline', which he had specially composed for the 2012 edition of the RadioDay in Amsterdam. Also two years later, during the last big event in 38 years, he and Juliana were part of the big Radioday family.



Wally Meehan at Radioday 2014. Photo Alan Milewczyk

Dear Juliana: Although we have known for many years that your beloved husband Wally suffered from the dreaded Parkinson's disease, we were shocked to read that he passed away. It has been of great value that you Juliana in all those difficult years Wally optimally assisted and cared for. We hope you have the strength to bear the sad loss and that all the beautiful memories are cherished. You are certainly in our thoughts. Hans Knot.

A very sad period in the radio world as also Dennis Jason has died. Martin van der Ven remembers him: 'On the 9th of July 2021 Dennis Jason passed away far too early having suffered from a long term cancer. Dennis had been a radio enthusiast for many years, having participated in early years with the land pirates South East Sound and Radio Jackie. In 1986, times dawned for him on the high seas when he was heard on Radio Caroline from the MV Ross Revenge in May and again later in the year.

In 1987 he joined the engineering team on board the MV Communicator, which by now was used by Laser Hot Hits 576. At

both offshore stations Dennis proved to be multi-talented and an all-important force. Dennis was a technician and deejay, but also an ambitious photographer and filmmaker who sometimes climbed to the top of the transmission masts.

Later, Dennis worked at ILR station Mellow 1557 and participated in the RNI revival broadcasts from LV 18 in 1999 and 2000. All his colleagues agree that Dennis was, above all, a valued employee who left a lasting impression with his quiet, modest, obliging, hardworking and reliable manner. Hans Knot and I met him several times at our RadioDays in Amsterdam when he accompanied Ray Anderson and helped him with his EAP sales booth.



Hans and Dennis 2017 Photo Martin van der Ven

Then most recently in 2017 we talked to him in Harwich on the occasion of the Pirate-BBC-Essex broadcasts to mark the 50th anniversary of the MOA. A pleasant, friendly contemporary who will be extraordinarily missed, especially by many radio friends. RIP Dennis.

Martin van der Ven

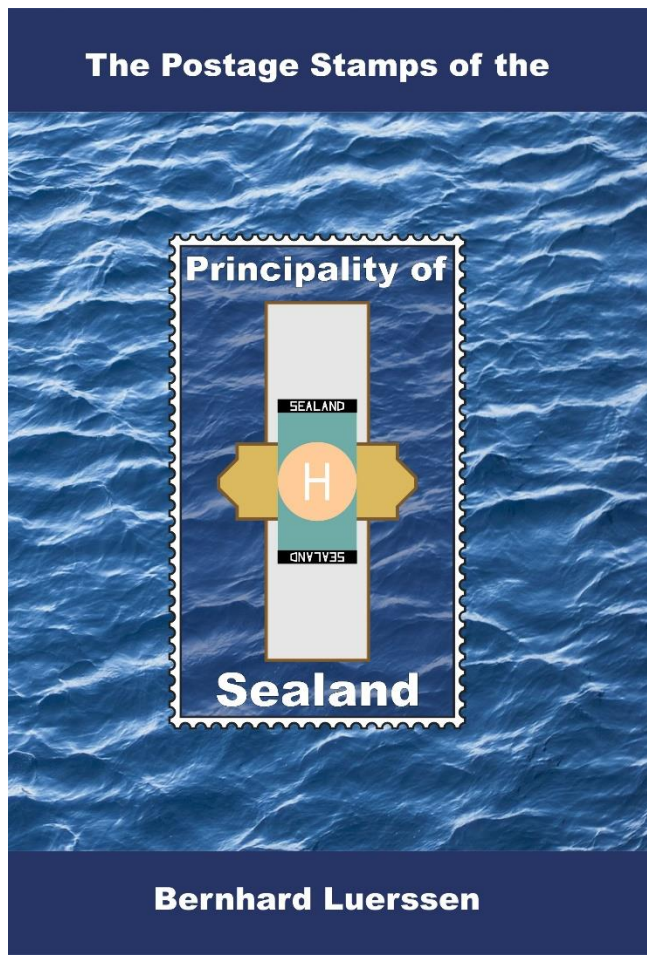
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dOue5QPc9nc>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9r-CuL3CWc0>

A Boat trip to the Maunsell Sea Forts on June 3rd 2021 was made by Steve Szmidt and he took many marvelous photographs giving a very

detailed view of how the forts are there since the early 40's of last century. Have a look at 246 photo's here:

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/offshoreradio/albums/72157719565689645>



Sealand Souvenirs by Bernhard Luerssen

In 1978, a strange report on German TV caught my eye. There had been a coup d'etat in Sealand. 'Where on earth is that', I thought.

My interest in extraordinary corners of the globe had found a new focus. Not much could be researched easily in those dark pre-Internet days. What made it highly interesting for me as an active ham radio enthusiast was the fact that Sealand was (at the time) undisputable located well outside the UK territorial waters.

So three friends and I approached Prince Roy for permission and transmitter license to get Sealand 'on the air' on the ham radio bands. Soon an agreement was reached, and were happy to spend 6 days working away in Sealand on all available bands. More than 3000 contacts were made, from Felixstowe to New Zealand. Crown Prince Michael and his team made the stay remarkable and unforgettable.

Back home, I tried to find out as much as possible about Sealand, and also about other places on Earth fighting for recognition of their sovereignty. A truly vast field to cover. In the process, I began to acquire all postage stamps Sealand had ever issued. This includes overprints, First Day Covers, printing errors, stamp dealers' information sheets, rejected drafts for stamp issues and a number of other facts and details.

Having assembled quite a complete collection, even if it will never be truly complete, my thoughts turned to publishing. The result is a 55-page, full colour brochure about Sealand and their stamps. A few pages on the country are followed by a very detailed look at issues, colours, perforation types and postmarks.

If any of the readers should be interested, the brochure is 20 Euros including postage. Feel free to contact me at tardis@gmx.li for details.

Next sad news comes from Paul Rusling: 'A dear old anorak pal Michael Pearson died last week (July 13th) in Cyprus where he was living with his Latvian wife Irina. Michael was well known as a Yorkshire DJ, who was a good pal of Daffy Don Allen. Don took him out to the MEBO II on a few occasions and he presented several programmes, usually as Michael Johns in 1972/1973.

I didn't have much information about his RNI shows until I got one of Greg Bance's lovely long letters this morning in which he mentions the programmes that Michael hosted on RNI, as he followed him on

the air. I think Michael was another whose career was cut short by the seasickness.

For the last 5 or ten years he had been in hospitality, with apartments in Cyprus - as advertised on Radio Caroline. The only picture I have of him has me on it, though I'm sure that can easily be cropped? (below)

Michael had recently endured some surgery for cancer but was looking forward to visiting us again in September. He is being flown back to the UK and his funeral is on 11th August at the Wood Dale Crematorium in Eland, West Yorkshire.'

Thank you Paul for sharing this sad news.

Well time to see what Jon Myer has for surprises: 'Hi, I have just updated The Pirate Radio Hall of Fame.

New this month:

- Ray Clark interviews 80s Caroline DJ (and intrepid mast-climber) Peter Philips;
- we have a 1966 article from *The Observer* about Radio London and Radio Caroline South;
- there is a Spotify playlist of a Radio Caroline Top 50 from May 1964;
- news of a podcast about sixties offshore radio;
- and we say goodbye to six members of the offshore radio family who sadly passed away during July.

My thanks, as ever, to all this month's contributors. Best wishes,

Jon www.offshoreradio.co.uk

Next is an answer from Stewart Payne on John Hogg his question in last report: 'In your June/July Radio Report you asked if I could respond to a query raised by your correspondent John Hogg, and I am pleased to be able to

do so. John is well informed. I was working on a book covering the pirate radio era and I did have leaflets to hand out at the Radio Day

in 2014. And he is correct when he said he thought I had been taken ill and work had stopped. However, I am pleased to say the book has not 'sunk without trace'. At least, I hope not. As for his speculation that communications with Ronan was becoming increasingly difficult and that may have also posed a problem, that was certainly true. For a start Ronan was suffering from the early stages of vascular dementia and would not have been able to be of much assistance.

And, despite knowing Ronan well since 1977 and his assurance to me that "if anyone is going to tell the real story of Radio Caroline, it should be you", that was never going to be easy. Not with Ronan! But this was not a major issue as the book was intended to examine the political and cultural landscape into which Radio Caroline emerged, its impact on those areas as well as the shenanigans that went on behind the scenes.

I started writing about Radio Caroline when I arrived in Fleet Street in 1977. Ronan and many of his 'inner circle' became friends and I had many long - sometimes very long - conversations with him over the years, so I had a lot of material to draw from. And although Radio Caroline and Ronan would be a major part of the book, it was not exclusively about either.

There are many excellent books on Radio Caroline, not least the one written by Ray Clark, but I wanted to take a different approach and write a book that was "as story of its time and place", which would appeal to a mainstream audience, young as well as older, and backed by an agent and mainstream publisher. Things were going well. I had a highly-regarded literary agent and we were talking to publishers. I had 12 chapters under my belt, some great interviews that revealed new material, interviews with Ronan's old friends and family, girlfriends, politicians, bands and other major players in the 1960s.

Then two things happened to bring everything to a halt. Firstly one of my oldest and closest friends became terminally ill with

lung cancer. And my book went 'on hold' as we took him to various alternative clinics up and down the country and nursed him as his health rapidly deteriorated. After his death I had many things to catch up on.

Then, just as I planned to revisit my book and pick up where I left off, I was diagnosed with stage 3 oesophageal cancer. August this year marks five years since this diagnosis. After heavy doses of chemotherapy, I was operated on in January 2017, followed by more chemotherapy. I have been remarkably fortunate and I am still here.

So where does all of this leave the book? I hope you can see that it has been a tough time and I had little or no time to devote to writing. But I am back on it now, nudging it along, and after a summer break I plan to be back on it full time. I no longer have an agent, so to a great extent I will be starting all over again. But I promise it has not sunk without trace. I will keep Hans informed on my progress. '

Thanks a lot Stewart and I'm very thankful for the fact you were so open with your answers. I've forwarded them to John and he came back with: 'Hi Hans, many thanks for advance copy of Stewart's explanation. Please pass on my thanks and best wishes to Stewart for his future health and good fortune to complete what is obviously an important project for him.

Best wishes to you also and I look forward to reading the next Radio Report. Kind regards John Hogg.'

In the second week of August the podcast from the History Channel had pirate radio in the sixties as a subject with great help from Jon Myer: <https://play.acast.com/s/historythisweek/popmusicpirates>

August 10th 1968, almost a year after introduction of the Marine Offences Act, Dutch newspaper 'Het Parool' brought an article about rumours concerning pirate radio. One was that Radio Caroline could possibly return on the air. Ronan O'Rahilly would get help from John Lennon who owned a private island off the Irish West Coast. Another mentioning was that Radio Basildon was already for a month on air. They claimed a listenership from 120.000 people. The station was daily on the air from midnight till 06.00 in the morning.

A comment on this by Paul Bailey: 'Radio Basildon was a pirate cable station that existed for a while from a house in Tilney Turn, Basildon. The operators of the station broke into the wiring of the Rediffusion cable TV and radio service which was provided free to all households in Basildon by the Basildon New Town Development Corporation. The station was quickly silenced and the perpetrators of this outrage were prosecuted under the wireless telegraphy act of 1949. In a second attempt to get onto the cable system, a transmitter was placed adjacent to the receiving aerial that received Radio Luxembourg for rebroadcasting on the Cable, and which hijacked reception of Luxembourg and replaced it with another signal. The Cable system was sold to The Daily Mirror's Robert Maxwell who renamed it Maxwell Cable and started charging £10 a month for the service which had been free. All the subscribers dropped it and the system is now defunct.'

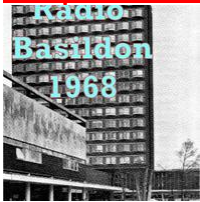
On our SMC Facebook spot Mike Barraclough commented with: 'In 1967 John Lennon bought a small island off the County Mayo coast Dorinish. A year later on 22nd of June John went off on an expedition by helicopter to Dorinish with a small group that included his new partner Yoko Ono and Ronan O'Rahilly. During their trip they viewed Achill Island with Robert Shaw, the late actor. They had dinner at the Amethyst Hotel in Keel. They then visited Dorinish Island in the company of Ronan O'Rahilly, former head of the ship-based pirate radio station, Radio Caroline, who had become a member of the Apple staff. The party stayed at the Great Southern Hotel.'" The Daily

Mirror mentioned this visit on it's front page, no mention of a radio station being thought about from there. That's where the rumour must have come from, unless there's an exact quote somewhere. Quote from a detailed blog about the island and John Lennon's connection to it.

<http://lennoncaravan.blogspot.com/2009/10/dorinish.html>

Radio Basildon information also on the Radio Kaleidoscope (Essex) website with 12 minute recording.

<http://www.bookamook.com/.../paul-southgate-radio-basildon/>



Email from the USA with an interesting subject: 'Good evening, and welcome to *Radio Free Alcatraz*. This is John Trudell, welcoming you on behalf of the Indians of All Tribes, from Indian Land Alcatraz Island.' Just a segment of an illegal radio program in 1969. Mentioned is a very interesting article about this station, which you can read here: <https://getpocket.com/explore/item/the-pirate-radio-broadcaster-who-occupied-alcatraz-and-terrified-the-fbi> with thanks to AJ Janitscheck



July 9th came the sad news that Jack Curtiss died in Seattle. I asked Look Boden, who worked together with him to write some memories:

Jack Curtiss in 2009

At the beginning of November 1966, there was a small article in the Dutch newspaper Telegraaf about a new Dutch radio station. It was to provide Dutch broadcasts from a ship anchored in international waters somewhere off the coast of Harwich.

The management had holed up in an Amsterdam hotel looking for new Dutch DJs. At that time, I was already a fanatic radio freak who made recordings for Veronica and Phonogram and later a radio programme about various artists in the country, so I was already somewhat infected with the radio virus.

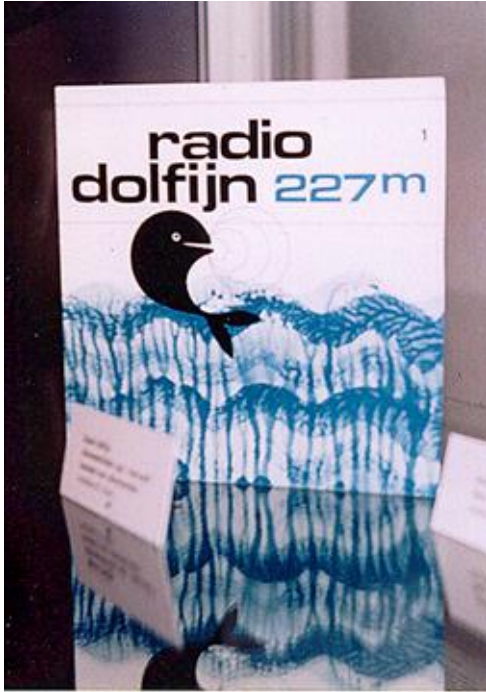
I wrote (without my parents knowing) a short note and sent it to that hotel. In response, I was phoned up and asked to come to Amsterdam for a vocal test. That is where I met Jack Curtiss for the first time. A, in my eyes, tall stately and extremely friendly man of around 23 who, as it turned out, was already a well-known DJ. He had been hired to sample new DJs together with, among others, the South African Basil van Rensburg.

After I had done the test recordings with a Coca Cola commercial etc. I had to wait in the lobby. A little later, Jack came down the stairs and asked me if I wanted to work for their new station.

Because I was still a minor (I was 19 at the time) and studying at the conservatory, I had to ask my parents if I could go. My parents were there within the hour and so the talks with Jack were held that resulted in my being allowed on board the planned new offshore station Radio Dolfijn (14-11-1966 - 28-2-1967).

Jack was our manager on board; he taught us the trade of DJ in the English style, especially the easy-listening style. It was my first life experience to make radio independently (without technicians) on a

real radio station. He brought it quietly and was in my eyes, but also in the eyes of the others (Lex Harding, Tom Collins and others.) the man who gave us the chance to start a great radio career.

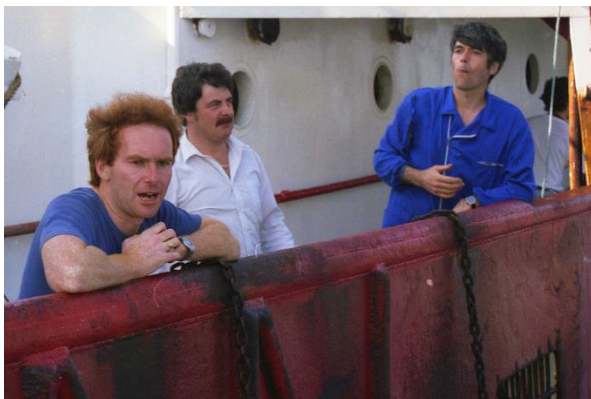


After Radio Dolfijn changed its format and became Radio 227 (the first real Dutch pop station) Jack suddenly disappeared and we had no contact for a long time.

Years ago I met him again through social media and we often spoke on the phone and he wrote the foreword to the book "Radio Waves".

A good friend has passed away...78 years. Look Boden.'

Thanks a lot Look and the intro for your book will be published in the report later this year.



A mystery person on above photograph. On the left it's Jan Veldkamp from Radio Monique on the right Peter Chicago but who's the person in the middle. Maybe one of you can help, I asked in the SMC FB group and several suggestions were done. Most people thought that it was a visitor to the ship but the right answer came from Paul Graham, who wrote: ' Its Dave who came out to run the Viewpoint service he was known has "Dave The God Father" a lovely guy I was there at the time summer 1987.'



Jackie Lee and Dave the Godfather peeling potatoes. Photo: Paul Graham

Remember in last issue there was a question about a Japanese movie crew which visited the Ross Revenge in 2017 for a special on NHK, the Japanese Broadcasting Company? Well we got an answer for Japan and Terje Isberg who wrote: 'My brother-in-law managed to record the second part of the documentary. NHK refused to send me copies due to copyright. It was recorded on a Blu-ray device and I have watched it. However, I have tried to copy it without success. If you have any hints how to rip the file, please let me know!'

Since this e mail from Terje several other mails were exchanged with people including with Per Allerud in Sweden who wrote, amongst other info, In 2017 I was approached by a lady in London UK who was working for a company, Don Productions Ltd. London. They wanted to use 'my film' from the offshore trip in 1967 taken by Maths Lindgren: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XH8kDs8LdXI> 'The production is being produced by AZMAX for the NHK and currently only to be broadcast in Japan.' is what she wrote.



Well, this was before Terje had moved to Japan, so he gave his brother in law the date on which to record this program. Which he did. But they use an encryption system in Japan, so you can only watch the program on the same set where it was recorded. But Terje managed to do some screen shots from the program and the picture above is one of them. He was going to visit his brother in law again and see if he still has that recording. That's what I know so far of this program. It's quite odd that they are interested in Sealand and the 1960's pirates in Japan.'

In one of the following e mails a link was given by Terje: The production company is Azmax. Try this link for the video:

<https://nyaa.si/view/1137108>

Well today, June 29th, I didn't succeed in downloading while Martin van der Ven succeeded getting down 91% and wrote: 'In the meantime

I have succeeded in downloading 91% of the file with moderate quality using the torrent link that Terje has sent us. The video is therefore still faulty and I will try again tomorrow. But it doesn't seem really special, 30 minutes with the big focus on Sealand.'

That same afternoon a photo was received from Ray Clark, who was originally asking in last report for this Japanese special and sent a photo taken in 2017 when the Japanese crew came to visit the Ross Revenge.



Photo: collection Ray Clark

By the way Per Allerud translated the Japanese title which is: 'A huge giant construction that rises above the sea.'

Next Tony from the Netherlands:

'Hello Hans, in the July Radio Report I read a piece about David Hebditch and the alleged spying activities of RNI. At the end of the nineties I had contact with David, because he had posted names of, amongst others, Dutch RNI employees on Norman Barrington's page. I gave a little more interpretation to that.'

When I was in contact with him, I came up with the idea of searching the documents and reports of the Council of Ministers in the National Archives in The Hague to see whether RNI had ever been discussed. Although these minutes are classified as 'highly secret', they can now be consulted in the National Archives. RNI was indeed discussed by the NL ministers in 1971. There is even half a page written down about it. At the time, Mr. Geertsema was the Minister for Home Affairs and responsible for the BVD.

I noticed that this subject was not on the agenda, but fell under 'announcements'. I can't remember the exact content, but it came down to the fact that RNI had acted wrongly, etc. I think that was all David Hebditch had at the time, apart from a pile of suspicions. He took it to a producer to raise funds for a documentary. The financiers were not interested and the project ended.

After 50 years, no suspicion has ever been substantiated, but the fact that the Dutch Council of Ministers discussed RNI in an official meeting makes me scratch my head.

N.B.1 You should read the text yourself. They were the minutes of a meeting held shortly after Andy Archer's accusations, in any case in the spring of 1971.

N.B.2 Don't understand why it never occurred to anyone to look in those minutes. Good day, kind regards, Tony from the Netherlands.'

Thanks Tony for bringing us your reflections on this subject.

On Guernsey is a very happy Robert as he wants to thankfulness to be published in the international radio report: 'I would like to thank Radio Mi Amigo International for sending me my T-Shirt very quickly, I've also sent Lion Keezer station manager an email to say it has arrived. I wanted to say a public thank you to the station for the very fast order dispatch which is a record of 4 days from ordering to arrival in Guernsey Channel Islands.

It has put faith back into me for ordering from stations like Radio Mi Amigo International, other stations take notice! I received a reply from Lion Keezer a short while ago thanking me for letting him know and my interest in the station. More people should try Radio Mi Amigo International on short wave 6085 kHz and online, great music and great staff announcers too.

Robert Stanley Clancy Guernsey Channel Islands

<http://www.radiomiamigo.international/nederlands/shop.html#bestel>



Update from our big photo archive: Communicate 88 in Blackpool

© all 58 pictures: Theo Dencker. Organised by Anoraks UK (Ruth and Barrie Johnston) and Monitor Magazine (Penelope Page) and held in Blackpool on 24th September 1988, the Free Radio Convention "Communicate 88" attracted many offshore radio personalities, amongst them Allan Weiner (Radio NewYork International), John Catlett (Laser 558), Carl Kingston (VoP, Caroline), Peter Clark, Paul Graham, Ian Mack, Roger Mathews, Ian Akers, Stuart Clark, Judy Murphy, Steve Conway (all Caroline), John Dwyer (Caroline, Atlantis),

Dave Shearer=Dave Ellis (VoP, Caroline), Colin Peters (Monique) and Peter Madison (City). Last but not least Barrie Johnston (Anoraks UK) proudly presented their famous frame loop medium-wave aerial.

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/offshoreradio/albums/72157719514768223>

Thanks a lot Martin to scan all these and more and bringing into the archive.

Brian Long part 3 from his Radio London files. Last time we ended with more about programming and presenters in spring 1966 and we go further with: Earl Richmond's exodus and the extension of broadcasting hours made it imperative that disc jockeys were recruited immediately. The first appointment that Alan Keen made was Chris Denning, who joined the station on 18th April.

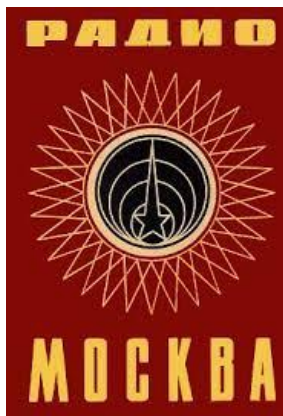
Chris years ago: "I was always fascinated by radio from the age of eight. I used to write off to foreign stations and listen to short wave radio. At the age of thirteen I started writing to an American station and my first broadcast was on this American radio station in New York, WRUL, which came from Boston. They were the only short wave, commercial radio station in America. (changed soon over to WNYW).



I kept writing to the deejay and pestering him. Eventually, by chance, he came on holiday to England. He happened to mention it on his broadcast. I wrote and asked him when he was coming and went up to London Airport because I lived nearby. My father came with me and

my father ended up being friendly with him. So we started being quite friendly with the guy and he eventually came over and stayed with us. He interviewed me, so my very first broadcast was on an American radio station. My next broadcast was on Radio Moscow.

"Having listened to short wave radio I had listened to and written to Radio Moscow. When I was sixteen, I got involved with an expedition that was doing, supposedly, some filming all over Russia, in the days when it wasn't easy to go in there. The idea was that it would then be exploited by means of a lecture tour of the States and Canada. I joined this guy who was doing this and we ended up in Moscow. I thought, 'Oh well I'm in Moscow. I've written to Radio Moscow', so I went along to the radio building. It was surrounded by armed guards and things, but by a mixture of sign language and guile I managed to persuade them to let me in. I met the English people on the English service. I was there in Moscow for three weeks and they gave me a series of programmes daily. It wasn't political or anything, it was just a tourist thing where I was provided with a car, an interpreter, a chauffeur and a recording engineer.



Small recording machines needed an engineer in those days, and we drove round Moscow to all the various famous sites and I recorded my impressions of them. I lied to get the job there. I told them I was a well known child broadcaster in England and I'd broadcast on American radio as well. They were very impressed with all this. The English bit was a complete figment of my imagination. I sent a

telegram to my parents in England and they heard me on Radio Moscow and they were very thrilled by that.

More about Radio London another time in the Hans Knot International Radio Report.

Mid August where the Offshore Days in Belgium. A photo serie by Jan Sundermann is now in our Offshore Radio Archive:

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/offshoreradio/albums/72157719709522809>

44 years Radio Caroline was celebrated in 2008 on the Ross Revenge and photos made by Vincent Schriel are now in our archive:

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/offshoreradio/albums/72157719723590431>

That ends this edition of the Hans Knot International Radio Report. More in October. Memories, questions and more can be send to me by using: HKnot@home.nl