

## Hans Knot International Radio Report Christmas 2022

Welcome to the last edition of the report for 2022. Thanks everyone for response of last report as well as on the subjects on our Face Book SMC Spot and more. Of course some of the e mails will be answered too, as many are answered directly to those who sent these mails.



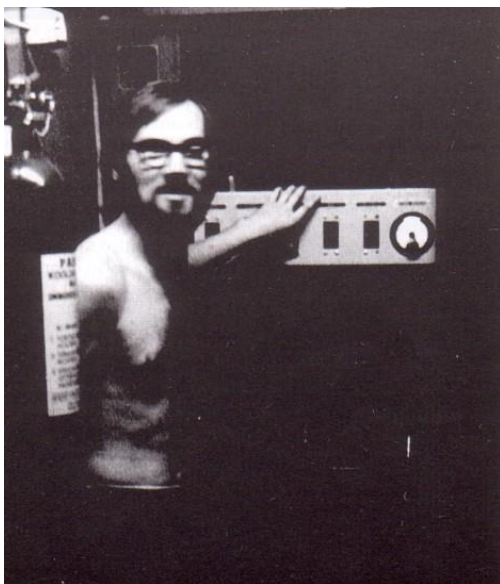
In last report I wrote: 'In 1966, a feud over money between two rival fort-based pirate stations - Radio Atlanta and Radio City, resulted in the murder of Radio City's owner Reg Calvert. Of course it should have been two rival offshore radio stations.

It was early September I published a photo taken in 1973 on one of the trips to the offshore stations off the Dutch coast. It could be seen that something wrong was with the mast. Nice thing about our SMC Facebook spot is that many people involved in offshore radio are there to reflect and sharing their memories.



It was Norman Barrington reflecting: 'Notice that because the final section had fallen down as it was being constructed, there are no guy wires beyond the top boom. Hence all sections above it were free-standing. A dangerous state of affairs. Once two new section came out a replacement for the bent one plus a new top one, Bob Noakes, Robin Adcroft and myself climbed those unsupported sections, removed the bent one, and replaced it and the final one, and only then could we attach the top guys which were laying loose around the top booms.

It was Peter Van Dijken who agreed to add the top pole and capacity hat once we had completed the guy wires. A very dramatic day. No one took photographs, everyone was too busy, but a light aircraft circled us whilst we were up there, so a photo might exist somewhere. I would dearly love to see it if it does exist! The penultimate section folded downwards under the weight of the final section going up. The pole and double tarof cables plus the final section crashed onto the mess room roof. The riggers left pronto, leaving the final guys within the lower sections.



Rare photo of Bob Noakes SMC Archive

Brave yes, foolhardy maybe, but I had the confidence I could do it. Obviously the other two felt the same, but we were driven by the urgency of the situation, and no one else dared. It was only once we were past the top booms that we could see we were unsupported, which looked worse as we got higher. Perspective in fact made it look impossible that it stayed up. We knew the second top section had collapsed under the weight of the top section, so we climbed together one of us on each side of the triangle to balance it. Me highest, then Robin, the Bob with one eye!

We lowered the damaged section whilst standing on section 3, then pulled up section 2 with Bob ensuring it did not snare against the mast below (which I think caused the original collapse) Robin helped me position the 9 bolt holes. I bolted them. Next the scary bit. We climbed the 2nd section in the same formation and winched up top section with great trepidation, but up it came and repeat each of our roles, with Chris and Co shouting from below "Why are you taking so long!". I never ever normally swear, but my stream of expletives silenced them all. Every little detail seemed to take ten times longer at that height. We had each carried some of the loose guys over our shoulders, and I climbed alone the top section to bolt all these in place. Peter Van Dijken had agreed to add the final pole and top hat, if we got those guys in place. Chris later told me he was wondering how he was going to break the news to our parents, if we were to fall off.

We all went down and I swung out first starboard to attach the longest side guy to it's end, then same on port-side. Others connected the most forward guy to the end of the bow sprit, and the back one to the mess roof. Then the fatal tightening. I was convinced that since the mast was meant to be freestanding, that there should be no tension on the guys, just enough to prevent the mast falling away from each as the ship rocked and rolled. Peter Chicago ignored me, (What does Norman know) and tightened

starboard side with bottle screws. Now the top of the mast was visibly leaning to starboard. He went over to port side and tightened until the mast was vertical again. But the extra strain, invisible to the eye, the extra inward pressure at the booms, the considerable extra downward weight were now in place. A time bomb. We were given Df150 bonus each and Chris declared us unsackable. That's a joke, since Chris was later sacked himself.



Lion Keezer photo Martin Stevens

There is conflict in accounts about the financing of the mast. Lion Keezer was directly involved, and says Atlantis paid for it, (and indeed the replacement that wasn't used) But I understood, that Veronica paid us a sizeable sum for our broadcasts of their station, and this paid at least for the riggers. Indeed what else would have stopped us putting it up earlier if Atlantis had paid for everything? Even though Chicago's late and bad idea of base insulators, with heavy duty deck and matching mast base sockets was all a delaying factor, and bumping up costs considerably.

I must make it clear I respect Peter's transmitter expertise, but the practicalities of the mast were beyond his pay grade. We should have sought more expert advice on that. I hope my comments do not upset Chicago, but my recollections are clear, it mattered greatly to me after our dangerous effort. but was overruled and so it's fate

was set. I understand a similar mistake with over tightening happened on Radio 270.

Have you read the article by Harry Spencer on his mast design/installation for the *Caroline*, *Mi Amigo*, *Ocean 7* and *Comet*?

He talks about Radio 270 trying to claim for lost revenue and wages due to the collapse of the top section of the mast he'd installed. He inspected the ship in Grimsby and discovered that the Dutch crew had subsequently tightened the guy wires to make the mast 'more stable' as the ship rolled. This put the structure under more strain than it was designed to withstand and, in a moderate breeze the ship had rolled and torn-out the tangs to which the guy wires attached and down came the top section. Sound familiar?

Now an extra detail about our climb. One story reminds me of another. All three of us had a rope around our waist and a carabiner attached. We also had rigger gloves on. At the start of our climb, we were inside the mast, which gave some sense of security. However as we climbed the spaces between the thin diagonal struts were getting smaller and so halfway up, we had to climb through to the outside of the mast. Otherwise we would be stuck inside. Thinking of climbing through to the outside, and continuing climbing on the outside, still gives me a stomach wobble. In theory when we needed to stop and rest or when we were working we should snap the carabiner onto the mast. However the main tubes were too fat for them to clip onto, it was only possible to clip on to the thin diagonals, which we did (I clipped at the central cross point for maximum strength) But I am sure if we fell backwards the cross members would have broken. I had to take off my gloves because the nuts, bolts and spanners were too fiddly, and if I had dropped just one part, it would be a major operation to get it back!

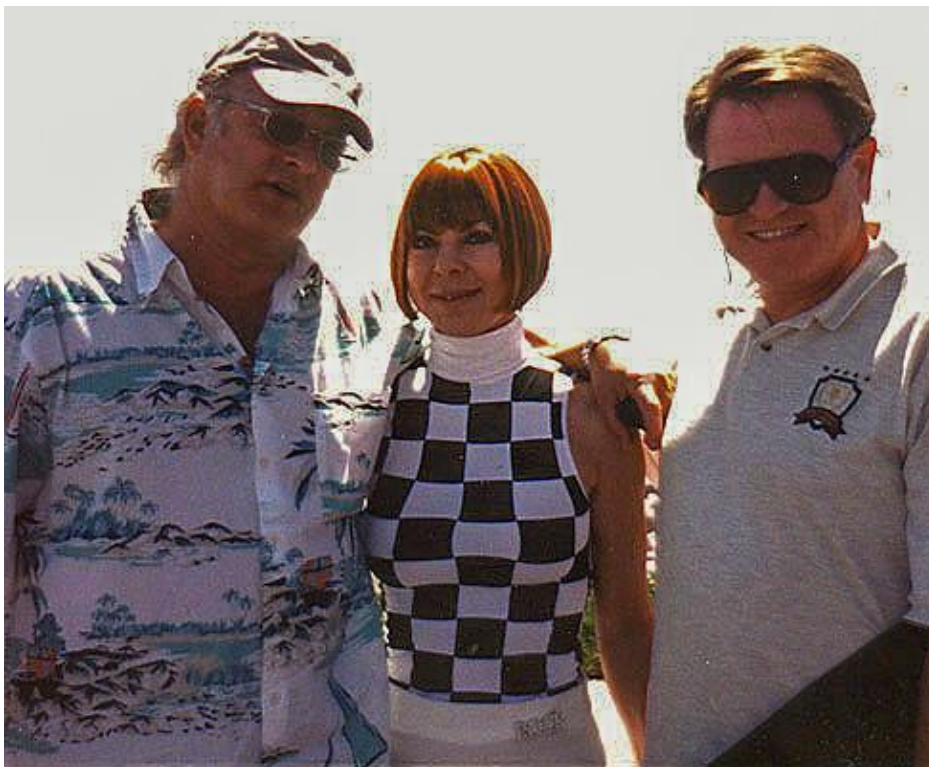
All history now. Some call it a legend.

Next is Pam Jeanetta Bird-Gaines who wrote: 'Thank you for the latest copy of the excellent International Radio Report. The memories of the Trip Company were poignant. I thought the Trip

tugs sat quite alarmingly low in the water, and I expected to get wet feet. Happy memories of the early seventies!

Thanks for the reflection Pam Jeannetta and of course we can miss the Emperor Rosko, who is almost in every issue for the last 18 months.

'Hello Hans and all ships at sea. I see you are still on top of the topicals on the history of Offshore and UK radio. You have the biggest collection of Rosko pictures on the globe! More than me so I find it a challenge to surprise you. Here is one of Tim Jibson of Adventure's in radio and a rare snap of my second wife Bev. If that did not get a price for one not in your collection we go to RTL France! 1965 Mini-Max show. Keep up the good work, EMP



Thanks a lot Emperor and hopefully it's going a bit better with you health problems. We stay in the USA with the next article I wrote some years ago.

Unox not only in the Netherlands



Shopping is always a great pleasure for me. Recently, I was walking through the premises of a large supermarket chain and saw an offer of pre-packaged Unox soups. We prefer to make soups ourselves, especially because of the wonderful variation you can make from them by not going by the standard recipes but by experimenting.

But when I saw the offer, my thoughts immediately went back decades. Twenty-three years ago, I was doing intensive research for an article on the development and introduction of hit parades - in whatever form - in the American radio industry, among others. I made use of a large number of old radio recordings of American radio stations in order to draw the necessary conclusions, in comparison with the development of radio and therefore also the hit lists in Western Europe in the late 1950s and 1960s.

In Europe, this development was still at a low level and only a few radio stations used a list of favourite records packaged in, for example, a weekly top 10. You can assume that these lists were not based on sales figures but rather on the influence of the radio programme makers on the stations concerned. Often it was a matter of wet finger work by the compilers and partly it was comparable to what later became the Tipparade in The Netherlands. A hit list with a kind of predictive value that sometimes went down in history as 'The Prediction Hit 40'.

While listening to the various old American recordings, I noticed that certain stations also had different numbers of records in the weekly hit list. For example, one station allowed 63 records in the weekly chart in 1963, which was duplicated by Radio Caroline in 1965 with a weekly list of 65 records. Another American station drew attention to no less than 95 records a week in its hit list, the reason being that it could be heard on 95FM as well on 560 AM.

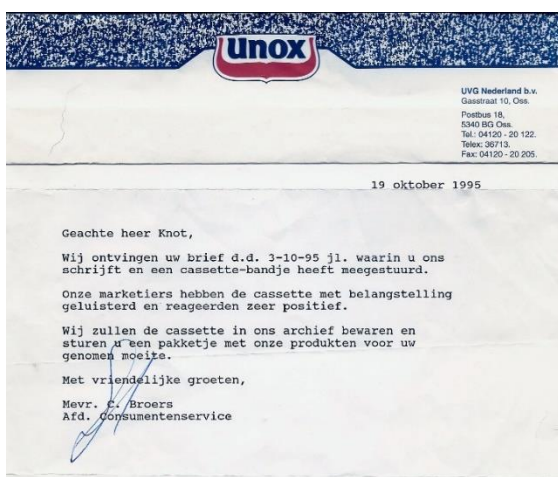


One of the recordings I listened to was a radio show from March 2<sup>nd</sup> in 1964. To my surprise - and here comes the link to Unox soup - you could listen to an advertisement for the Dutch company. It was a recording of WQAM with deejay Lee Sherwood. The recording described in a very credible way the quality of Unox's ham, of course in a can. Thinking that hopefully the commercial had influenced the ham-eating Americans, I decided on a whim to make a copy of the recording and send it to Unox's head office in Oss in the Netherlands.



### Lee Sherwood on air

About two weeks later, I received a package from Oss with an accompanying letter from Mrs. C. Broers, of the Consumer Service Department. It showed that the marketers had listened to the recording with interest and had reacted very positively. The cassette disappeared into Unox's historical archive and the company sent a box of their well-known specialties as a thank you.





Some explanation about 'on a clear day' and Radio 390. Yes many discussions and questions have been made during the last 6 decades about the closing down tune, used by Radio 390. Recently again I got a question which version of a clear day was used. Time to go back to a story I wrote years ago, when we found the resolution.

'A much discussed tune whose truth never surfaced until now is the end tune, as used by Radio 390 in the 1960s. Every time the late Rob Olthof and yours truly reconnected during our regular visits to England and met Chris Cortez there, the subject came up again. But Chris Edwards also dealt with it. So for many others, the station's closing tune has always remained a mystery.

One of the meetings in a Cambridge Pub with Chris Cortez and Hans Knot. Photo: Rob Olthof.



And let it be the same Chris Cortez who came up with the solution after years of sleuthing. We often discussed whether or not it was about two songs that had somehow been cut and

the station had come up with a new tune.

We talked with many former Radio 390 presenters over the years, including Edward Cole, and never got the answer to the question, which record was involved. Even Chris Edwards went so far as to approach former director Ted Allbeury to see if he could provide the solution; unfortunately in vain. Time and again it occurred to us that it must have been a performance of the song 'On a clear day' by Frank Chacksfield.

This was once performed as a musical on Broadway and there is a later cinema version in which Barbra Streisand played the lead role. All sorts of ways were sought to find the relevant performance of the song. Record fairs in England and the Netherlands were scoured.

The DECCA record company in London was approached several times, old record stores were visited, but to no avail. At some point Rob Olthof, once working within the Phonogram company, decided to approach an old colleague and great connoisseur of the DECCA label. Leo Boudewijns has a very broad musical knowledge and wrote with great regularity in *Aether*, the quarterly magazine about the history of Dutch public broadcasting and music history.

Leo was able to report that Chacksfield had never committed the song to vinyl and the search could well be discontinued. Yet courage was not given up and Chris Cortez, Chris Edwards, Rob Olthof and myself took every opportunity to buy or listen to the old Chacksfield material on LP and CD. We also looked in the BBC archives to see if there might be a recording of 'On a clear day' by Chacksfield and his orchestra. It was possible that the song had been played during a live performance. But this also turned out not to be the case.

In the relentless discussion between the foursome it was even suggested several times that it was an edited version in which the vocal part of 'On a clear day' was mixed out and the instrumental version was created, as was used in the mid-sixties by the program makers of Radio 390. Anno 2007 we finally knew, thanks to the perseverance of Chris Cortez, that the song in question is "Sentimental" performed by the Telecast Orchestra. It was recorded in 1957 and the conductor during the recording was Canadian Robert Farnon. The song 'Sentimental' was recorded as part of 'Library Music' by Chappel Record Music Limited in London.

The recording of 'Sentimental,' which bears remarkable resemblance to the instrumental song 'On a clear day,' heard in various performances in 1965, never came out commercially until 1988. Then, according to the work of Cortez and Eric White of 'Out of Time Records,' the very small label Grasmere Records released the song on the LP 'London Calling. Famous Themes Volume 3'. On the sleeve

text, there is no reference to Radio 390 in any way. Instead it mentions 'Theme from Richard Attenborough presents' which was probably a radio program at the BBC.

Telecast Orchestra - Sentimental

Conducted by Robert Farnon Chappell C562 (1957) Track on LP  
London

Calling - Famous Themes Volume 3 Grasmere GRALP30 (1988).



On September 30th it was exactly half a century since Radio Veronica's station change from the 192 to the 538 meter. On Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> of October, at around 16:30 CET, attention was paid to this on Radio 5 in the Theatre of Sentiment. Bart van Leeuwen talked to Hans Knot about that station change. Because more happened than just that changeover. One preserves something in life. On the day of the station changeover, as editor-in-chief of Pirate Radio News, I decided to send a congratulations to the management of Radio Veronica. A few weeks later, a response followed. The first direct contact with Hendrik (Bull) Verweij and many more would follow.

Not only was Veronica's station change from 192 to the 538 meter well prepared, and programmes showed when it would take place. At one point, the hours were counting down and, for example, it could be heard at the top of the full hour: '58 more hours to 538'. Page-size ads appeared in the newspapers and t - shirts were marketed.

*Radio Veronica c.v.*

UTRECHTSEWEG 16 POSTBUS 218 TELEFOON 02150-51045 HILVERSUM (HOLLAND)

DIRECTIE HV/MvZ

Hilversum, 6 november 1972

De heer H. Knot,  
Goudlaan 613,  
Groningen.

Geachte heer Knot,

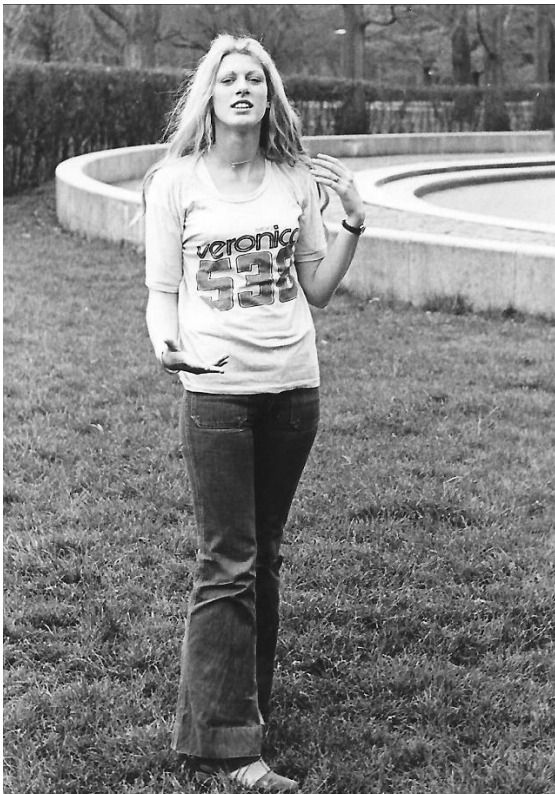
Heel hartelijk dank voor uw gelukwens. Deze spontane reactie deed ons erg goed.

Met vriendelijke groeten,

hoogachtend,  
RADIO VERONICA C.V.

H. Verwey.

This lady was photographed several times in Amsterdam by Rob Olthof. The question is whether the lady and the t-shirt are still there, equal to our memories.



Also in this edition sad news is coming in a few times. One of the most important AFN people during the last 60 years passed away in November. With thanks to John Provan and Ingo Paternoster we can bring this sad news: 'Gary Bautell will be buried in Michigan, in a family grave, some weeks to come. Gary was a living piece of AFN's history, who attempted to keep the network running in the best of "radio" tradition. He taught several generations at AFN, their "trade". We're sure everyone in the Network knew him.



Gary Bautell was also deeply involved for many years with the German/American Federation of Clubs. And I will never forget his help in making my USO documentary film possible. He supported the Berlin Airlift heritage and so much more. I know he would have liked to have seen, what the "60 year DoDD service pin" (which does not exist), looks like. He almost made it.'

Learn more about his career versus this link:

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gary\\_Bautell](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gary_Bautell)

Rene de Leeuw has passed away on October 3rd 2022. This is reported on RadioTrefpunt by Leendert Vingerling. Rene de Leeuw was the first live DJ of Radio Delmare in 1978. Among other things, Rene was on board when the Aegir slammed off her anchors on September 11th that year. After that Rene worked for Prodihaag



and for discotheques in The Hague. Rene was also involved with Delmare's Scheveningen 54 and spent some time on the Mi Amigo. That was his last involvement with offshore radio. Rene de Leeuw then threw himself into Radio Decibel in Amsterdam.

Rene was still quite young and suffered from the disease ALS.



Rene de Leeuw in the studio of Delmare's Aegir (Archive Leendert Vingerling) and with thanks to MediaPages.

### **In the middle of the sea it struck**

'Recently I, Jean Luc Bostyn, have once again been busy digging out the RadioVisie archives and especially rearranging my work spaces. Three photographs taken by myself have now been finished in large format and put in appropriate frames. They adorn one of the rooms where an additional archive is being set up.

With the hanging of the 'poster frames,' memories of the moment when I took those photos also returned. They offer the answer to a question I do get more often. 'How did I end up in the radio world?' Predestined? Perhaps. Pushed a little in that direction by friends? Probably yes. But mostly by taking a boat ride!

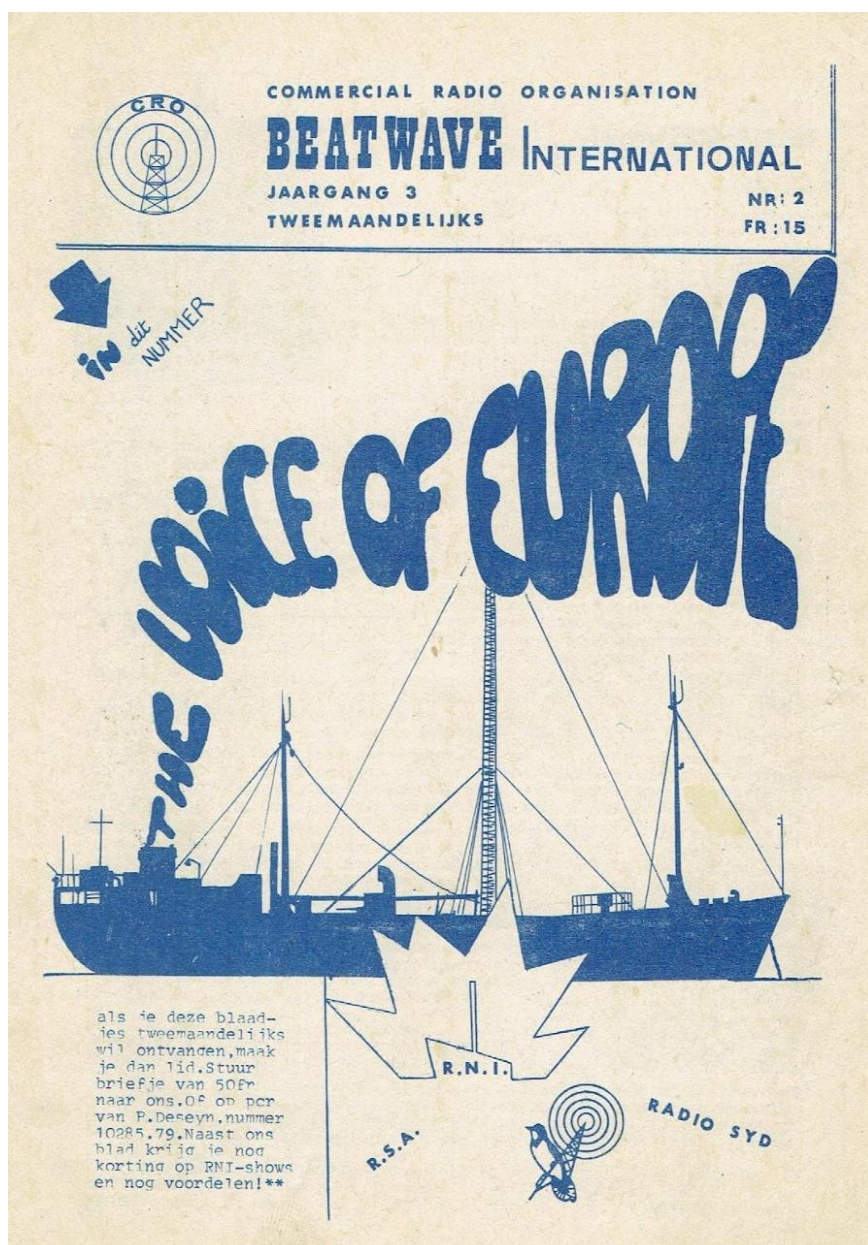




We were three young high school students from the same village who were a little angry and sad during the summer of 1968. 'Our' Radio Caroline was the last British offshore station to disappear from the airwaves. Time to roll up our sleeves ourselves, then. We biked the fifteen kilometers from Geluwe to Kortrijk (Belgium), put our pocket money together and bought an old army transmitter in the American Army Store in the Doorniksesteenweg. The salesman had assured us that the thing worked fine. After an initial test, it caught fire. Gone radio ambitions, gone pocket money. Time for another occupation. But the first step had been taken. Although I didn't realize it at the time.

Three years later, my best college buddy, Marc Gryson, asked if I wanted to do illustrations for a new radio magazine. I had quite a talent for drawing and spent just about all my free time drawing and listening to radio. The new magazine turned out to be a project of the Commercial Radio Organization, conceived by Pierre Deseyn in Ledeberg. I didn't say no and did some covers and a comic strip for Beatwave International.

Obviously, if you want to do things right, you have to know what you're doing. So I began to delve into the medium. Radio Noordzee International was experiencing a tumultuous start from the transmitting ship the MEBO II, at that time. Fascinating! I was already taking another step in the "right" direction.



In the Netherlands, one Hans Verbaan, the strong man behind the Free Radio Campaign, had just started organizing boat trips to the radio ships of Radio Veronica, RNI, Caroline/Seagull and the now abandoned REM Island where radio and TV North Sea broadcasts once came from. Marc's father took us to Scheveningen, the Dolphin sailed a big enthusiastic gang out of the harbor hole. AVRO television was on board for a special.



### Hans Verbaan and Rob Olthof Archive SMC

Very soon Radio Veronica's Norderney surfaced. What a breathtaking sight. From there came the sound I so often listened to. Unreal! In the middle of the sea the radio virus definitely struck. As if I was struck by lightning? It was more than that. Love at first sight comes closer. Definitive love. I would never get the image of that little ship off my retina again. Like a picture burned into a screen.

Cameras let out their clicking sound, cameras snorted. People became silent and at the same time raving. Bunches of flowers were handed to the crews. There and nowhere else did my love of radio become definitive and unconditional. The photos I took then now adorn my new archive room. The memory of then, nailed to a wall. In case my memory ever failed. The final step had been taken.

Years later, it was now 2001, the Norderney was in Antwerp in the Kempisch dock. The Flemish cable station Radio Magdalena made a live broadcast there every first Sunday of the month. I was a guest there (with Fred Bekky and the Silhouettes) and some questions had to be answered. Presenter Diederik Vanderveken asked me about my best memory ever. I told him the story of when I first saw the Norderney. Then he teasingly asked if the most beautiful thing I ever saw was not my wife. My answer apparently did not meet the



right conditions, because back home I had to pull out all the stops to justify myself.

Roland Bucket would work for the BRT years later, Gerdy Decroix started Radio Vrie in Ypres (and died in August 2006), Pierre Deseyn worked for Caroline, RNI, Mi Amigo, Hans Verbaan died on July 16th, 1988 (44 years young), Rob Olthof on September 23rd, 2013. Marc Gryson never became active in radio land. And me, I did my thing. Still am. With big and small steps.

Jean Luc Bostyn.'

Thanks a lot Jean Luc for this wonderful story filled with your personal memories. We did publish JL's story in our special SMC FB Spot some weeks ago.

It was Menno Dekker, who donated a lot of his photographs some years ago to our archive and recently I asked him if he could tell me some more about this photograph:



Stevie Merike, John de Mol sr, Willem van Kooten and Jan van Veen

## Photo Collection Menno Dekker in the SMC Archive.

Menno answered the question with: 'About that particular evening, May 15th, 1971, I remember well that I was at home in Amsterdam-North and called my best friend (also a Hans). We were pretty big fans of RNI and both owned a car. We then immediately drove to Scheveningen to take pictures and a report.

Hans was in the book business and always writing and I had been in photography since I was 16 years old, wedding reports for my boss during the day and in my spare time artists and radio/tv.

Hans came back from Zurich one time with 2 free RNI books (he was there for a book fair) and had boldly dropped in at Meister and Bollier. Through Victor Pelli (often at the Apollo Hotel in Amsterdam) we could pay a visit to the MEBO 2, but unfortunately that never happened.

On the evening in question we stayed late into the night, hence the photos taken. Another time I was at an RNI drive-in show in Zandvoort with Tony Allen and others. I hope to have helped you on your way! Menno.'

See for more of this series from Menno Dekker

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/offshoreradio/albums/72157639982769485>

News from Bob LeRoi in Kent: We've updated the website with a handful of some of the many Thames Estuary WWII & Offshore Radio Fort Trips made this season.

With the sad news of the passing of John Ross-Barnard, we pay tribute to his rich life with a feature that includes never before published photographs and archive recordings.

We'd be pleased to include your special memories of John and be grateful to receive any recording of John on Radio Invicta, KING and Radio 355 which thus far we've been unable to source.

Finally, historians have been avidly following the feature 'Whitstable Harbour Years' to which we've added and continue to add many more images.



Photo Bob LeRoi

<http://www.boblenoi.co.uk/Home/Home.html>



--- Now that corona seems to have been curbed, it is time to revive a long-standing tradition. Saturday 13 May 2023, the Friends of the Lightship Foundation is organising RadioDay 2023 in collaboration with SMC. About the programme, guests and firsts, we do not and



cannot say anything yet. However, as in 2017, the radio lightship Jenni Baynton will play a prominent role. Make a note of the date and keep an eye on the website [www.radioday.nl](http://www.radioday.nl) and the facebook page RadioDay Harlingen for current developments and the latest news.

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Andrew Mark is next: 'I hope this finds you well Hans, it is a long time since we exchanged messages in fact I have not been to The Netherlands for some years, but my memory is still in Zeeland along with much of my heart.

I was going through the people list connected to offshore radio and remembered a couple of names that are missed.....

Joyce Evans was the wife of Charles/Charlie and was a big part working with Ted Albeury. Alan Hughes was also involved with Harry Featherbee and i was with them many days taking diesel to the boat

Ronnie Day was a DJ that was with Charlie Evans from the start and was also involved with him and Joyce when they opened the steak restaurant in Folkestone, he also made tapes in the basement of the building before the demise of KING. He is still alive and kicking living in the country and can be found on FB with a page at Biddenden, last time I saw him was about 5 years ago. Andi'.

Thanks a lot for the update and I put the names into the list. The updated version will be published early next year on

[www.hansknot.com](http://www.hansknot.com)

October 14<sup>th</sup> it was time for Stephen Raindle who wrote: 'Hi Hans I just got around to reading the Autumn edition and what great entertainment it was. All those tales from the North Sea and Irish Sea. Great to read about the early days of Radio Veronica and as I have a great interest in classical music these days, the story of the off-shore classical broadcasts was of immense interest and almost

surreal. In addition to all this I have learned a new word 'snert' - which does not sound too appetising. Looking forward to more revelations next time and thank you so much. Best wishes Stephen

October 17<sup>th</sup> Sad news came in by e mail from Tony Meehan: 'Sad news I'm afraid, Mel Howard former Radios Caroline and Scotland DJ passed away in hospital, on the 13<sup>th</sup> October, following a short illness, diagnoses - Pulmonary Fibrosis. I have asked for more information which I shall send to you when I receive it. Regards Tony'.



**Mel Howard** Born in Winnipeg, Canada, on 2nd July 1940, Mel left university at the age of 20 and became a "bad actor" for a year. He saved up \$1,000 to study music at the San Francisco State College but, instead, spent it on a trip to Europe. He arrived in Britain in 1961 and worked for EMI Records before continuing his travels by moving to Spain.

On returning to the UK he joined Air Canada but, fascinated by the emerging offshore radio scene, applied for work with a number of stations. Radio Caroline South gave him his big break in October 1965. Unfortunately for Mel, at the end of the year Caroline South changed management and there was a wholesale purge of on-air personnel. Mel was out of a job.

He worked at the 100 Club in London's Oxford Street until March 1966 when he was offered a position on Radio Scotland. His theme tune was *My Star* by The Frank Chacksfield Orchestra. After his pirate days, Mel went back to Air Canada for a time before returning to Winnipeg. He was heard on CJOB while also studying for a degree

in education. He then became a teacher - a job he continued until retirement. In July 2004 Mel attended the First North American Pirate Radio Reunion in Vancouver, Canada. He also visited London for the Radio Academy in August 2007.

**Info: Pirate Hall of Fame. Photo: 242 Magazine.**

And talking about The Pirate Hall of Fame, here's what Jon wrote: 'I have just updated The Pirate Radio Hall of Fame. New this month:

- correspondent Denis Hoare has provided an excellent article about the Radio Essex and Radio 390 court cases from a 1967 edition of Practical Wireless magazine;
- there is another RNI Toppers 20 chart;
- and since the last monthly update we have added a tribute to John Ross-Barnard who sadly passed away in November.

Something to look forward to: in next month's update we will have some exclusive, previously unpublished, photographs taken on Radio London, Radio Caroline South and their shared tender, Offshore I. Don't miss them! Until then, all the best, Jon

[www.offshoreradio.co.uk](http://www.offshoreradio.co.uk)

Next a link to photos my lady Jana and I took in the Museum of the 21<sup>st</sup> century in Hoorn with many radios.

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/offshoreradio/albums/72177720302829904>

Another update in our Flickr archive from Martin van der Ven and me is a special page with photos from the Meindert van der Meulen collection featuring 'working on a tv documentary 25 years Veronica'.

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/offshoreradio/albums/72177720302843113>

Another update is a page in which Look Boden is reminiscing his time with Radio Dolfijn and more

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/offshoreradio/albums/72177720302819500>

The VW and Retro Museum in Danish Ulfborg was visited by Martin van der Ven with many interesting pictures

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/offshoreradio/albums/72177720302830839>

Peter Messingfeld wrote on October 17<sup>th</sup>: 'Dear radio friends, Corona is here to stay - so it seems. But at least this summer we had more freedom in attending events. I have been to two events which have now found the way onto my web pages.

free radio meeting at Erkrath/Hilden

[http://travelseries.de/trav2022r/trav2022\\_01.php](http://travelseries.de/trav2022r/trav2022_01.php)

HAM RADIO at Friedrichshafen

[http://travelseries.de/trav2022r/trav2022\\_02.php](http://travelseries.de/trav2022r/trav2022_02.php)



From Sweden an e mail by Eric Wennström in which he wrote that there are plans for a museum in memory of Radio Nord. He enclosed this newspaper article. Click to enlarge.

Now time for Video Alex Hoek

'The video report is ready. Dutch Media Week - Retro Radio 2022. In October, the Netherlands Institute for Sound & Vision, in cooperation with 192 Radio, organised 5 days of live radio from the original Hilversum III retro radio studio on the Gooische Brink in the centre of Hilversum. With the cooperation of Tineke, Erik de Zwart, Paul van der Lugt, Will Luikinga, Ger Loogman, Ad Roland, Gerard Ekdom, Rob Stenders and Caroline Brouwer, Tom Blomberg, Edvard Niessing, Elly van Loenen, Ad and Marcel Bouman, among others. Technical realisation Dennis van Benthem, Niels Zack, Joris Strootman and Alex van den Hoek.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?fbclid=IwAR3jLGGDaPtAEVOEAykp2jxs1knowlxjy2f0dNDOZteFIrpOUcAu0kAmmVk&v=o28tqRY-oLY&feature=youtu.be>

Next an e mail from a former deejay from Mi Amigo 272

'In my Flemish Free Radio years I regularly encountered Danny Vuylsteke. For example, with heavy 1 to 5 kilo watt transmitters in the back of his car accompanied by a couple of vague Italian technicians who were driven into masts by Dann rushed to mount new dipoles to attach such a new transmitter. This was his modus operandi then, he went to a radio station whose owner he knew "well" and offered to let him test a new heavy transmitter for free.

They would agree on the price later. After the installation, he drove a few kilometers away to another free radio station with the story "I just hooked up a new heavy transmitter with your competitor. If you don't want to be blown away, you should also buy such a heavy transmitter now and have it installed immediately" of course cash

checkout. Kind regards, Rick Verhaagen Biggekerke (in a previous life Tom de Bree Mi Amigo Magdalena).



Tom de Bree spinning the discs. SMC Archive

Next I thought to have a translator.

'Cyfarchion o Dde Cymru yma yn y Deyrnas Unedig! Greetings from South Wales in the UK!

This is Bill Everatt here with the latest news from Celtica Radio which is now in our twenty-second year of operations! - Not bad for a radio station that some of the 'Experts' and 'Those in the know' said wouldn't last three months!

Regular listeners to our station will have noticed that our scheduling has changed from what was essentially a BBC Light service type output, with different hourly programmes to a live type, linear set up, with Breakfast through to Late Shows and overnight content, although we have retained our music and presentation format, and



still produce downloadable podcasts. To maintain this live-type output, this has meant that we've needed to recruit a couple of new voices; The first was Chris Ashley, who is an extremely well-known broadcaster. To date he has worked on stations in Western Australia, also in New Zealand and Spain. And here in the UK; Talk Radio and later TalkSPORT. Several BBC locals such as BBC Leeds/ West Midlands/ Cambridgeshire and Shropshire (where Chris won a Sony Gold Award in 2004). Additionally, Chris has also broadcast on local commercial radio stations such as Beacon Radio/ Red Dragon Radio in Cardiff [*where he was responsible for hiring me in 1986!*] and Radio Trent.



### Chris Ashley

When I approached Chris earlier this year, I was unsure if he would agree to front our weekday breakfast show, because after all, Celtica Radio is a small station with an audience spread thinly across the world. Chris has an extremely impressive CV. But Chris said yes, and is happy to help out, or as he put it "*help the cause.*" - Needless to say, I was as pleased as punch, that one of my mentors was prepared to join the presenter line-up which for my sins, I now manage.

The second new voice is Pete Rosendaal, a colleague of mine from Radio Seagull, who I also make radio shows for. Pete has spent quite a few years broadcasting with them and is well respected amongst the crew. Essentially, I was taken ill with a reoccurring illness which I've had since childhood and was unable to broadcast. Pete stepped in

to cover me and his kind encouragement to get well, together with his gentle delivery, resulted in us talking about Celtica Radio's new schedule. Pete was invited to present the remaining empty slot on a Saturday morning, and he agreed.

The schedule can be accessed here

<https://www.celticaradio.com/apps.html> so you can see who is on and when. For a good number of years, we've been broadcasting National and World news at the top of the hour supplied by Radio News Hub, and with the introduction of the linear programming it seemed only logical to schedule UK half hour Headlines at strategic points during Breakfast and Drivetime on weekdays, together with a twice daily UK News Digest and 1 and 9PM. All of this gives a much more live and immediate feel to Celtica Radio.



As some radio watchers may be aware, we were included in the programming multiplex of a perspective Small Scale DAB company called OnDAB who applied for the Swansea license. Therefore, we changed our scheduling. Unfortunately, OnDAB were unsuccessful with their application, and as we were not included in the winning applicant's proposals, we are still without any terrestrial transmission platform offers. This has been the case since Radio Hafren, a UK Independent Local Radio Station from Mid Wales who syndicated our output at night-time as Celtica Radio, closed in 2014 due to the adverse financial climate.

However, we have found that the change has increased our on-line listenership, so without a doubt, the hard work was worth it. It's just a shame that after twenty-two years we are still essentially ignored in our home region. Especially as we have expanded our cultural material with the Welsh Language broadcaster and journalist Gareth Wyn Jones presenting a weekday bi-lingual lunchtime programme. Gareth Wyn, is one of the most experienced Welsh language broadcasters in the world, having spent over forty years presenting programmes and the news at the late Swansea Sound, before joining us in 2018. In addition to listeners in Wales and the rest of the UK, Gareth's shows get an audience in, Argentina, Australia, Canada, the United States and New Zealand.



We're always happy to hear from our listeners and if we are able, act on the feedback we get. Of course, as with any media organisation we occasionally get Trolls, and some misguided souls who seem to get some sort of perverse enjoyment in trying to make trouble for us or generally try being a vexatious nuisance. Which seems extremely sad and spiteful to me, when all we want to do is to be creative in our chosen profession and give some extremely talented solo acts and bands the airplay they deserve.

Over the time we have been operating we have developed some very useful bespoke software and studio facilities. The software we created; we share amongst our members who have their own studios. When we began in the year 2000, we started using a DIY setup, recycling and repairing older studio equipment, and repurposing it. Although we made the move to using a fully computerised system in

2003, this was again constructed using our own in-house team from separate components and has of course evolved since then. Even our jingle package and imaging reflect this ethos, as it was mostly created especially for us by Ryan Helman, an independent singer songwriter from the South Coast of England with our sweepers voiced by Peter Twist.

For those who have not heard of Celtica Radio before, we generally, are a music-based radio station, with a presenter led delivery, playing alternative and independent music by bands and artists one is unlikely to hear anywhere else. Additionally, we also transmit a weekly speech-based programme on a Sunday Night at 9PM UK time. Plus, many of our shows have a podcast version which can be downloaded or accessed from our website at <https://www.celticaradio.com> where you can get more details on all our output. The website is compatible with most mobiles, tablets and operating systems as well as an ordinary PC. Best regards, Bill Everatt MBCS, RITTech Managing Director | Celtica Radio'

Thanks a lot Bill and I'm happy to get the words into a white spectrum.

On the 27<sup>th</sup> of October, I was up early to be present at the Radio and TV Noord studio around eight o'clock. On Radio Noord that week people are dwelling a lot on the 1970s and so, of course, attention was paid to the offshore radio stations. In the programme 'Edwin op Noord', I talked about what happened half a century ago. Of course it was about the fierce competition between Veronica and RNI that led to the so called bombing, which was still not a bomb but has been reported and experienced as such for half a century.

The demonstration on the 18<sup>th</sup> of April 1973 in The Hague, the subsequent introduction of an anti-offshore radio law and the exit from the airwaves of most of the offshore radio stations on 31<sup>st</sup> of August 1974. The interview was conducted by Edwin Pasveer.



Next some interesting links provided by Herman in Gent, Belgium

<https://shortwavearchive.com/archive/radio-moscow-december-3-1978>

<https://shortwavearchive.com/archive/radio-moscow-mailbag-studio-recording-1-1979>

<https://pastdaily.com/2019/10/08/october-7-1947-this-is-radio-moscow-calling-and-here-is-the-news/>

[https://shortwavearchive.com/archive/tag/Radio Moscow](https://shortwavearchive.com/archive/tag/Radio%20Moscow)

November 2<sup>nd</sup> brought the sad news by Roger Twigg Day: 'Bad news I am afraid. A dear friend John Ross Barnard died this afternoon. I have known him since 1966 when he was part of the team at Britain Radio/Swinging Radio England. A lovely man and superb broadcaster. My sympathies to Connie and the family. He always signed off saying Happy Daze. And they were indeed. We gave him the name John Boss Farmyard. One of those people you were lucky to have known.'

Thanks Roger, I'm shocked by the sad news of his passing. Very good memories are coming up again. For Connie and the rest of the family be strong and give him a good farewell. Will always remember him with a big radio smile.



Memories to John Ross-Barnard are also to share:

Pirate Hall of Fame: 'John Ross-Barnard John's first broadcasting experience was on the early pirate station Radio Invicta. This low-powered sweet music station had only the most rudimentary equipment and the living conditions on the anti-aircraft fort, on which it was based, were extremely basic. There is a fascinating chapter by John describing his life at sea in Keith Skues's book *Pop Went The Pirates*. On Invicta he broadcast under numerous names as well as his own. He was also JRB, Larry Pannell, Pete Ross and Peter Barraclough. Radio Invicta was replaced by the slightly better-equipped King Radio, then by the much better Radio 390. With a decent transmitter, proper studio equipment, not to mention habitable living conditions, Radio 390 was an enormous success. John stayed throughout these various incarnations but, in 1966, he moved to Britain Radio, your "hallmark of quality" station. He also read the news on its Top 40 sister station, "Swinging" Radio England. From there he joined the BBC as a television continuity announcer. He then held a number of posts including head of BBC video, chief executive of Coventry Cable Television, managing director of Satellite Media Services and was a broadcasting consultant. John was also heard on the various Radio London restricted service revivals. Sadly he died on 2nd November 2022 in Coventry University Hospital.'

And see also: <https://www.offshoreradio.co.uk/jrb.htm>

Also Mary Payne worked hard to get a tribute together:

'Dear All, our tribute page to John Ross-Barnard is now on the RL site.

<http://www.radiolondon.co.uk/kneesflashes/happenings/2012julyon/jrbtribute.html>

Best wishes, Mary Payne

Next we go to another e mail

Eric Wennström from Sweden wrote: 'Hello, here is a short feature about the Radio Nord museum which was broadcast on the local public service channel here on Gotland: I was in contact with the

museum owner today and he expects to open up this forthcoming summer. We in the local HAM-club has been invited to the premier.

<https://sverigesradio.se/artikel/piratradion-radio-nord-far-egen-gungande-utstallning-i-stenkyrka>

This interesting item we found on the Internet: Jody Redding had the honor to catch up with our friend and worldwide radio personality, Ron O'Quinn.

'Ron grew up in Moultrie and began his radio career at age 16 at WMGA and went on to Stations in Ocilla, Valdosta, Daytona, WFUN in Miami and another in San Francisco. Ron made his way to Radio England, which was a "pirate" radio station in international waters broadcasting from a ship in the North Sea.



**Ron on SRE from his own collection**

During his time at Radio England, O'Quinn accompanied The Beatles on their 1966 U.S. Tour. It is O'Quinn who coughs in the studio during the count-in to Taxman.

Ron also received a kiss from Olivia Newton John once, but that is another story. There aren't many groups and artists from the 60's and 70's that he hasn't met.

Ron is regarded as one of the "Best all time Disc Jockeys". His style was high energy, rapid fire, and always the top rated program in his

time slot. Ron is a member of the Pirate Radio Hall of Fame, and was an inaugural nominee for the Georgia Radio Hall Of Fame. On October 20, 2012, Ron was inducted into the Georgia Radio Hall of Fame as a Career Achievement Inductee.



Ron with John Lennon from Ron his own collection

The best news is that he still does a show from his home in Ecuador playing the best mix of Rock and Roll anywhere on the planet. You can catch Ron's show, "Rock and Roll Rewind" on WMTM Cruisin' 94 in Moultrie Saturday evenings @6pm and on the World Wide Web. Ron can also be reached through his Facebook page.



While Ron has traveled and lived in many places across the U.S and Europe, he still calls Moultrie his hometown. I had the privilege to present Ron with a replica of a microphone from WMGA where his career got its start.

We're proud of you my friend! Keep doing what you're doing and just being yourself.

Jody Redding.'

Next and interesting story from Paul Rusling

Hi Hans, a friend just back from Texas last week heard a station called LUCY 93.3 and asked me to explain what it was. The only station using that name is LUCY 93.3, more formally KGSR in Austin which is owned by Waterloo Media - an 8 station cluster. Lucy is their 'Hot Adult Contemporary' brand which plays well known songs of appeal to adults from the last forty years. Named as a tribute to Lucy B Johnson, daughter of LBJ and his first Last, Lady Bird (who once owned a small part of Radio London).

LUCY 93.3 launched last year with the Beatles track from the Sgt Pepper lp. The station had previously had four format changes in less than a year and complements sister station BOB FM. LUCY had a rating of 3.3 in the October sweep.

Lucie Baines Johnson (same initials as her father, LBJ - her sister and her mum do too) still runs the family business - which is investing money. She was raised s a teenager in the White House while her dad was the President.



**POP HITS & FLASHBACKS**



Paul Rusling.'

Excellent research from Martin van der Ven as he found countless unique photos never seen before in such an amount. Many exclusive ones. First a series shot in the early sixties concerning Veronica: From the Noord-Hollands Archive, collection Photo Press Agency De Boer.

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/offshoreradio/albums/72177720303570137>

More photos from Veronica in the sixties and seventies

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/offshoreradio/albums/72177720303570137>

And from the same archive a unique series from the MV Mi Amigo between 1966 and 1967.

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/offshoreradio/albums/72177720303617047>

On Tuesday November 8th, Pierre Kartner, aka Father Abraham, died at the age of 87. Father Abraham will of course go into history as a Dutch tearjerker as he wrote more than 1000 songs, but he also had quite a radio past. As early as 1972, for instance, he made programmes with Dutch-language music at Radio Noordzee Internationaal. He later moved to Radio Veronica, where he could be heard until the last day of broadcasts from international waters, on 31th of August 1974.

Both cases involved programmes pre-recorded on tape on land. By 1985, Father Abraham could be heard again with his own radio programme (also on tape) on Radio Monique, from the Ross Revenge, on Sundays between 10 and 12 o'clock. In the early 1990s, he made another appearance on Holland FM, which at first could only be heard on cable, but managed to conquer an airwaves frequency on medium wave in January 1994. His programme came to an end at the end of

1994 when Holland FM was bought by Veronica, which had just left the Dutch broadcasting system.

Courtesy of Rudy De Saedeleir of RadioVisie.



Holland FM team in IJmuiden after arrival Communicator  
Photo: the late Rob Olthof

Of course, Dutch readers know that Pierre was also involved in composing and producing as well as singing many radio-related records. At RadioVisie's request, I made the following overview together with Rudy

<https://radiovisie.eu/de-vele-veronica-plaatjes-van-vader-abraham/>

Next e mail time and here's Stuart Clark who wrote: 'Hi Hans, I hope all is good and an early Happy Christmas to you! Thought you might be interested in this link - you'll have to scroll a fair way down for the Ronan O'Rahilly connection!

<https://www.drumhiernyhideaway.ie/en/history>

Apparently they're looking to develop the website and pay some sort of permanent tribute to Ronan. I'm meant to be talking to somebody from Drumhierny soon so will forward on any additional info. Sadly,

Ronan never really gained the recognition he deserved at home. Wouldn't it be amazing if the Ross managed to sail to Greenore for the 2024 anniversary!

Thanks a lot Stuart It's a good idea but I doubt it will ever appear in Greenore. Good luck with your work and keep in touch.

More photos found by Martin and added to our Flick Archive:

1960 The transistor radio sells quite well with thanks to Radio Veronica (25 photographs)

© Noord-Hollands Archief, collectie Fotopersbureau De Boer

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/offshoreradio/albums/72177720303692356>

The Mebo II (Radio Nordsee International) in early 1973 (8 pictures)

© Noord-Hollands Archief, collectie Fotopersbureau De Boer

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/offshoreradio/albums/72177720303755046>

The Veronica Omroep Organisatie visiting the Voice of Peace in August 1977 (45 photos)

Pre-productions for the television programme "The Day The Music Died"

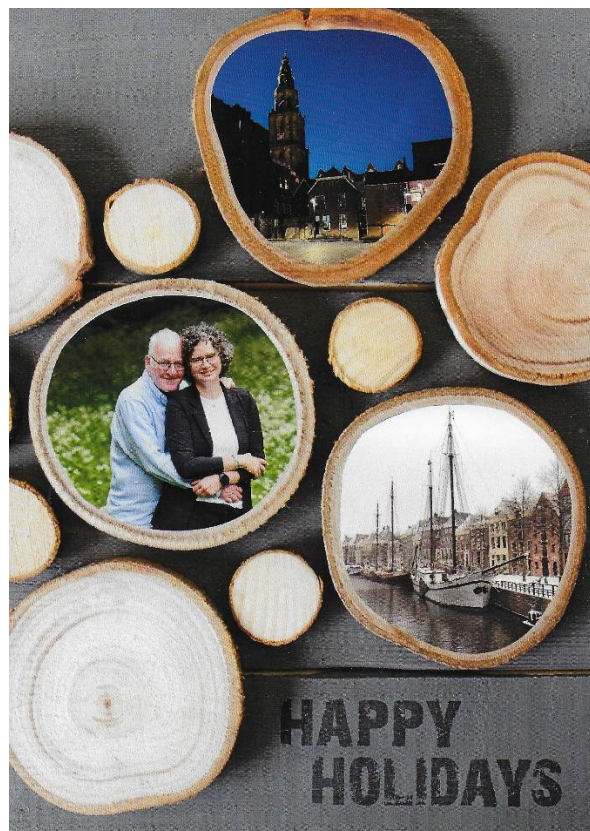
<https://www.flickr.com/photos/offshoreradio/albums/72177720303747195>

And the search for more interesting photo's is going on as Martin also found this excellent series about the REM-island, the platform used for Radio and TV Noordzee way back in 1964:

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/offshoreradio/albums/72177720303795217>



Well that is the end of a long edition of the International Radio Report, which will be back somewhere in February 2023. Please have all a wonderful Christmas and a healthy 2023. If you have questions, memories, photos and more simply write to me at [HKnot@home.nl](mailto:HKnot@home.nl)



Jana and Hans Knot