

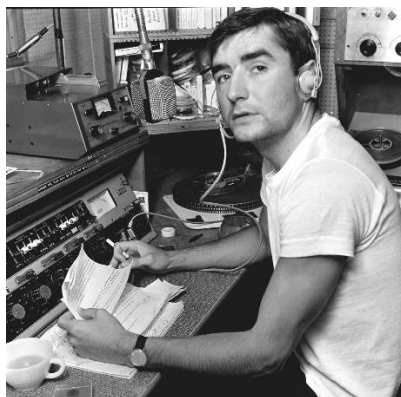
Hans Knot International Radio Report

Autumn 2021

Halfway the first autumn period it's time to read another international radio report. I hope you all doing fine and maybe those autumn days brings the possibility for you to write some own memories and more. For those living in those parts of the world, where it's now springtime the above one counts too. Well in this issue several longer and shorter contributions and let's start with a long one, which came in from Canada and the former Caroline's Steve Young:

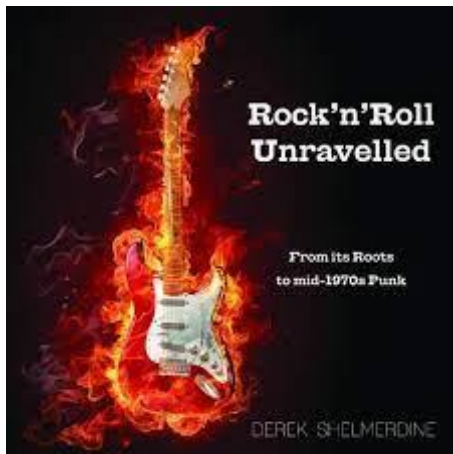
'Hello Hans, as always, thanks so much for your always interesting International Radio Report, which I eagerly look forward to receiving and reading. I saw the mention of the History Channel podcast about Radio Caroline, which I was pleased to be a part of. Like so many remembrances of those heady days, it gave me a great deal of pleasure to share my memories with the producer and I'm glad it was posted on a number of podcast sites, to be heard by many new audiences who may never have heard about the Pirate stations.

Like your International Radio Report, it keeps the memories alive and spreads the history of those heady days to the young folks who, for the most part, have little or no knowledge of how the Pirate Stations changed the course of radio broadcasting history.



Steve Young Photo: David Kendrid collection

On another matter, I just received a terrific book about the history of rock 'n roll, from its roots until the 70's. This is a book that everyone in, or interested in, the music industry should obtain. I just got my copy and wish that I'd had it available to me during my radio daze. It's chock full of really well-organized info and stories about the rock movement from it's early days, thru' the 70's.



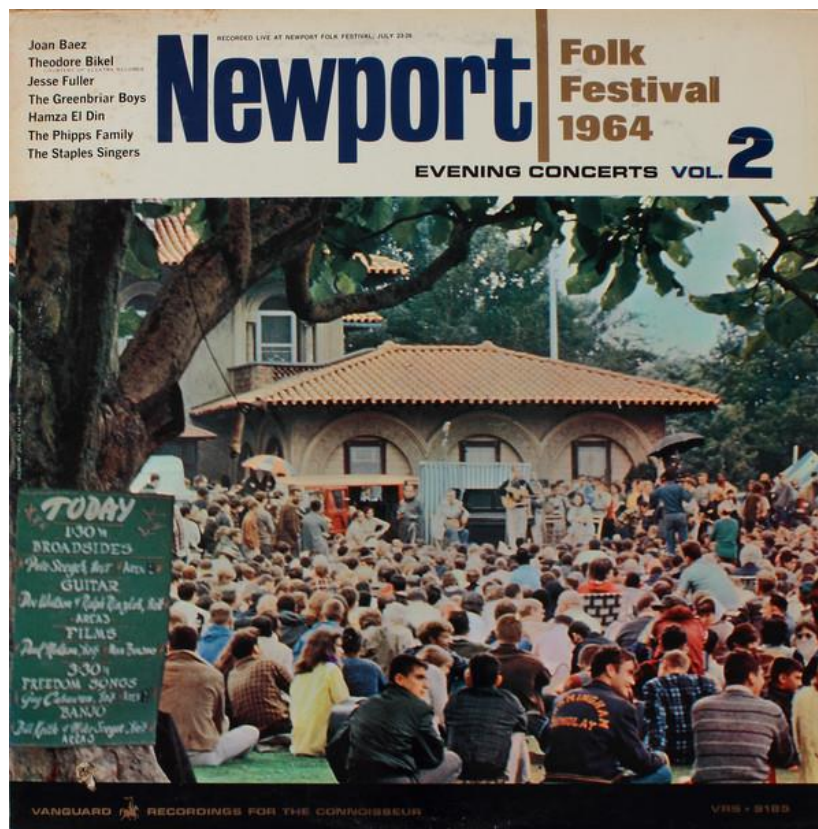
The author, Derek Shelmerdine, explained the book as follows. 'It's designed in the three sections - Timeline - Happened Today - Pocket Histories, to make it easy to drill down on the events. For instance, if you're reading about a pivotal time like the Beatles' UK release of Love Me Do and wonder what else was going on...

A quick look at the Timeline reveals that, by the end of the year, the Stones were also coming together and 1960s singer-songwriters were coming to the fore, with Joni Mitchell's debut gig and Dylan's first single (withdrawn)...

A look at the story about Dylan's first single released on 14th of December...Dylan recorded that song with an electric band so the audience shouldn't have been quite so surprised at Newport in 1965 when he came on stage with Paul Butterfield's guys...

The book also looks at external events which influenced the music, Vietnam War, Civil Rights struggle and the fight against communism. At the time of Love Me Do, the world stood on the brink of World War III with the USA facing down USSR during the Cuban Missile Crisis.

Another drill-down is in Part 2 - Happened Today. Where there's an * with a date, it means that there is a story about that event there. With that Dylan's debut single released on 14th of December 1962. The story on 14th of December 1962 refers to, "Maybe the audience at the Newport Folk Festival on 25 July* 1965...", the 25 July* tells the reader that there's a story about that particular event and it can be found at 25 July...



If the reader checks out the Newport story and wants to delve further into it... The Newport story refers to the rhythm section behind Dylan that day previously playing with blues legend Howlin' Wolf.

If the reader wants to see if there's anything else about Howlin' Wolf in the book...A look at Pocket Histories indicates a few more dates to check out (in Section 2) - one of which talks about him suing Led Zeppelin for plagiarism!

I had so much fun putting the book together. It took me about seven

years and was a real labour of love. You can find this book, and order it at www.rocknrollunravelled.com '

Highly recommended by yours truly.

There's also a podcast about the history of the Pirate Radio Stations on Dereks website and it, too, is well worth listening to. In closing, thanks again Hans for your continuing efforts to "keep the memories alive" and I'll be looking forward to your next report as, and when it happens. Warmest wishes from Canada, Steve Young.'

Well Steve thanks to you for this very interesting item opening the new edition of the international radio report and surely the article has made interest for readers to go for their own copy of the book.

From Canada we go to the USA: 'Hi Hans! I'm delighted to receive another newsletter from you. Gonna have a good read tonight. Thank you. Love it! Take care, Hans; stay safe!

Oh, we lost a beloved radio friend also. Ed Ripley, formerly of WTIX Radio New Orleans and member of our antique radio club. R.I.P. Eddie

<https://www.legacy.com/us/obituaries/heraldtribune/name/robert-ripley-obituary?pid=197847544>

Phil (Minneapolis)

Next a message from reader Frans van de Wetering from America: Since September 2nd Radio 192 has an employee in the USA, namely Frans van de Wetering. Frans lives in Florida and tells more about his relation to the radio hobby.

'As a ten year old I could finally listen to Radio Veronica because my grandfather gave me a transistor radio. My parents had nothing to do with it, so grandpa became the angel of salvation. Before I left for the US in 1986, I was active with various landbased pirates in Rotterdam and Belgium. Once in the US, I could be heard from San Francisco as a freelance reporter on Dutch radio and TV.

I was also no stranger to the ICT world. Among my clients were Stanford University, Microsoft and IBM. I even received an award from IBM for my work in 2002.

For thirty-five years, I travelled all over the world and my wife Cara loved to travel with me whenever possible. Now in the year 2021 it is time to retire and so I can finally spend more time on my first love, Radio Veronica.



Frans in his home studio in Florida

Because records are so cheap in America I have far too many of them. But the Norderney Foundation is a good place for that. Elpee work is my passion, especially with guitars and organs in it. I am therefore pleased that I can reinforce the team of Radio 192. So listen to the programme 'Long Play' from the studio in Jacksonville in American Florida. Every Thursday night between 22.00 and 24.00 hours CET.

<https://www.192radio.nl/192radio/>

Next e mail from Paul Harner came in August 25th: 'Hello Hans,

This evening I learned that Tom Konard has died in Belgium. Konard ran The Aircheck Factory, and maintained a large treasure trove of 'retromedia.' Death is inevitable, but does it have to be so frequent? The reason I bring this to your attention is the airchecks Tom had

acquired over the years. These need to be preserved. They are our history. If anyone in your circle knew Tom, please let them know too. Best Wishes, Paul Harner' <http://www.reelradio.com/af/>



September 1st came the next sad news came from Stella Robinson 'I have to come to terms with the end of a life well lived. I lost my best friend and husband yesterday, Robbie Robinson, AKA The Admiral "Robbie Dale" he has been my support and rock for 53 years.

He was 81 and lived a good life and thankfully past peaceful after battling Dementia. R.I.P My lovely Robbie.'

Of course I personally answered the e mail and brought my condolences to Stella and the family. Some other items regarding Robbie Dale: Reflections from Enda W. Caldwell: 'In memory of The Admiral Robbie Dale aka "The Generous Mr. Robinson Cu-Cu-Ca-Choo" of Caroline, TROS, Hilversum 3 and Sunshine 101 fame. The interview in 2016 for Radio Today I did with him shall now serve as a tribute to a Gentleman, legend and Friend who taught me a lot.

There were just two men who stayed on board The Mi Amigo to keep Caroline on the air on August 14th 1967 defying the "Marine Offences Act" and creating Rock n' Roll and Broadcasting history in the process Robbie Robinson and Johnnie Walker. Later in the 80's we were inspired by the Red Hot Sound of Sunshine 101 which

became the #1 Station in Dublin until its untimely demise on 30th of December 1988.'



In 2008, when Chris Cary had passed away, I received an email from Robbie expressing his sadness at the loss of another friend from the broadcasting industry. It signed off with "we must now focus on our own mortality" Fair, balanced and wise as a judge or barrister would be how I would describe his personality. Incredibly inventive you would have been impressed to see the DIY toolshed and projects he had undertaken at his villa. Generous to a huge degree and a great character with all the eloquence of a poet.

My personal condolences and deepest sympathy and thoughts to Stella Robinson, Elliot, Manon and all Robbie's grandchildren, family and friends. To those who directly or indirectly got their "big break" in radio thanks to Robbie or indeed one of his great team we thank you sincerely. There won't be another like Robbie.. may he rest in peace. May God bless him - and you for hosting Radio Day. Without this I'd never have become his friend and to Stella too. Enda W. Caldwell'

Paul Rusling reflected the same evening with: 'Robbie was my first ever "radio hero". He was the first DJ who grabbed my attention, when I first heard him on Caroline South in April 1966. It was the first time Caroline was really audible in Hull, with the new 50 KW transmitter on 259. So sad, though not unexpected. I suppose we are

at that time now where so many are departing so regularly. But still a tinge of sadness.' Paul Rusling



Robbie Dale on Caroline South 1966

Photo: collection Steve Young

Tom Edwards: 'Yet more sad news...our pirate radio dj family gets smaller with each passing year. I've been told that The Captain Robbie Dale has died. This mans 'energy' should have been his middle name. He, together with Johnnie Walker, defied The Marine Offences Act which came into force in August of 1967. He and Johnnie and others continued to broadcast on board the Mi Amigo ship which of course was Radio Caroline. I loved this mans company. He made me laugh and was one of the best broadcasters ever, R.I.P Robbie Dale...my condolences to Stella his wife and the family..

Shaun Scannell: 'I had to call Robbie a few years ago to tell him of the passing of a mutual friend. Robbie's response was something like "he's a legend I thought he would go on forever". Same to you Robbie. A legend indeed. RIP.'

RadioToday brought the sad news as follows:

<https://radiotoday.co.uk/2021/09/radio-caroline-pirate-robbie-dale-dies-at-the-age-of-81/>

<https://www.hotpress.com/music/radio-caroline-and-sunshine-539-man-robbie-robinson-has-died-22869394>

Here you can find the photos The Admiral Robbie Dale shared with the Pirate Hall of Fame:

<https://www.offshoreradio.co.uk/album67.htm>

Steve Young: 'Hello Hans, I'm sure that you've received many messages regarding the recent passing of Robbie Dale (Robinson) and would like to add my voice to those that you've already received. I'm still in a state of disbelief, although it has provided an answer to my wondering why I've not been getting replies to the emails I've been sending to him.

Robbie was one of the first Radio Caroline deejays to welcome me onboard the MV Mi Amigo in August of 1966 and, after completing my first 2-week shift, he was kind enough to invite me to stay in his flat in London. He introduced me to Brian Jones, who we met at the Kensington Garden Hotel, prior to his sad demise. We shared the stage when introducing the, then, popular group Los Bravos and met the blonde bombshell, Diana Dors, at the same time.

Later in life, Robbie and Stella came over to Vancouver, where Trish and I met up with them for lunch. A few years later we visited and stayed with them at their beautiful home on Lanzarote, we shared breakfast together at the last (final) Pirate Reunion in London in 2017 and then we had lunch together with Robbie and Stella and Johnnie Walker and Tiggy. That was the last time I saw him and never thought for a moment that I'd be mourning his loss today.

Robbie was very much a "free spirit" with a fierce determination to be successful in his career. I don't need to tell you that he and Johnnie Walker were the two Caroline deejays who fought the British Government when the MOA was signed into law. He had a deep, resonant voice and I can clearly remember standing in the main studio watching him do his show....he was "deep into it" feeling the

music and charming his audience while remaining oblivious to whatever else was going on around him.'

I will continue to miss Robbie and extend my deepest sympathy and sincere condolences to Stella, the love of his life and his partner for so many, many years.

R.I.P. Robbie, you've climbed that stairway to Heaven and I hope your life in the hereafter is shared with the other Caroline deejays who preceded you to that big radio station in the sky.'



Dave Lee Travis, Steve Young and Robbie Dale on stage

Photo Collection Steve Young.

Here are many memories and photos collected by Mary and Chris Payne: <http://www.radiolondon.co.uk/jocks/robbie/robbie.html>

And from Ireland an audio tribute to Robbie (Dale) Robinson you will find here:

https://pirate.ie/archive/our-audio-tribute-to-robbie-robinson/?fbclid=IwAR0QG1SKSUvrc2mxvAYPYrhAw+F13bX6H3f21I4oYyW7ii_4AaAFDZCAbCA

And from the Sunday Independent this article: Pirate radio maverick Robbie Robinson changed the country's tune.

Robbie Robinson, who has died aged 81, knew his listeners wanted music rather than dry, dusty fare. When radio maverick Robbie Robinson appeared before the Independent Radio and Television Commission (IRTC) seeking one of the first commercial radio licences in Ireland, he seemed assured of success. His 'super-pirate' Radio Sunshine, run out of portable buildings at the back of a seaside hotel, was probably the most successful illegal station in the country.

But at the presentation in the National Concert Hall, Robinson said his listeners did not want politics, the Irish language or what he called "verbal clutter". They wanted music, and that was what he intended to give them. Read more here:

<https://www.independent.ie/entertainment/radio/pirate-radio-maverick-robbie-robinson-changed-the-countrys-tune-40819124.html>

And for a wonderful tribute go to the Pirate Hall of Fame:

<https://www.offshoreradio.co.uk/robbied.htm>

Don't forget to take some time to dive in a wonderful update from Mary Payne at:

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

Of course in the update some sad news including the death of Ron Buninga, captain Bill Buninga's late son. A very warm and interesting personal tribute.

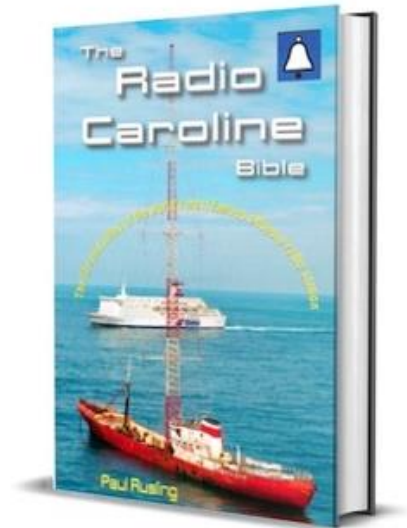
<https://www.radiolondon.co.uk/rl/rontribute/ronbuninga.html>

Now it's time to get some information about the updated version of the Caroline Bible, which will be out on November 1st:

The Radio Caroline Bible

A new updated edition of the Radio Caroline Bible is published on 1st November (2021) bringing the story right up to date. It now has a technical appendix describing the equipment of Caroline's ships and the land based facilities, including their newly installed Harris transmitter!

The story is packed with disasters, boardings, excitement and copious amounts of skull-duggery covering events from Radio Caroline's four eras.



Told by many of the key people who made Radio Caroline happen, this book gives a platform to the station managers, secretaries, and others who are usually in the shadows. Their unique aspects help put the flesh on the true story of what is the world's best known radio ship.

Unique content & many 'never published before' photos among the 350 illustrations. It's chronologically correct, fully indexed and will surely become a real collector's item. The book's gorgeous full-colour cover shows the ship in all her magnificence with her huge tower clawing high into the sky.

Radio Caroline Bible - an amazing Christmas gift

will be treasured for many years by any Radio Caroline fan

They say that every home should have a Holy Bible

Every radio fan's home needs a Radio Caroline Bible

They should read it every day. (Sir Hans Knot, radio historian.)

Full details of this incredible publication are on the Caroline Bible's own web site

<https://RadioCarolineBible.com>

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Martin van der Ven sent a very interesting link to a special about Dangerous Crumbling Red Sands Fort:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QKaOS-xZlnk&t=3s>

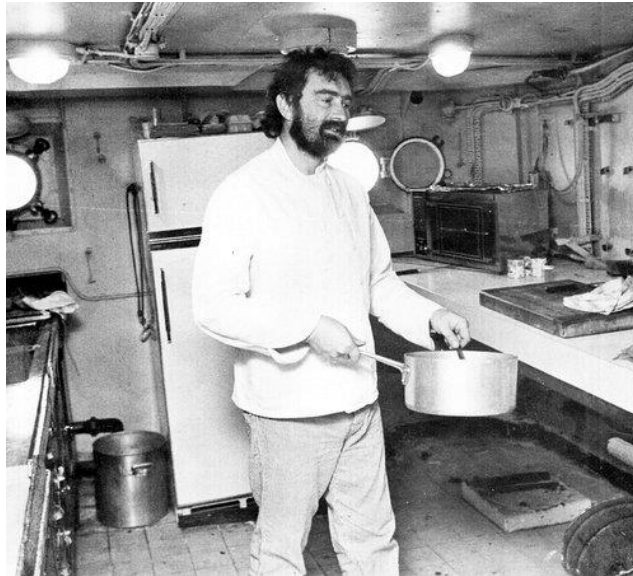
He also updated our Offshore Radio Photo Archive with 123 slides from the AJ Beirens Heritage and as subject RNI:

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/offshoreradio/albums/72157719977826517>

October 7th a sad e mail came in from Robb Eden: 'Hans I'm sure that many Caroline listeners in the early '80's will have heard the name Tony Scott. Sadly, Tony died a couple of days ago. I sent Tony out to the Ross Revenge after it had sailed to it's first mooring, because he was a very good chef with lots of experience having worked on ships belonging to the Union Castle Line. Tony sailed with them throughout the world.

Tony's culinary skills were second to none but it turned out he also could rustle up a few tunes late nights/early mornings on Caroline. Tony had a very outgoing personality, some people found him to be quite abrupt, but he made lots of friends in the Caroline community. In the mid-eighties I called on Tony's outgoing presentation skills

again, this time as warm up at the Chiltern Radio Roadshows, which I organised whilst working there. Tony will be missed by us all. Robb'



Tony Scott in the cuisine on the Ross Revenge

Photo David Kandrid

Information on the Pirate Hall of Fame learned that Tony only broadcast occasionally on Radio Caroline in 1983. His first show was on 15th October, his last on 17th December. Tony Scott died at the age of 73.

Radioday 2006 in Amsterdam and four videos are now on air on you tube, with a lot of thanks to Ben Meijering for producing these.

<https://youtube.com/playlist?list=PLRidtA6OwwSgk5D1jgAJJ6-Cgz3xJ5p92>

News from Sweden

As you may remember, Landskrona Museum had two exhibitions, 1998 and 2018, commemorating Skånes Radio Mercurs's 40 and 60 years anniversaries. The 1998 exhibition was one of the most visited ever.

Landskrona Museum is the home of Swedish advertising history and it's archive. There is a permanent exhibition "Rum för Reklam" (Room

for Advertising) in the museum. The museum has indicated that it will be the future home of the Skånes Radio Mercur archives, which Göran Carlsson has digitalized and will make more room for information about Skånes Radio Mercur in the permanent exhibition. Slottsgatan 8, 261 31 Landskrona, Zweden
Nils-Eric Svensson.



Veteran Essex Radio, Pirate Radio DJ and former Phoenix 98fm regular, Keith Rogers (aka Hollywood character actor, Keith Chanter) temporarily returned to saddle. Here's a little behind the scenes look at a day on the show for 'young' Keith. Hope you enjoy it.
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qDbDCrxKkEI>

Next e mail is from England: 'Hi Hans, I was very grateful to receive your last report but very sad to hear that my very good friend Michael Pearson, who via yourself had been able to resume our friendship, has passed away. My thanks to Paul Rusling for passing this on.

Michael and I first met in 1971 when I was researching offshore radio history, following up on another friend of mine the late Paul Harris, author of *When Pirates Ruled the Waves*. Michael used to have a radio and television repair business in Horbury and lived locally in Denby Dale, Yorkshire. We met up on numerous occasions', Flashback 67 and ten years later at a similar event also held in London, where I also met up with Michael's pal, Greg Bance. (Driftback 20).

He was as already mentioned a good friend of Don Allen and at one time upon an invite of Don went out to the MEBO 11 for a couple of days but due to severe gales off the Dutch coast was on board for 5 days, presenting a few programmes. as previously stated as Michael John.

In 1973 when I was in Holland, Michael had arranged for me to pick up Don from Scheveningen and take him to Schiphol Airport, Don's wife had been working at Summerland on the Isle of Man and there were several fatalities after a disastrous fire and for a time Don was unsure about his wife's whereabouts. But after a couple of phone calls from the harbours masters office we, Roy Brooker (FRC London), Roy's friend Don Scott - later chief radio engineer at Essex Radio and Hans Verbaan (FRC Holland) and myself managed to get to the airport in time for his flight.



Mike emigrated to Western Australia for a time and after returning to England we were able to meet up again, but due to both of us

having various personal life changes we lost touch but last year through the International Radio Report contact was resumed and we were both planning to meet up in both countries in the coming months.

It is sorrow that I recall only a few weeks ago hearing his name check on a Radio Caroline North broadcast. The photo, which from memory was taken on 2nd July 1984, is of Michael in the centre, one of his friends whose name escapes me on the left and me on the right.

Michael had arranged for four of us to spend a day on the Ross Revenge and on board at that time were Tom Anderson, Blake Williams, Nigel Harris, Jay Jackson and Dave Richards, who took us on a tour of the vessel. After several hours on board and with the tides changing we left and stopped off at Laser and spoke with Ric Harris and Charlie Wolf from the boat, but we were not given permission to board.

Michael was a very special guy and was also in the process of starting up a new venture in Cyprus but sadly no longer possible. In passing may I express my thanks to you Hans for all of the work that you put into the International Radio Report as without which most of the nostalgic memories would have just faded away. Peter Corley.'

Every month there's an update on the Pirate Hall of Fame and that for more than 2 decennia. Here's the latest one: 'Hi, I have just updated The Pirate Radio Hall of Fame.

- There is a tribute to Radio Caroline South's 'Admiral' Robbie Dale who passed away at the end of August;
- also news of the death of Allan Slaight, the Canadian broadcasting executive, who revamped Radio Caroline's programmes in 1966/7, and Radio Atlantis's Eddie Austin;

- plus another of Ray Clark's fascinating interviews with former Caroline personnel. This time it is the turn of sixties engineer Carl Thomson;
- we have recently been compiling Spotify playlists of old offshore radio charts. This month it is a Radio Northsea International Top 40 from February 1970;
- and, in case you missed it, a link to a BBC World Service programme which featured a long interview with Nick Richards in which he spoke about how he joined Radio Caroline and his memories of the night the mv Mi Amigo sank.

All the best, Jon www.offshoreradio.co.uk

Now more very interesting news from video Ben. 'Dear all, since 1999 I have been filming predominantly radio DJ's, but also radiostations, quite frequently. Personally I love to watch a DJ at work.

Also, I visited the Dutch Zeezender/RadioDays and filmed all the interviews. With all that I have built-up quite a large video archive throughout the years.

On this channel I will be sharing the material that I have in my archive. And, as Mary Payne once wrote on her website : "No Big L RSL would be complete without the sight of Ben Meijering with a digital video camera grafted to his arm!"

This is the url :

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC9QOjFxiuO9qmbhFZREVVDg>

Kind regards Ben Meijering (aka LosGoud)

It's t-shirt time and this photo came from York in England. Edward Waterson wrote: 'We've just come back from a stay with friends at their villa on the Algarve in Portugal, built by the family in 1964.

They have a photo album going all the way back to those days and included is this 1966 picture of our host Alex (in the middle), with

her friends Viv and Manuela. Alex is wearing her Radio Caroline t-shirt but the wavelength is 199 metres. Was it last year's stock, given that the station changed to 259 metres earlier in the year?'



Well wonderful you found this photo Edward. It was 1966 the wavelength change took place, so she could have ordered the shirt before that either in 1965 or early 1966.

September 11th Martin and Ulrike van der Ven made it again to Groningen for our friendship since decades. There was a surprise for me as they brought me the Principality of Sealand flag as well as their current t-shirt. As we're always in for a joke a photo was taken and placed on fb with the following words: 'Hi Michael Bates, greetings from Lord Martin and Sir Hans. Am I now your ambassador of the Principality of Sealand?'

From the reflections we mention a few like the one from Rob Bosman Jansen who asked if he could get his personalized passport in

Groningen. Greg Bance answered with: 'This evening at the Royal Albert Hall in London, the "Last Night of the Proms" will again stoke fervor in the "Rule Britannia"; "Land of Hope and Glory" brigade. Real patriotism, though, is fully deserved by Sealand, so perhaps in the home of its new ambassador there will be proud music and singing about the glories of a truly independent principality, only a cannon's shot from the shore of "Global Britain". A truly golden moment - a poke in the eye for Alexander de Piffle Boris Johnson - will be when the EU recognises Sealand and invites it to become a member state. I nominate Hans as chief negotiator.'

Later the day Prince Michael Bates of Sealand reflected with: 'Sound good to me gentlemen'.



Hans and Martin van der Ven

Recently Alex Hoek published a newspaper article from 1963 in our SMC FB Group about a television project from which was told that Veronica was involved. Alex wrote that he had never heard about this before and I promised him to come back to the subject in this edition of the international radio report.

Veronica and television

Already in my publication 'Herinneringen aan Radio Veronica 1959-1964' the next article was published in Dutch. In March 1963, there were several reports in the newspapers about the possible arrival of a new, English, offshore station that would not only enter the ether

with radio programmes but also with 'picture tube' broadcasts. According to experts, who were interviewed in the article, the station would be received in London, the West of the Netherlands up to Amsterdam, Northern France and the entire Belgian coastal area. It would be a 1250-tonne barge, which would be moored near the lightship Noordhinder on the Northsea near Ostend. The transmitter would have a power of 35 kW, which would make it stronger than that of Radio Antwerp, which had previously fallen victim to the winter storm, when the transmitting ship Uilenspiegel ran onto the coast.

Belgian newspapers reported that in the then future, only British companies would be able to get broadcasting time. The company would broadcast via the 405 lines system, although on the mainland a converter would become available, which could convert the signal to the usual 625 lines system. In England, the programmes were broadcasted at that point for a few more years in the 405-line system.

Some journalists tried to find out about the possibilities of this new station from governmental point of view. They were told that the broadcasting of such radio or TV programmes was prohibited by international agreement, without the permission of the countries involved.

However, there was no need to fear for the Dutch market since only a few countries had signed the international agreement and the Dutch authorities allowed Radio Veronica to be broadcast undisturbed. Moreover, Dutch legislation did not provide for prohibiting or preventing unauthorized broadcasting from outside territorial waters. It was therefore highly conceivable that the company, described in the report, would become active with a TV station. The name of the organisation behind this project, which did not materialise, has never been revealed.

In the same month of March 1963, a report was found in the newspapers about possible television broadcasts, provided by the Veronica organisation: 'Radio Veronica has applied to the government as a new candidate for the provision of programmes with advertising television on the eventual second TV network. It is asking the Minister and State Secretaries of Education, Arts and Sciences, Economic Affairs and Transport, Public Works and Water Management for a broadcasting license and concession or to fit it into a forthcoming commercial television station'.

According to reports, the request was submitted by the NV Sonora in Amsterdam, at that time the sole managing partner of the CV Radio Veronica in Hilversum. Unfortunately, thirty years later interviewed, Bull Verwey had no recollection of this attempt to legalise Radio Veronica on land at an early stage.

More than half a year after the first report, there was another article on October 18th 1963 that clarified the situation: 'On behalf of the Vrije Televisiezender Nederland (VTZ), founded in November 1959, the initiator and co-founder, Mr. M. Lewin from Diemen, informed the Ministry of Education, Culture and Science that the VTZ wished to be considered for the future second television network. The aim of the VTZ is to provide TV programmes and the exploitation of television advertising to finance those programmes. It is prepared to act in accordance with the requirements set out in the 'advertising television' memorandum. Mr. Lewin was one of the initiators and co-founder of the Vrije Radio Omroep Nederland 'VRON' (Free Radio Broadcasting Netherlands), from which Radio Veronica would later emerge.

As a new candidate for providing programmes on a commercial basis via a second television network to be started, the VTZ would like to cooperate on reasonable conditions with one or more applicants in order to promote the granting of a single broadcasting license and concession if necessary. The NV Sonora, sole managing partner of

Radio Veronica up to that point, also stated in its request that it was in complete agreement with the fifteen conditions set out in the advertising television bill. In order to obtain a license, they would have to comply with conditions such as providing cultural programmes, separating the commercials to be broadcast from the programmes, having the commercials delivered by two independent legal entities and submitting all commercials to the control of an independent programme council before broadcasting.

9-10-1963

Offshore Echos

Tegen volgend voorjaar **Nederland krijgt reclame- t.v. van uit volle zee**

Tegen het volgend voorjaar zal een t.v.-zender vanuit zee programma's met reclameboodschappen gaan uitzenden. Deze nog naamloze zender zal in volle zee buiten de vaarroutes worden gebouwd op een platform, zoals dat ook wordt gebruikt bij de oliewinning uit de zeebodem. Het zenderbereik zal een groot deel van Nederland bestrijken. Kanaalen golfbereik zullen zodanig worden gekozen, dat de bestaande verbindingen in het land-, lucht- en zeeverkeer

geen hinder zullen ondervinden. De programma's en de reclame worden verzorgd door de n.v. Reclame Exploitatie Maatschappij REM te Den Haag. Directeur is de heer W. J. Hordijk.

Op het ogenblik worden voorbereidingen getroffen om voor de nieuwe zender een veilig vast punt in de Noordzee te zoeken. Het zendeiland krijgt behalve de ruimten voor de zendinstallaties woongelegenheden voor de bemanning, een aanlegplaats voor kleine schepen en een landingsplaats voor helicopters.

Het ligt naar wij vernemen in de bedoeling dat in de programma-onderdelen geen reclame zal voorkomen. In de avonden zal gedurende een half uur gelegenheid bestaan voor het vertopen van zgn. gesponsorde programma's. Deze programma's zullen niet-politiek en niet-religieus zijn. Een in vorming zijnde programma-raad zal het beslissende woord krijgen bij de vormgeving van de programma's, waarop naar de REM ons meedeelde de adverteerders geen enkele invloed zullen krijgen.

Commentaar

De P.T.T. onthoudt zich van elk commentaar, maar het Tweede Kamerlid mevrouw H. van Someren Downer (V.V.D.) toonde zich verheugd, „Het is uitgekomen wat ik tijdens de debatten over de T.V. kwestie heb voorspeld. De Kamermeerderheid heeft de kans verspild om een tweede televisiezender zelf te regelen. We hadden deze zender op Nederlandse bodem kunnen hebben. De Kamermeerderheid die mijn motie bij de behandeling van de niet-aanvaarde nota Scholten-Veldkamp verwierp krijgt nu zijn verdiende loon.”

Onze Brusselse correspondent meldde ons vanmorgen dat in Brussel het gerucht gaat dat de groep Zwolsman in België een T.V.-piratenschip zou hebben aangekocht. Het zou hier gaan om een Brits schip, dat enige maanden geleden nog in Ostende lag. Bevestiging van het bericht konden wij echter nog niet krijgen.

Furthermore, a part of any profit would have to be paid to a charitable institution to be designated by the government. The Sonora people themselves felt that the latter could be a minimum of 25% of net profits, while a second percentage of 25% could be made available to the daily press which would not be involved in advertising television.

Radio Veronica, Sonora said, intended, if granted a television license, to have as many Dutch artists and other persons perform as possible - up to a percentage to be imposed on them if desired. It was also reported that the best programmes broadcast abroad would be made available. The request also stated that Hilversum would have its own recording studio, a large staff of radio technicians and the possibility to quickly supplement this staff with the necessary television technicians.

At the same time, it was said that there was no fear of no advertising, since the company had acquired many and varied relations, large and small, at home and abroad in trade and industry.

However, the then Ministry of Education, Arts and Sciences never responded seriously to Sonora's application. In 1963, Lewin was no longer active within the Veronica organisation, but bluffed by stating that in November 1959 not only the VRON but also the VTZ had been established. Nothing more was heard of this project by Lewin.

Veronica and television article copyright 2021 Hans Knot

Flickr updates from the Offshore Radio Photo Archive

Arutz 2000 (Channel 2000) - A huge effort goes to waste
Osnabrück 8th August 1995, Portsmouth 18th August 1995 and 3rd
January 1996 © Peter Messingfeld - radio ship King David off the
Tel Aviv coast 9th November 1999 © Mike Brand and Martin van der
Ven

https://www.flickr.com/photos/offshoreradio/albums/72157719820932823?fbclid=IwAR20Z-pUwSCI63dM1QQJ6nwSSrvL2_gBfybjnAyy7jpERyC1xIZ5z2UYI1s

And another album brings us to Harlingen again: Benefiet actie radioschip Jenni Baynton (september 2021)

Theo Bakker: Friends of the Jenni Baynton made special programs during the weekend 10-12 September 2021 from the lighschip Jenni Baynton.

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/offshoreradio/albums/72157719855544924>

Former radio presenter and founder Eddie Austin has died at Buckland Hospital in Dover. He passed away from COVID-19 and various other related health issues in the early morning of 16th September 2021.



Steve England, Robin Banks and Eddie Austin on Channel Radio 1970
Photo collection Austin.

Eddie was a mobile discotheque DJ with his, "Tiger Disco" from the 1960s onwards around the Dover area. When he worked at AVO Meters in Dover he met Robin Adcroft (Robin Banks) and became friends with Steve England who was doing mobile discotheques in the nearby Deal area.

read more here: <https://radiotoday.co.uk/2021/09/former-pirate-radio-presenter-eddie-austin-dies/?fbclid=IwAR11xyytzMFZG3p0dZP2dNt1aZ2yGRbT7gX3-9Wp7CLPduiTwEweJGlo7fy>

Program director Lion Keezer from Radio Mi Amigo International is looking for former offshore radio deejays who are willing to join the fun team of radio makers at the station that still values free radio. If you think you can be a good addition to the team, please mail us: Lion - Radio Mi Amigo International

lion@radiomiamigo.international

And talking about Radio Mi Amigo International: Ron O'Quinn is back on air. Ron O'Quinn was programme manager of two of the best-known offshore radio stations: Swinging Radio England and Britain Radio. Like the Emperor Rosko is a living legend from the 'golden age of the offshore stations', who experienced it all himself.



The greats of the 60's: Ron knew them all and went along on the last tour of the Beatles in the USA. After his time as a broadcaster in Europe, Ron O'Quinn made a career for himself in his native America, where he worked on major stations in many states and major cities such as Miami, in Florida.

Ron had been making programmes for Radio Mi Amigo International for 3 years since 2015, but stopped because of a sabbatical. But radio blood creeps where it can't go and from Ecuador, where he lives today, Ron recently started making radio again. His brand new current weekly 2-hour show, "Ron's Rewind," - already heard on 40 radio stations in America, will also be heard on Mi Amigo International. We are very proud and happy to welcome Ron back to the old pirates nest and vice versa Ron is delighted to be back in Europe with the station that, like him, has the memory of the golden age of the offshore radio stations and real free Radio. Welcome back Ron O'Quinn!

Ron's Rewind: every Saturday morning from 10am to 12pm CET and on Sunday afternoon from 4 to 6 CET on Radio Mi Amigo International.

Check www.radiomiamigo.international for the latest information and a video recorded on board of the broadcasting vessel 'Laissez Faire' in which Ron O'Quinn talks about the stations of which he was programme director.

Chris Brisland again with an interesting subject: 'Hi Hans it was good to read in your latest report that one of my previous articles about BBC Essex closing down its Medium-wave transmitters had a reply from none-other than the legend that is Emperor Rosko! Was also good to see the photo of him and Ray Clarke in their days at Essex commercial station Breeze AM - a station, which I could just about listen to here in Ipswich, despite being outside their official broadcast area. Those transmissions on 1359 and 1431 are still going, but sadly there's little point in listening to them these days, as all they do is relay the semi-national networked station 'Smooth,' with virtually no local output at all.

Anyways, following this I thought I'd share with you another article I wrote on my 'Wireless of the Week' Facebook page back in June, in which I demonstrate an Essex-made radio (Ekco model AW70, 1939) receiving the two close-down messages from BBC Essex (one on 411m, 729 K/c's and the other on 392m, 765 K/c's) and write

about the early development of Radio in the Essex area of England, over 100 years ago So here is that article:



Hi everyone, - once again it is sadly time to bring another video of BBC transmitter closures on Medium-wave. In this video we are tuning between the two BBC Essex transmissions on 411m, and 392m, which as I write this are each broadcasting their own separate 'retune loops.' I have gone into the history of these transmissions quite extensively in previous articles, but what I have not done is to go into any detail on the history of radio, that the Essex area played a part in. Therefore I will now attempt to do that here, albeit only briefly.



Shown in the video is a 1939 Ekco model AW70, which would have been made in Southend on Sea, where the main Ekco factory was housed for many years, employing 8000 people in the Essex area at

it's height. Eric Kirkham Cole, the founder of Ekco was himself born and educated in Southend on Sea, and opened his factory there, which operated from 1924 until 1966. A much liked and well-respected employer, he was known for pioneering things we nowadays take for granted, such as work-place pensions, paid holidays and an employee sports and social club.

Ekco became a household name throughout the country, initially producing battery eliminators for early wireless receivers, before quickly branching into radios and later, televisions. Many examples of their work still survives to this day in the hands of collectors, and is a reminder of one of the parts Essex played in the early development of radio. (When all broadcasting of course was on AM- Long-wave and Medium-wave.)

The local council in Southend has now paid tribute to Ekco - a new housing development there is called 'Ekco park' and features a statue of E.K. Cole himself. More about this can be read right here, in this article by John Sales, reporting for the Radio London website. <http://radiolondon.co.uk/otherwaves/ekco/ekco.html>

Another significant radio link involving Essex is of course the former Marconi New Street Works in Chelmsford. (Coincidentally the BBC Essex transmitter on 392 meters, 765 K/c's Medium wave is also located in Chelmsford.) This opened in 1912, and operated in one form or another right the way through until 2012. It was the worlds first purpose built wireless factory, and helped establish Marconi as a household name in the former years of radio, when, as previously mentioned all broadcasting was on AM/Medium-wave and Long-wave.

It is indeed from this very site, that on June 15th, 1920 the first broadcast of major public entertainment was made, when then opera singer Dame Nellie Melba was persuaded to attend the Marconi New Street Works, and sing into a microphone. (Which apparently had been made from a modified telephone set and a cannibalized cigar

box!) Her voice was then fed through Marconi's powerful transmitter (operating on a wavelength of 2,800 meters), which in turn fed into two 450 foot masts (all on site in those days) and in a program that lasted just over half an hour, people across a wide area of the UK and Europe were able to hear the singers performance - believed to be the first time that such material had been intended for mass entertainment.

The broadcasts from the New Street Chelmsford works were short lived, however not far from here, is the site of the former Writtle Hut, where from 14th February 1922 through until 17th January 1923, regular weekly broadcasts (typically lasting half an hour but sometimes longer) were made by station 2MT. This was formed after the Marconi company persuaded the post-master general to grant permission to them to broadcast information and entertainment over the air-waves. Conditions were very strict - especially to begin with - they were only allowed to broadcast once a week, for a maximum of half an hour between 7.00 and 7.30pm, with no weekend broadcasts, and a maximum power limit of just 1 kilowatt.

In addition, they were required to pause every 10 minutes, and monitor the wavelength, in case the Post-master general broadcast an instruction to stop for any reason. They used a wavelength of 700 meters, and broadcast live dramatizations, gramophone records (by holding the microphone against the horn of a wind-up gramophone!) and piano recitals. Each time they wanted to do this, the piano would have to be wheeled from the nearby Cock and Bell pub, where incidentally the planning meetings for each broadcast would take place! It was during these broadcasts that future BBC Engineer Captain Peter Eckersley effectively became Britain's first regular radio presenter. Although a far cry from what we know today, these early years of manufacturing at Southend, and Chelmsford and early (but not the very first) broadcasts from Chelmsford and Writtle

signaled the start of mass public broadcasting that is catapulted all over the world to this day.

With this in mind, I feel it is particularly sad that the BBC didn't acknowledge the end of Medium-wave broadcasting from BBC Essex. I have heard a recording of the final moments on 392m, on May 20th, it simply cuts out half way through a traffic report, and abruptly switches to the retune loop - a sad end to the last AM radio broadcast from an Essex based station, more than a century after the first Regarding the Southend-made Ekco model AW70 featured in the video, this is housed in a 19.5 inch x 15 inch x 9.5 inch brown bakelite cabinet.

I first saw one of these radios some twenty years ago, in about 2001 to be exact when as a 14-year old I was watching the channel 4 series 'The 1940's House.' In this series a modern (well, modern at the time!) family were made to live in wartime conditions for three months. A fascinating and gripping series all in all, but guess what? An Ekco Model AW70 was the wireless set used in the 1940's house during this series! It is pretty much for this reason, that I decided it would be nice to own one myself one day, as getting 'The 1940's House' on DVD a few years ago, enabled me to be reminded once again which radio was used, and subsequently keep my eyes skinned for one!

The Ekco AW70 is a 3 valve (+ rectifier) Superhet receiver, which covers the Long, Medium, and Shortwave bands, and which was introduced just before war began in 1939 - it is quite a chilling thought, the idea that this very radio could have announced the outbreak of war to its first owners, and was probably used in the years that followed to listen to Winston Churchills now famous wartime speeches, as they were being broadcast for the first time.

Anyway, on a much more cheerful note, this set uses valves with side-contact bases, the line-up being ECH3 (Frequency Changer) EF9

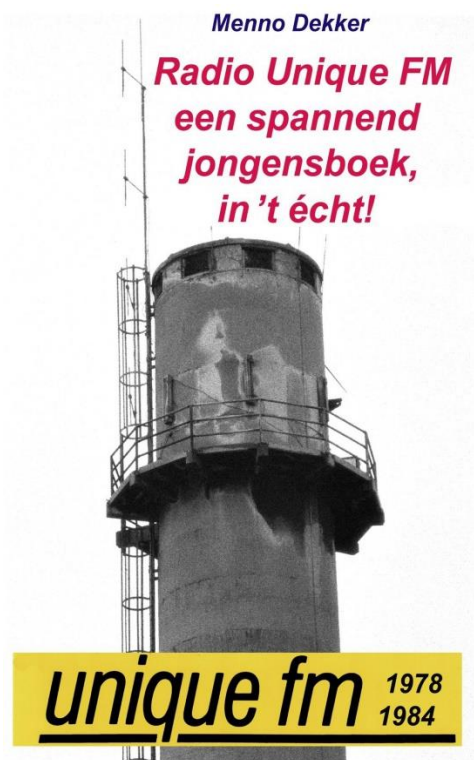
(Intermediate Frequency Amplifier) EBL1 (Audio Amplifier and Audio Output valve combined) and AZ1. (HT Rectifier) For those not on the mains, there was the model BAW 71, which was a battery version. My example, as you have probably guessed already is the mains powered AW70 version.

<https://www.facebook.com/226227664055040/videos/862500257674990/>

Well a most interesting historical story Chris and thanks for sharing with our readers. Feel free to bring more.

More photos in our Archive: A Red Sands Rendezvous by three German guys way back in June 2006. Photos from the late Freddie Schorsch

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/offshoreradio/albums/72157720000627826?fbclid=IwAR3Ixc8IG0YaU46OAQRIm9cjcNwAz31P7IpIRRf-OZx28VFIcIddvuwFdkA>



Radio Unique FM - an exciting boy's book, but then real! This book, written by Menno Dekker, is about the infamous illegal FM station Radio Unique, later Unique FM, which was on the air almost continuously from 1978 to 1984 in Greater Amsterdam. This radio station started with weekend broadcasts on Amsterdam cable. Following government intervention, cable companies were forced to close the cable network to pirates, so Unique was driven to the free ether and started broadcasting on the free frequency 98.1 MHz fm.

This heralded the beginning of an even greater popularity of the radio station with the public in and around Amsterdam. Soon the station was broadcasting every day from 7 a.m. till 12 midnight, the last period even 24 hours a day. Radio Unique had its own news service and profiled itself from the start as a normally operating professional commercial station. In its heyday it could boast an average listenership of 50,000 listeners per day.

Author Menno Dekker was one of the initiators and recounts the many adventures of the more than 40 employees during the 6 years and the almost 100 seizures of the station by order of the Dutch government.

Many playful stunts and tricks were used to mislead the RCD or to prevent the station from being seized. The book contains a lot of photo material by (professional) photographer Menno and in the story, in Dutch, also the necessary links to the offshore radio stations. How to order: <https://www.boekenbestellen.nl/boek/1978-1984-radio-unique-fm-een-spannend-jongensboek-in-t-echt/9789464430684>

Last one is for Mike Guy: Just to let you know that, in addition to my Northsea RNI Music Express programs, I have been presenting a weekly two-hour show on Radio Monique 918 since the spring. North

Sea Rendez-vous is broadcast between midnight and 02:00 hours CET each Friday night/Saturday morning.

I feature hits old and new plus Dutch and other offshore classics. There are spots dedicated to night workers and truckers not forgetting the Satelliet Schijf power play.

I go out as Mike Collins, which was my name on Radio Delmare Antwerp and which I use once again in homage to my late and much missed colleague Johan Rood, transmitter engineer on board Radio Delmare.

Looking forward to the next Radio Report. Always a must read! Best wishes, Mike Guy.

Well again more than 30 pages and there's so much more to tell. You just have to wait for the Christmas edition in December. If you want to share memories, photo's, questions and more don't hesitate to write to HKnot@home.nl