

HANS KNOT INTERNATIONAL RADIO REPORT NOVEMBER 2009.

First news on the massive crash I had last month and lost almost all my e mail addresses. Since then I gathered from an old computer as well from old mail a few thousand addresses back. So hopefully the main part is saved. However it can be that you get the report and don't want it. Please mention it to me. If you've a friend who didn't get the report, also don't hesitate to mention to HKnot@home.nl

Hi all and thank you for all your reflections, memories and photographs. They will come later in this issue of the Hans Knot Report. I've send away the report already in October as the first two weeks in November I'm very busy. Also I will have hot news later on the Radio Day, which will take place in a couple of weeks in Amsterdam. But first face the reality as this month we have to mention three losses in the world of Offshore Radio. It started on Monday October 5th when the next sad message came in from Australia and Graham Webb:

'Well folks in case you didn't know, we lost Mike Ahern today. Mike Ahern passed away peacefully at Norfolk & Norwich University Hospital at 6.30am on Monday 5th October 2009. His long-time girlfriend Leslie called me this afternoon to tell me. Mike Ahern who passed away aged just 67 was loved by family, friends, his contemporizes, co-workers and every listener who heard him over the past 44 years as he had such a warm and engaging personality and he was never without a smile. You could hear it in his voice.



MIKE AHERN IN THE SIXTIES

This is the mark of a consummate Broadcaster. Mike and I were friends from the moment he landed on Caroline South where, up until 1966, I had been Programme Controller but was asked by Ronan O'Rahilly to set up a legitimate news format for both ships. Hence "Radio Caroline Newsbeat" and I had to recruit News Readers/Writers such as Gordie Cruse, John Hatt, Mark Sloan, Nick Bailey etc. Whenever I was on the South ship, Mike would grill me about Australia and eventually he landed on my doorstep at the family home in Sydney where for the next three months he made application to many Radio Stations and eventually he landed the Midnight-to-down shift on 2UW and from there moved on to 4BC Brisbane and 6PR Perth and several other stations. He became a Radio Star on both sides of the Continent regularly enjoying high ratings. The last time I saw him was a couple of years ago when we gathered to commemorate the 40th Anniversary of the closure of Caroline as we knew it. He will be sadly missed by all who knew him
Sincerely GRAHAM "Spider" WEBB.'

Thank you so much Graham to inform us with this really sad news. It was, as a listener, a happiness to listen to Mike's programs and I was lucky to meet Mike at a few occasions in the last decade, when we met at several reunions. Later on I will give you the internet address where a wonderful obituary can be read. Let's go to several e mails I got from former colleagues from Mike Ahern, partly as a response on Graham's message partly directly, starting with Steve Young:

'This is such sad news. I'm so glad that I had the opportunity to go and visit Mike while I was in England last month. At the time of my visit with him at the hospital in Norwich he managed to compose himself enough to allow me to record a video message to his friends, attesting to the fact that he was "doing as well as could be expected". We had a great visit together and a sincere hug when I left. Mike was a real star on the radio when we worked together on Caroline South. He was a great communicator with a dynamic personality. Sure, he was a bit hot-headed, but that was the Irish in his blood, but he was always a great friend to me. We used to exchange cassette recordings before the internet came along and changed everything. Unfortunately, as you probably know, Mike had vision impairment so the internet wasn't helpful to him as he couldn't really make out what was on the screen. I feel so terrible that he left us like this and can only hope and pray that he's gone to a place where he'll find true happiness. In the meantime I'll never forget his closing remarks on every show that he did "take care, lots of care".



Mike Ahearn picture taken by Jim Murphy

My condolences go out to all his family and his friends around the world. Mike was one of my closest pals on Radio Caroline. He was the one who first greeted me when I stepped aboard the MV Mi Amigo on that first, fateful day in August 1966 when I joined Radio Caroline South. I will miss him very, very much. It is a true loss for one of the greats in offshore broadcasting. Little by little our ranks are dwindling and it is sad to lose a good friend. At the same time we all have to remain philosophical about these things, which are bound to happen, even to ourselves somewhere down the line. I appreciate your friendship Hans and the many, many hours you contribute to the memories of the "golden days of radio". All the very best to you and

Jana and I hope that someday we may have the opportunity to meet you in person. Very best wishes, Steve Young.

Thanks to you too Steve and yes let's hope we will meet each other one day, curly headed kid on the third row!

The Pirate Radio Hall of Fame have now published a detailed obituary with links to sound clips at <http://www.offshoreradio.co.uk/mikea.htm>

Next reflecting on the sad news was The Royal Ruller Tony Prince: ' I forwarded this tragic news to our colleague Bob Stewart in the USA and he'll be as sad as all of us for he and Mike knew each other from Liverpool. I spent a few short weeks with Mike on Caroline North before he emigrated south and later on Capital Gold. His work with Jack Spector made him known in the south due to his sending pre-recorded Spector up after each show. Spector never had a chance, Mike would listen to his reel to reel before it went out on air so he new in advance what Spector had said about him during the show and had his hilarious responses ready. In the south listeners heard Spector ribbing Mike Ahearn without knowing who Mike was. That, and because he was a great DJ, was the reason Ronan took him south. He was one of my very favourite's amongst my great colleagues, together with Caroline north air crew especially Jerry Soopa Leighton and Daffy Don Allen. I never saw Mike without a smile on his face and that's how I'll always remember him. RIP Mike. Tony Prince.'



Mike Ahern 2009 Photo Steve Szmidt

From Australia Norman St. John: 'Dear Hans, very sad about Mike but at least he is not suffering any more and in the end was happy to go. Keith Skues and I visited Mike in Norwich the day before his lung operation in August and he had been in a distressed situation since that time. Most would not be aware that Mike also suffered from Parkinson for the last 5 years. I had kept in contact with him on a monthly basis after we left Radio Caroline and all through his time in Australia. He was a great personality and will be sadly missed by the Radio Industry. I believe that his Funeral will be held in the UK next week attended by his sons Matthew and Christopher from Sydney Australia. He was a close mate, who will be sadly missed. Norman St John.'

Next Andy Archer: 'Yes, it is very sad news. I spoke to Angela Bond (Kenny Everett's producer on Radio One) who knew Mike very well. He had Parkinson's disease, lung cancer and a brain tumor - poor man. Tom Edwards paid a very good tribute to him on BBC Essex last night. Best wishes, Andy Archer.'

Next another one from Australia with Bryan Vaughan: 'Dear Hans that is very sad news. Mike was a legendary pirate disc jockey and will be much missed by his friends and colleagues. I remember that he later worked in Australia for quite a number of years mainly, I think, in Brisbane and Newcastle. I don't believe that he ever broadcast in Sydney. What with Simon Dee and now Mike, the offshore era is starting to fade! Bryan Vaughan.'

Thanks Bryan Indeed two in a row and our group is getting smaller but let's face the mirror and try to give you a happy glimpse everyday.'

Dear Hans,

Yes, I agree with you. The best thing is to think positively about the future and remember the good times of the past. They were great days and we are still enjoying them more than 40 years later thanks to people like you, Jon Myer and Mary Payne amongst many others! Cheers Bryan.'

Of course also the Emperor Rosko responded on the very sad news: ' The greatest pirate breakfast jock ever, Mike Ahern, has gone to the great station in the sky. I hope you do a nice peace on him. He was absolute best at his peak, brilliant!'

And also we have Bill Green: 'Hi Hans, I have just heard on the BBC Essex News at 1700 that Mike Ahern has died, within days of his 67th Birthday. Tim Gillett talked a little about Mike (on a recorded report) and how he started on Radio Caroline North and mentioned that Mike had been on Pirate BBC Essex from the LV18. It has made me sad because I used to listen to Mike when was on the North ship and recall that I was very annoyed when he was moved to Caroline South, because I was a big fan of his. Whilst I have enjoyed many happy hours listening to various offshore stations, some DJ's didn't make much of an impression on me but Mike most certainly did. So, another chapter closes on offshore radio. Regards, Bill Green.'

There is a four minute video of Mike being interviewed on Pirate BBC Essex this year at <http://radiotoday.co.uk/news.php?extend.5227.2> also a tribute that Tony Blackburn has recorded.

Another great tribute is made by Mary and Chris Payne on www.radiolondon.co.uk

At the same day the sad news from Mike Ahern passing away another bad news message came in from Ric Harris, known from Laser 558 days: ' Dear Hans, I regret to inform you and the off-shore radio community that Roy Lindau died at his home in Croton-on-Hudson, NY last month. Roy had been fighting cancer for the past decade. He had been getting an experimental treatment from the Sloan-Kettering hospital in New York. It was Roy's vision that world-wide advertisers would step up to sponsor an off-shore radio station that made investment in the MV Communicator and Laser 558 attractive, and thereby made the project possible. Roy was passionate about creating a high profile mass audience European radio station. He was President of Music Media International, the adverting arm of Laser 558, and was a driving force behind the rest of the Laser operation. Best Regard's Ric Harris.'



Roy Lindau 1984 Freewave Archive

From Paul Rusling the next reflection came in: 'I've heard this evening that Roy Lindau has also passed away after losing a lengthy battle with cancer. Many of you will know that he and I had a big spat in the early days of Laser. While I share Ronan's view that Roy was greedy and made many very bad decisions (such as keeping listener mail from DJs) I do still feel that he deserves recognition for what he did to help offshore radio revive again the 80s. Roy Lindau was brought in to market the new Radio Caroline in 1981 but proved to be too extravagant, among other things. In 1983 I went straight

to him to get marketing advice and introduced him to John Kenning, who was one of the founders and at that time in charge of the Laser project. I had originally tried to get Ronan to meet with John thinking the projects could merge and help each other, but Ronan stalled. I knew that any offshore station needed a revenue stream, and Roy sounded like the right man for the role so I took John across to meet him - Roy was still working at Major Market Radio at that time. Roy and I both had very similar goals and beliefs, but Roy wanted to centre everything in Madison Avenue and keep the DJs and crew in poverty while the sales boys lived a life of Reilly with junkets to Vegas, etc. He was far more of a business man than I, just a poor wet-back with principles. He used me, as he did many others. But lets be clear - while Roy didn't close any advertising deals, it was his fabulous book of contacts and sheer marketing professionalism that convinced various backers to stump up literally millions of US dollars for Caroline, and over a million (Irish) pounds for Laser. And for that we should be very grateful for his input to the watery wireless scene. I for one learned a lot from the guy and I really do wish him well. '

Thanks a lot Paul and we shall miss Roy a lot and pay memory to him and others who left us from the Laser community during the reunion in Amsterdam in November. Strange that he wrote to the Radio Day Organisers last May that he would try to come over together with his wife to this 25 years on celebration and we now have to tell he has gone.'

And if it wasn't enough sad more bad news came in on Wednesday October 7th from Paul van Onzen in Arnhem who wrote: 'Probably you heard it already from the site of Radio 227 but some months ago Peter van Dijk (Radio Dolfijn, Radio Noordzee, NOS, TV Europe, EO and more) died of cancer. Peter lived two floors above me in the same flat building, where I live since 1980. He was a passionate biker and made many touring tracks. Often he was cleaning his bike and I made some talks with him. He was one of the very first persons in Europe working for satellite TV. This was when Europe TV was on the air. When I tried to talk with him about his offshore days with for instance Radio Dolfijn, he simply changed subject as it seemed he didn't want to be remembered to this part of his career. During the past five years I rarely met him as he worked in Hilversum mostly during evening hours as he hated heavy traffic.'

Thanks a lot for informing us Paul of another sad lost in offshore radio.



Peter van Dijk, Look Boden, Jack Curtiz and Jos van Vliet (Look Boden Archive)

Remember that I mentioned Radio Veronica's two last hours would be transmitted on Spectrum Radio at the end of August. Well I asked initiator behind this, Sietse Brouwer from Radio Waddenzee and Radio Seagull, what the response on this special broadcast was:

Sietse: 'well the response was far much more than I had expected. I thought a handful of emails would be coming in, but from the most rare corners came in the, always positive, response. Even Spectrum Radio got many e mails, which they resent to me. There were many people from Great Britain writing in. It was a one time happening but the biggest gift that I was listening on August 31st together with Walter Galle and another friend from Belgium on the back deck of the Radio Waddenzee ship to the last two hours of Veronica. In my mind was that 14 years old boy, way back in 1974, who was very sad those offshore station left the air. If anyone had told me then that we would have two radio stations and a radio ship too.... Live is strange sometimes. '

Well other good news is that from November 2nd Radio Seagull will be on air between 3 and 5 in the morning, seven days a week, on 558 AM for seven days a week. Well done Sietse and his team!



It's only a few weeks before this year's Radio Day takes place on 14th November 2009. We would like to provide an insight into our planning.

This year we're celebrating the 25th anniversary of Laser 558 starting its transmissions from the MV Communicator. That's why we will have a Laser Reunion on this forthcoming Radio Day. We have been getting firm promises from Jessie Brandon, Charlie Wolf, Mike Barrington, Johnny Lewis, Ray Anderson, Dennis Jason, Leendert Vingerling, Paul Jackson, DL Bogart and Jim Perry. And we're hoping that and James Day will join the crew as well. The extended Laser panel will be hosted by Paul Rusling. There will be exclusive Laser video footage which hasn't been performed before. And Ray Anderson and Herbert Visser will expose original Laser 558 and Laser Hot Hits studio equipment.

Keith Skues has been celebrating his 70th birthday a few months ago. He also celebrates 50 years on the radio in 2009. Keith will be our special guest this year. He will proudly present the second edition of his famous "Pop Went The Pirates" book. Keith will be interviewed by the Dutch radio legend Tom Mulder.

Another definite recruit for this year's event is Steve Conway, well known for his stints on the MV Ross Revenge in the 1990s. Some months ago, Steve has published his book "Shiprocked". Steve is hoping to be accompanied by his brother and Caroline DJ fellow Chris Kennedy. Both of them will be interviewed on stage by Johnny Lewis.

Ingo Paternoster will please us with an interesting AFN presentation.

Last but not least, 2009 will see the second Radio Day Awards celebration. You can still guess who will be our 6 winners this year! There will be awards for "An Outstanding Contribution to Offshore Radio" (3), "Offshore Radio Top Technical Support" (1), "The Radio Anoraks Award" (1) and "Offshore Radio Writers and Historians" (1).

Mark Oud and Hans Hettelder will showcase their superb radio ship models. And Radio Mi Amigo 192 will be recording programmes for their Internet radio station in the adjoining bar. As we had been talking of books: Nigel Harris (Stuart Russel) will present his new book "Ships In Troubled Waters" and Bob Noakes is proud to present the second (expanded) edition of his bestseller "Last of the pirates". To conclude the day, Graham Gill will sing his offshore radio evergreen "Way Back Home"...

We will keep you informed in the weeks to come. Make sure to visit our website at <http://www.radioday.nl> on a regular basis.

We will meet again in Amsterdam's Hotel Casa 400 near the Amstel railway station (James Wattstraat 75) from 11:00 till 17:00 CET (which is Dutch local time). Doors will be open from 10:30. Admission is 12,50 €. It is not necessary to book your ticket in advance.

Let's go to Belgium for the next e mail: ' Hello Hans, Last August was really a boost for off-shore radio fans aka anoraks with the many (re)transmissions and special programmes all over the spectrum including the so beloved Median Wave Band: the commemoration of the 31 of August 1974 shall always be a special days for anoraks: 35 years what a mile-stone. My summer had also 'a file rouge': here goes my story about finding some special recordings of Radio Caroline! After my holiday in France mid June - early July and after reading there all the Caroline Newsletters I've downloaded from the great website of Ray Robinson <http://azanorak.com> , I came in contact with Patricia Helewaut who's also living in Flanders (Belgium) for all those years and who apparently at that time had a radio-cassette-recorder and had made some recording of Radio Caroline in 1978!

Here comes her story: "And the end of the 70's, born in 1957, growing up especially during my student years, Radio Caroline was very important part

of my young life: the Caroline deejays were like friends to me and gave me that warm feeling of understanding and being together. At some time, with Caroline going off and coming again on the air, I decided to tape some programmes to listen to during periods Radio Caroline was off the air. And I cherished those tapes ever since. Even when I was moving to another place/house, when tidying up the house, every time when I found those cassettes and although not having a cassette-player anymore, those happy sounds keep saying: keep me alive - don't put me in the dust-bin."

And after so many years Patricia's persistence ended up in glory because Patricia, in the spirit of Caroline, was so friendly to lend me the cassettes and thanks to Vincent Schriel at www.offshoreradio.org the recordings were digitalised and converted in mp3-files. Vincent, who the last years had converted hundred of tapes for his organisation, immediately found out that those recording were special. Not only because like Patricia and me he too had listened in those years, many evenings and nights sometimes secretly underneath the blankets, to the sound 'from a point in the sea to the circles of our mind' but apparently there aren't many recording of that time.

When first listening to the recordings the first recording was (part of 64 minutes) a Personal Top 30 of a couple named Steve and Susan and on the Steven Pragnell's website <http://memories963.freewebhostx.com/personaltop.html> I discovered a whole list of the Personal Top 30 and on top of the website I found the personal Top 30 of Steve and Mitchell and Susan Woodcook with the complete set list. What a coincidence! Further down on this website I saw the personal Top 30 of Caroline Simmon(d)s, who, in 1978 was Miss Radio Caroline! And guess what? The next two recordings were, joined together, the complete Top 30 of Miss Caroline 1978! Tom Hardy, who was the deejay at that time, went mad! And me to!

I forwarded the discovery to Steven Pragnell because in June 2008 Caroline Simmons made a reply to this website but sadly his message to Caroline bounced because today she must have a new e-mail address. Finally, the two another Personal Top 30's: the first one was the Personal Top 30 of Ann Smithsons and the second one was the Personal Top 30 of Lesley Smith. All the recording can of course be downloaded for free at <http://azanorak.com/> Patricia is now listening again to Radio Caroline on the

internet but she can also happily listen now on her sound system to what she cherished for so many years! Perhaps Miss Caroline 1978 can stand up and will be able to listen one more time to her Personal Top 30. So who knows where we can find her? Lots of L.A. Philip Taghon - Jabbeke (Belgium).'

Response to this wonderful and other stories in the report are always welcome at HKnot@home.nl

It's really time to have a look on next internet site:

<http://www.scandinavianoffshoreradio.com>

From Belgium there was in August stream radio with old Offshore Programs. The stream is reactivated and brings us historical programs from Offshore Radio featuring Veronica, Mi Amigo, RNI and Caroline:

[audio web stream 129 kbs \(wma en Win Amp\)](#)

<mms://85.223.51.253:7000>

Let's go to Australia: 'Good afternoon Hans, I much enjoyed your review of Keith's revised book. I have always thought that his original book really is the definitive story of pirate radio. Keith contacted me when he was revising his book as he wanted to update what all the old pirates were doing nowadays. I have ordered a copy of 'Pop Went the Pirates 11' and am looking forward to its arrival. Best wishes from Sydney, Cheers Bryan Vaughan.'

Hi Bryan good to hear from you again and I hope when the book arrives you will be having many hours of reading pleasure.



Bryan Vaughn 2007 Photo; Martin van der Ven

We have some other nicknames. First I got copies of a special program when Mike Ahearn was visiting Ireland some years ago. I learned that at one stage he was named Mike 'Akehorn' Ahearn. On Veronica Rob Out mentioned that some of the program makers were in another earth and mentioned Daniel Kleinzing 'Daniel Kolsky' and himself Rob 'Robbottos' Out.

I recently was asked to write a review on a Dutch book 'The musical seduction'. I learnt from this book that we can add another female presenter to the long list, which can be found back at www.hansknot.com Dutch singer Corry Brokken was heard in a sponsored show on Radio Noordzee from the REM Island in 1964. By the way another one, who was already in the list, was at number one with he recent CD in Britain and than I talk about Vera Lynn. She introduced The Miner's Makeup Show on Radio Caroline <http://www.offshoreradio.co.uk/canopg4.jpg>

In an earlier edition of the Hans Knot International Radio Report it was Stephanie Caballero, who was on search for Caroline deejay Ron Dolman. After some weeks it was Ron Dolman himself who wrote to me. He read the

question on internet himself when reading the report on my site. So once again some people are reunited versus the report. Also Ron added that he is very happy with the work I do to get the offshore history complete as possible: 'I know I can't add too much to the existing stories. The items happening during my stay onboard the MV Mi Amigo, I think in total five months, can be concluded in 'munity, hi-jacking, several small fires, hurricane, ship of competitor on the beach and more. All those are heavily highlighted before. After my time on Caroline I went back to Amsterdam to work in Discos. I didn't have any contact with my former shipmates. By the way, late congratulations with your Queens Honour you've got earlier this year for your work as a historian in radio. Greetings, Ron Dolman.'



Ron Dolman on the air on Radio Caroline. Collection: Ron Dolman

Thanks a lot Ron and hopefully you will join the reports in the future. Next we go to Scandinavia and see what Jan Kotschak has to tell us:

'Dear Hans, I thought you'd be interested to know that my book about my father and Radio Nord -- Stick iväg, Jack! -- will be published around October 15th. It has lots of unpublished photos and tells the full story about the station, not least what happened behind the scenes at the government of the time. On its 424 pages it also carries a supplement with every song that made it to Radio Nord's two hit lists, Topp 20 (international) and De tio (Swedish). The publisher is Premium Publishing in Sweden.

<http://www.premiumpublishing.com/en/art/stick-ivag-jack-radio-nord.php>



There will also be a 2 CD disc with the most popular tunes of 1961-62 from both Radio Nord and Radio Syd. The record company is Riverside Records.

<http://www.premiumpublishing.com/en/art/radio-syd-radio-nord-topplatarna-fran-1961-1962.php>

Finally, on Oct 21-22nd there will be a special Radio Nord-cruise on Silja Line between Stockholm and Turku - with four of the leading artist from the time of the pirate ships.

<http://www.premiumpublishing.com/en/art/radio-nord-kryssning.php>

Next attention for an internet site, which Martin van der Ven informed me on: A visit to Gunfleet Tower. <http://www.sadoldgit.com/a/page151.html>

Just to inform you about the internet station Voice of Peace

<http://www.thevoiceofpeace.co.il/forum/viewtopic.php?f=6&t=349#p1514p1514>

Some e mails come from unexpected corners. Fleur Neuteboom wrote to me: ' A good morning and as we don't know each other I can tell you that I'm an eager consumer of the Hans Knot International Report as well reader of your articles on www.soundcapes.info pages. The Bull Verwey interview you once did together with Jelle Boonstra was very impressive. It was the respectful attitude onwards Bul Verwey, although the bomb attack against

competitor RNI. I think therefore still the contact with Verwey stayed all those years. Recently I visited the Ross Revenge and photo's are on:
<http://www.facebook.com/album.php?aid=37068&id=1441391473&l=51e166476a>

Thanks Fleur and your mail is much appreciated. Let's go to another nice movie on internet:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IUImDI-efas&feature=related>

David Kindred's son has uploaded 8 and a half minutes footage of a trip to Radio Caroline South and Radio London to YouTube:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eg98Kx0uMiE>

with thanks to Mike Barraclough

Next e mail came from Per Alarud versus Martin: 'I remember Theo Dencker on one of the FRC-NL-trips that I and a friend made in 1972. At that time I didn't know who he was. It was later when I read the excellent magazine Radio News from FRCG that I knew. As a matter of fact I've uploaded the film that we made:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WdiqBcc94wQ>

As can be seen we also went to the REM Island and later on the same evening to the Mi Amigo in Zaandam. The following sequence was taken on a very early Sunday morning July 30th 1972, about 5 o'clock. We had been visiting the Mi Amigo pirate museum and the last street bus for Amsterdam had left, we slept in a nearby park. Oh happy days!

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5odPJFA-z-8>

Change of internet address: 'Hi Hans

Just to let you know the (geocities/woodleyuk/index3.htm) link to Roland Beaney's Radio Caroline web pages is not available any more as Geocities are closing. I've moved the website to www.woodley.net.co.uk/index3.htm

Many thanks Chris L.'

Last month I talked about Paul Freeman who worked for Radio Essex in the sixties and here more about him as he wrote a long interesting story: 'Hello Hans. First of all I must say how nice it was to hear you on Tim Gillett's 'Pirate BBC Essex' show a couple of weeks back. Back in November 1965 at

the age of just 16, I packed my little case and left home to become a pirate radio D.J. for a couple of weeks on Radio Essex. It was not long, but I was there and I'm very proud of my tiny part in 'Offshore Radio'! You may have heard me on Tim's show the week after your piece. Anyway, the reason for writing to you is to tell you something about those Radio London Commercials. After my short stay on Knock John I went back to work in the factory where I worked before. I made ring binders and covers for type writers. But I had now been involved in radio and music and I wanted much more out of life than just making ring binders. A friend of mine worked for BBC television and used to buy all the Hi Fi magazines. He saw an add for a young guy to train as a sound recording engineer. He wrote the letter of application for me and I was interviewed by this wonderful chap called Nicholas Moore, in a wine bar just off London's Oxford Street. I got the job and spent the next 3 or 4 years cutting acetate records, editing tapes and making recording. I met a lot of very interesting people including the GREAT movie star Gloria Swanson, who I did not recognise and asked for some means of identity when she wanted to hire a tape recorder from us. "You poor boy...You're far, far too young to recognise an ageing old movie star like me" is what she said as she patted me on the cheek!

Anyway, back to those commercials. At the end of August 1967 a young guy in a suite walked into our little office at 1 Hanway Place, London, W1 asking if we would be interested in buying some second hand recording tapes. I said that I would ask my boss Mr. Moore. He came down from his office and asked the guy what this tape was and where did it come from? "Oh it's all quite legal. It's the old tape library from Radio London and you would have to collect it from 17 Curzon Street". "Is it yours to sell" asked my boss. "Oh yes...We have no further use for it" "How much do you want" (I think that the reply was £100 but am not sure about this) "I'll give you £25...Take it or leave it" and my boss starts to go towards the stairs to his office. "I'll take it"!

We arranged to call at 17 Curzon St. a couple of days later. My boss brought his Morris Minor Travler in and we drove down to Curzon St. On arrival we were shown through the main office with a large picture of the Galaxy above the fire place and down some stairs into a basement room. The room had shelves stacked full of tapes thousands and thousands of small 3 inch spools, all those commercials, and hundreds of others in all sizes, some boxed some

loose, many with Radio London show on them. It took most of the day to load them into the car and ferry them back to our studio. I remember seeing piles of rate cards and leaflets about some British Radio USA or something that Phillip Birch and his associates were starting up. I thought that sounds interesting.

I spent the next two or three weeks joining all those small tape's together to make up 7 inch spools of tape which I then erased and we sold them from our shop next door for about 15 shillings a reel. (75p in today's money but a lot in those days)

I stole just two of those tapes. I still have them. They were samples from PAMS! I just could not bare to erase them! They're up on the shelf and I'm looking at them right now!



Paul Freeman near to the fort collection Paul Freeman

Later that year a chap walked into our studio offering to sell us two Garrard 401 turn tables for £30. Now I wanted these myself and I knew that the boss would not want them, so I told the guy that we were not interested but to call this guy called Paul Peters and I gave him my own number. He phoned that night and told me that they came from Radio City and I bought them. I always believed that they did, but every photo I've ever seen of the City studio has Garrard 301's in it. I used these turn tables for the next 10 years for making shows for several 'Land Based' pirates and at the same time I was working 'Freelance' for BBC Radio Medway, now Radio Kent. By the mid 80's I had given up any idea of success in radio and was working for a large charity. I gave those 401 turn tables and all my records to one of our

charity shops to sell in aid of our work for sick and injured animals. But I still kept those PAMS tapes! I have for some years thought that maybe the turn tables came from Radio Essex as we used them on Knock John, but I was talking to a guy on the L.V. 18 at Easter who is the caretaker on Rough's Tower (Sealand) and he said that they could not have come from Radio Essex as he has one of the old 401's from there himself. Or at least I think he said that he still had one.

The years passed by and I thought that I was the last person in the world to remember the Pirates until I bought a computer in 2006. I was told that you could find out about anything you wanted on Google. So I tapped into it 'Pirate Radio Stations of the 1960's'. I just could not believe what I found including my own name on several sites. Some months later I got a phone call from Dilly Barlow, a BBC producer who worked on John Peel's old show 'Home Truths' she asked me if I would be interested in telling my story on the show. I was stunned into silence. After all those years I was to make it back onto the air and on BBC Radio 4....What do you think my reply was. Yes please!



Paul on BBC Pirate Radio Essex together with Tim Gillet

In 2007 Ray Clark of BBC Essex asked me to record a short piece for the last show to go out from the Pirate BBC Essex Ship at 3 pm on the 14th August (I used the name Paul Peters). This year I felt quite honored when I got an email from Tim Gillett offering me a 3 hour show on Pirate BBC Essex, using the Paul Freeman that I was given on Radio Essex 44 years ago, and best of all I was to follow the GREAT Emperor Rosko! Take care Hans, and please keep in touch! Best wishes, Paul Freeman. Now Paul Peters on Forest FM in the U.K www.forestfm.co.uk and KFMJ in Alaska www.kfmj.com)

Well time for artists who visited radio stations, this time Radio Veronica on August 4th 1974 when Lex Harding presented the second edition of a new program called 'Hitbewust'. In this program next to the Bay City Rollers and Wally Tax there was an interview with Stephanie de Sykes. She was a soap star with typical blue eyes who also could sing. And this was what Lex tempted her to come to do an interview on the radio.

Whenever you remember an artist who was featured in a program don't hesitate to inform me at hknot@home.nl

Searching for an old shipmate is ex Caroline deejay from the seventies, Nigel Elgin. The next e mail was sent to me by Vincent van Schriel: 'My working name at that time in the seventies was Nigel Elgin and Michael Lloyd's real name is Glenn Schiller (assuming I have remembered after all these years!). Would love to get in touch with Glenn but doubt if you have any contact details. If you ever do come across him, please let me know. Cheers, Nigel Davis.' So anyone out there from the seventies crew who knows where Michael could be please inform me at hknot@home.nl

Let's hope we will find him to. Over to Keith Skues, who wrote to me after reading the last report: 'Greetings Hans, What a wonderful review - the best ever. Thank you so much. Going back in history to when I began broadcasting with the British Forces Network in 1959 it was the Dutch listeners that sent me my first "Cardboard Shoes". I still have here at Skues Towers the first pair I was sent. Sadly I don't have the person's name. Lost with my travels around the world over the last 50 years ... but the cardboard shoes are still in good condition. Thank you again for a truly marvelous review. I am overwhelmed. I'm looking forward to see you in November in Amsterdam. With kindest regards, Keith Skues.' Well Keith maybe one day you could make a photograph of that special first 'Cardboard Shoes'

Short comment and interesting link from the Admiral Robbie Dale:
Hi Hans, Enjoyable. And a pleasant and casual presentation of an interesting program. Maybe you did not get this link as yet. Who is that flower power badge toting hippy? Greetings Robbie

<http://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=721236239#v=feed>

Berend Lourens wrote to me with information about a very interesting link connection to the subject REM Island

http://www.cq3meter.nl/publicaties/rem-eiland/index_ff.php

Another link comes from Luc in Belgium:

Dear Hans, I stumbled a web site with a few pictures from the Thames forts (one aerial picture offers a not-so-common view of the forts). Here is the link : <http://www.artificialowl.net/2008/07/maunsell-army-sea-forts-red-sands.html>

Kind regards, Luc Masuy.'

Then time for Ian Biggar: 'Hi Hans I hope that you are well. Can I ask that you put a request in your next report? I am looking for copies of the Caroline Movement bulletins numbers 18/19/20/21. I will pay all costs if some kind person could do some hard copies for me. Look forward to seeing you in Amsterdam. Many thanks Ian Biggar.'

I know there are in my readership people who did collect those bulletins, as we had some earlier request for issues. So who can help Ian, please mention it to HKnot@home.nl so I can put you in contact with Ian.

It's time for another update to The Pirate Radio Hall of Fame.

New this month: we have memories of the proposed Radio Caroline North "cruise" to find a new anchorage which was due to take place 44 years ago this month <http://www.offshoreradio.co.uk/list35.htm>) and we have a photo of Radio London racing driver Keith St.John behind the wheel of Big L's sponsored Elva BMW <http://www.offshoreradio.co.uk/odds53.htm>

There are a number of new audio clips including a rare copy of Martin Kayne's commentary on the arrival of Lord Charles Brown on board Caroline North and Roger Scott's first show for that station. (It was also his last as the ship was towed away the next day); plus there is news of a stage play about Reg Calvert and Radio City, an offshore DJ's autobiography and we acknowledge the former Caroline presenter who has just topped the charts. My grateful thanks, as ever, to all the contributors.

www.offshoreradio.co.uk

Off course you have to go to the next site to have a look at the wonderful work Mary and Chris Payne already do more than 10 years with their tribute site to Radio London and much more! <http://www.radiolondon.co.uk/>

Talking about Mary, her name is mentioned in the next e mail too:
'Hans, some time ago it was Mary Payne who advised me to contact you. I'm looking already for years for a copy of a hit list, which seems to have disappeared from earth. In the seventies I started to collect several list, like Dutch Top 40 from Veronica, Radio Noordzee Top 50 and more. I also made several contacts with other collectors. Also I worked together with people from the Magazine Pampus and the Society Hitologie. At one time I started to collect de TROS Europarade, which I got direct from the Broadcasting Society TROS. I produced a booklet called TROS Europarade Research 1976 - 1980 and recently I put this for sale on internet:
<http://link.marktplaats.nl/282347523>

I've scanned my complete collection of the hit list and the plans are that special internet pages will appear at Media Tools from Ad Roland with the old Europarades. However there is one Europarade missing, the one from January 4th 1986. Who can help me?

<http://link.marktplaats.nl/282348835>

with friendly greetings Hans Blauwbroek. So if anyone can help with the missing Europarade from January 4th 1986 or want to exchange facts and figures with Hans please inform me at HKnot@home.nl

Hmm, what shall we think from the next interesting article from the Mail on Sunday? <http://www.mailonsunday.co.uk/tvshowbiz/article-1217271/Radio-GaGa-Not-pop-pickers-With-combined-age-400-veteran-DJs-set-unleash-rocknroll-revolution.html>

And what did the Emperor write after receiving my last issue in which I wrote about the new rules for sending mail to thousands of people like the Hans Knot International Radio Report? 'Hans it's no spam. We call you a wammer-jammer not a spammer :) Greetings to you Titan of radio info. The mighty KBC is one that is carrying our program and the other is in Korea! The south, my agent will send me the name shortly, these are the two I mentioned. I have two more stations about to pop but I am still under the national secrets act on those. Emperor Rosko.'

Sorry Emperor we have readers in Cambodia, Malaysia, China (an ex Caroline deejay making radio there) as well in Thailand but not in Korea. So maybe you can plug the report there too!

Next is Alan Bailey: 'Hi Hans, I hope you're keeping well. Looking at your latest report for October I saw the photo of Villa Louvigny and your correspondent mentioned Cliff Richard and the Shadows. I thought you may be interested to know that at the end of September Cliff and the Shadows visited Nottingham as part of their tour. On that day the BBC invited me in for a chat about when I was his recording engineer 50 years ago in the Hertford Street Studios, London of Radio Luxembourg. If anyone's interested in hearing it they can click on

<http://www.mediafire.com/?qnkqxd4qnnz> Always good to get your interesting reports and take care. Kind Regards, Alan Bailey.' Thanks Alan for sharing it with us. And look what I found in my archive? Barry Alldis interviewing a young Cliff Richard who recently had his 69th birthday!



Photo: Archive Hans Knot

Talking about memories to the Big 208, here's another link
www.208itwasgreatradioluxembourg.co.uk

Next an e mail from Phil Champion in England who was an avid radio listener in the sixties and has many memories too. ' Hi Hans, I wonder if you could

help clear up a few points about Radio Veronica's schedule from March to about May 1968, the first few months that I really began listening to '192' a lot. This is to help in an article about listening to Veronica then as part of a series I'm doing ("Over 40 years of being glued to the radio") which I'm doing for Geoff Baldwin's "Radio Review." www.radioreview.org.uk

Hope you can help. Then, I didn't know any Dutch at that time but nowadays I speak it a little bit. I was trying in those days to listen when home from school. It would be interesting if you can post a Veronica schedule for weekdays and the weekend in your 'International Report' sometime. I have read that Eddie Becker was doing weekdays 'Ook Goeie Morgen' for the mid/late 1960s. But I'm sure it was him on 'Jukebox' 1400-1600 (not to be confused with the request show 'Radio Veronicas Jukebox' with Chiel Montagne 1800-1900). So was someone else doing breakfast then or was he doing 2 shows a day?

Well Phil reading this first question I decided to send the whole mail to Juul Geleick who has his wonderful Veronica memories at www.norderney.nl

He responded with: 'Eddie was doing 'Ook Goeiemorgen' during the period February - May 1968. In the afternoon there was no Jukebox. In the month of February however every Tuesday and Thursday there was a program called: 'Van concertzaal tot Jukebox' (from concert hall to Jukebox), which was presented by Rob van Dijk and transmitted from 14 up till 15 Dutch time.

Next question from Phil was: 'Who was on 0900-1200? Was it Gerard de Vries? Was Tineke co-presenting with him or did that partnership not start until they did 1000-1200 together from January 1969?'

Again the answer from Juul Geleick: Here is just an idea of programming during early 1968: At 09.00 uur it was MTUW (Music while you work) followed at ten by 10.00 Tineke Koffietijd (Coffee Time). Then at 11.00 hrs. 'Kookpunt', with Gerard de Vries. (Boiling time) The mentioned co presentation between Gerard and Tineke started much later on Veronica.'

Question three from Phil Champion now follows: 'After Jan van Veen's 'Muziek bij de lunch' from 1200-1400 there was in my opinion 'Jukebox' till

1600. This was before Lex Harding's show began in May. But on Thursdays there was an hour of easy-listening music 1400-1500 with a deejay with a relaxed voice. My late mother said the theme tune, which involved someone whistling, was "In a Monastery Garden." Do you know what the title of this show was, who the deejay was and why there was an hour of MoR music suddenly put in one afternoon a week?'

And here is Juul once again: 'I think once again it must have been 'van concertzaal tot jukebox' with Rob van Dijk. Indeed he had a very relaxed way of presentation and a wonderful shrouded voice. But again that was between 14 and 15.' Of course with thanks to Juul Geleick

Of course I sent the answers to Phil who came back with: 'Thanks, Hans. I think Veronica's programme schedule was more complicated than I thought! I only thought Rob van Dijk did the program 'Klassiek Verzoek' - it just shows that you can always learn something new. Thinking of his voice it matches perfectly with the voice I used to hear on Thursdays at 1400 all those years ago. By the way, I listened to the final (offshore) Veronica Top 40 on the internet (veronica192.nl I think) on August 31st and thought that radio production has not really improved since 1974! Regards, Phil Champion.'

Next to the fact I sent the questions to Juul I also contacted Vincent Schriel who is heavy in collecting as much info about programs on several radio stations. He kindly sent me the next program schedule from Veronica in April 1968:



PROGRAMMA'S VOOR APRIL

1968

Luister vooral naar **VERONICA'S TEEN-
AGER MUZIEK EXPRES**; gepresenteerd door
top-d.j. **JAN VAN VEEN**, i.s.m. maandblad
„**MUZIEK EXPRES**“. Elke woensdagmiddag
van 5 tot 6 uur en elke zaterdagmiddag
van 1 tot 2 uur!

Dagelijks van 8.00 tot 20.00 uur, direct voor
het hele uur **NIEUWS** en **WEERBERICHTEN**.

ELKE ZONDAG

- 07.00 OOK GOEIEMORGEN (Gerard de Vries)
- 08.30 TUSSEN KOFFIE EN EERSTE PINT (Vlaams programma)
- 09.00 MEN VRAAGT EN WIJ DRAAIEN (Frans Nienhuys)
- 10.00 KOFFIETIJD MET TINEKE
- 11.00 MONTAGNE CHIEL IN Z'N ZONDAGSE VERONICA-KIEL met Veronica's Top 20
- 12.00 SPORTIEF ZIJN EN BETER WORDEN (Jan van Veen)
- 13.00 OUD EN NIEUW met Rob Out
- 15.00 UIT DE KOERS met Tineke en Joost
- 16.30 SPORT UIT ZEE
- 17.00 ZONDAGMIDDAG-SPECIAAL (Chiel Montagne)
- 18.00 IN DE GILDE TAVERNE
- 18.15 VERONICA'S JUKEBOX
- 19.00 JOOST MAG HET WETEN
- 20.00 KLASSIEK VERZOEK (Opera en Operette)
- 21.30 TRAGEDIA I ELADA (Grieks progr.)
- 22.00 GEVARIEERDE PLATEN
- 22.30 ALLE REMMEN LOS (Jan van Veen)
- 24.00 MUZIEK-PRIVÉ (Rob van Dijk)
- 01.00 SLUITING

ELKE MAANDAG

- 06.00 OOK GOEIEMORGEN (Eddy Becker)
- 07.00 MUZIEK TERWIJL U WERKT
- 10.00 KOFFIETIJD MET TINEKE
- 11.00 KOOKPUNT (Gerard de Vries)
- 12.00 MUZIEK BIJ DE LUNCH door Jan van Veen. Hierin DE AGENDA
- 14.00 MET TINEKE EEN PLAATJE OM
- 15.00 NEDERLANDS ALEKLEI (Chiel Montagne)
- 16.00 HITS UIT ZEE (Jan van Veen)
- 18.00 VERONICA'S JUKEBOX
- 19.00 ROLLING STONES-SHOW (Chiel Montagne)
- 19.15 JOOST MAG HET WETEN
- 20.00 BINNEN ZONDER KLOPPEN (Suhandi)
- 21.00 VERONICA'S RHYTHM AND BLUES HOP
- 22.30 ALLE REMMEN LOS door Jan van Veen
- 24.00 GEVARIEERDE PLATEN
- 01.00 SLUITING

ELKE DINSDAG

- 06.00 OOK GOEIEMORGEN (Eddy Becker)
- 07.00 MUZIEK TERWIJL U WERKT
- 10.00 KOFFIETIJD MET TINEKE
- 11.00 KOOKPUNT (Gerard de Vries)
- 12.00 MUZIEK BIJ DE LUNCH door Jan van Veen. Hierin DE AGENDA
- 14.00 VAN CONCERTZAAL TOT JUKEBOX (Rob van Dijk)
- 15.00 VERLEDEN TIJD (Chiel Montagne)
- 16.00 DINSDAGMIDDAG-SPECIAAL. Dinsdagmiddagspecialist. Rob Out met om 17.00 uur: IT'S CLEARASIL TIME en om 17.15 uur: HITS A GOGO
- 18.00 VERONICA'S JUKEBOX
- 19.00 JOOST MAG HET WETEN (Hot 100 U.S.A.)
- 20.00 NASHVILLE-TENNESSEE (Cowboy Gerard)
- 21.00 THIS IS SHOW-BUSINESS (Max Appelboom)
- 22.00 JAZZ-JOURNAAL van Ruud Kuyper (Tineke)
- 23.00 NONS-TOP-HITS
- 23.30 MUZIEK A SLOW-GO (Rob Out)
- 01.00 SLUITING

ELKE WOENSDAG

- 06.00 OOK GOEIEMORGEN (Eddy Becker)
- 07.00 MUZIEK TERWIJL U WERKT
- 10.00 KOFFIETIJD MET TINEKE
- 11.00 KOOKPUNT (Gerard de Vries)
- 12.00 MUZIEK BIJ DE LUNCH door Jan van Veen. Hierin DE AGENDA
- 14.00 NASHVILLE TENNESSEE (Cowboy Gerard)
- 14.30 CHIEL MONTAGNE ZONDER FRANJE
- 16.00 WOENSDAGMIDDAG-SPECIAAL (Rob Out)
- 17.00 VERONICA'S TEENAGER MUZIEK EXPRES. Presentatie: Jan van Veen, Productie: Paul Acket. Een programma, gepresenteerd in samenwerking met maandblad „Muziek Express“
- 18.00 VERONICA'S JUKEBOX
- 19.00 JOOST MAG HET WETEN
- 20.00 KLASSIEK VERZOEKPLATENPROGRAMMA
- 22.30 ALLE REMMEN LOS, door Jan van Veen
- 24.00 WOENSDAGNACHT ONDER DE STERREN (Gerard de Vries)
- 01.00 SLUITING

ELKE DONDERDAG

- 06.00 OOK GOEIEMORGEN (Eddy Becker)
- 07.00 MUZIEK TERWIJL U WERKT
- 10.00 KOFFIETIJD MET TINEKE
- 11.00 KOOKPUNT (Gerard de Vries)
- 12.00 MUZIEK BIJ DE LUNCH door Jan van Veen. Hierin DE AGENDA
- 14.00 VAN CONCERTZAAL TOT JUKEBOX (Rob van Dijk)
- 15.00 MICROSOL. Speciaal programma voor alle zieke vrienden van Veronica. Presentatie: Gerard de Vries.
- 16.00 DONDERDAGMIDDAGPARADE (Chiel Montagne)
- 18.00 VERONICA'S JUKEBOX
- 19.00 BEATLE-SHOW (Jan van Veen)
- 19.15 JOOST MAG HET WETEN
- 20.00 RADIO SINAR SANG SURYA - RADIO RAYODI SOLO - RADIO SOERDJIE DJOTIE - ZONNESTRAAL RADIO. (Suhandi, Stella Priest en Badhrum Kachri)
- 22.00 MUZIEK UIT ZEE
- 23.00 HONDEWACHT (Chiel Montagne)
- 01.00 SLUITING

ELKE VRIDAG

- 06.00 OOK GOEIEMORGEN (Eddy Becker)
- 07.00 MUZIEK TERWIJL U WERKT
- 10.00 KOFFIETIJD MET TINEKE
- 11.00 KOOKPUNT (Gerard de Vries)
- 12.00 MUZIEK BIJ DE LUNCH door Jan van Veen. Hierin DE AGENDA
- 14.00 MATINEE met Rob Out
- 15.00 ESCONIELTJE
- 16.00 HITS UIT ZEE (Jan van Veen)
- 18.00 VERONICA'S JUKEBOX
- 19.00 JOOST MAG HET WETEN
- 20.00 NASHVILLE TENNESSEE (Cowboy Gerard)
- 21.00 PROGRAMMA VOOR ALLE SPAANS SPREKENDE MENSEN IN NEDERLAND
- 21.30 MORGEN IS HET ZATERDAG (Lex Harding of Hans Mondt)
- 22.30 ALLE REMMEN LOS door Jan van Veen
- 24.00 EENTJE VOOR ONDERWEG (Tineke)
- 01.00 MIDDERNACHT ONDER DE STERREN (Eddy Becker)
- 0.200 SLUITING

ELKE ZATERDAG

- 07.00 SCHOON SCHIP
- 07.30 COUNTRY en WESTERN HITS
- 09.30 HOLLANDESE NIEUWE
- 10.00 BUMS
- 10.15 KOOKPUNT
- 11.00 NATIONALE TEXTIELFABRIEKEN
- 11.15 SCHOON SCHIP
- 12.00 WIE DE SCHOEN PAST
- 12.15 HITS A GOGO (Rob Out)
- 13.00 VERONICA'S TEENAGER MUZIEK EXPRES. Een programma gepresenteerd in samenwerking met maandblad „Muziek Express“. Productie: Paul Acket. Voor de microfoon gebracht door Jan van Veen
- 14.00 NEDERLANDS TOP 40 (Joost de Draaier)
- 16.00 GOUD VAN OUT en TIPS VOOR DE TOP (Rob Out)
- 18.00 VERONICA'S JUKEBOX
- 19.00 JOOST MAG HET WETEN De Engelse Top 20
- 20.00 WEEKEND-SURPRISES (Chiel Montagne)
- 22.00 ITALIAANS PROGRAMMA
- 22.30 CLIFF EN ELVIS SHOW
- 23.00 VOETJE VAN DE VLOER (Lex Harding of Hans Mondt)
- 00.00 DOE DE WEEK DE DEUR UIT (Jos v. Vliet)
- 01.00 HELP, ER ZIT EEN OLIFANT IN DE TRAM (Joost de Draaier en Henk van Dorp)
- 02.00 SLUITING

Program schedule from archive Vincent Schriel

Talking about programs, October was also time for a small celebration. Let's see what Ian Anderson has to tell us: This weekend (actually Monday morning) is the 40th anniversary of the first test broadcast of what was to become, 4 months later, Radio Geronimo. Programme tapes recorded on 10 August 1969 in Bill Hayes Muswell Hill home, with Hugh Nolan and Terry Yason presenting, and due for transmission on 16/17 August 1969, were not broadcast because of the "poor quality" of the 7" reel-to-reel tape and there was no transmission. On 14 October 1969 programme tapes were recorded in the radio studio of Radio Luxembourg (London) Limited at 38 Hertford Street, London W1 with Terry Yason presenting and identifying the station as Radio 428.



Tape one started with the theme tune *Amazing Grace* by The Great Awakening, followed by *Rainy Day Women* by Bob Dylan, *If Six Was Nine* by the Jimi Hendrix Experience followed by other songs including *Cucamonga* by Freedom Sounds, *Five to One* by The Doors and *My Generation* by The Who. The tapes were due to be played on Radio Andorra on the morning of Sunday 19 October 1969. However, with the tapes not arriving in time, the Radio Andorra French (language) announcer presented live instead, making that the first test broadcast. All of the pre-recorded programmes for Radio Andorra were either never broadcast, replaced by a French speaking DJ or played at a later date. The first complete playback of a programme was on 16 November 1969. The final playback of a programme on Radio Andorra was on 7 December 1969. The first Radio Monte Carlo playback was on 7 January 1970. The first playback with the name Radio Geronimo mentioned was on 15 February 1970 (the second playback on Radio Monte Carlo). (I was the only person at every one of the programme recording sessions from the end of October 1969 until the beginning of March 1970.) Ian Anderson

Next a question from Mike Grant in England: 'On Radio Caroline in the 1970s the DJs used to give a secret code number out following the weather update

each hour. These were intended for the Office telling what supplies were needed and possibly problems on board? Do you have a listing of these "Caroline codes" with what each one means. I can imagine that nearly 30 years down the line the secret can now be told. It would make listening to my 1970s Caroline collection all the more interesting! Have a great weekend Mike Grant.'

Well Mike somewhere in my massive archive is a few samplers from those code lists. Also in the eighties they were used by the Monique and Caroline organisation. But numbers were frequently changed so the authorities couldn't get a grip on the codes. One period 150 mend no fresh water at the moment while the same number could mend a month later 'spare parts for main generator needed'. Only some of the people on the ship as well as on shore knew exactly what the numbers stood for.

From Harwich the next e mail: 'Hi Hans I hope you are well. I enclose details of the PBBCE Easter 2009 DVD - ready at last! DVD released Monday 5 October 2009. Title: 'THE BOAT THAT DOCKED'. Subtitled: 'Pirates Ahoy' - Pirate BBC Essex Easter 2009. Running time is 106 minutes. Format: DVD Available by post only from: THE BOAT THAT DOCKED DVD, THE HIGH LIGHTHOUSE, HARWICH, ESSEX, CO12 3HH Great Britain. PRICE: £15.00 incl. P+P CHEQUES PAYABLE TO: NVWTM. More info see newsflash on www.offshore-radio.de

Good to see that Robbie Owen, we know from Voice of Peace days, is a sharp reader: 'Dear Hans It was interesting to read that Mike Galloway has Bruce Sabsay's "Report" on the Electrics of the Peace ship. I remember this well, serving on the ship in mid-78 when Bruce was the "Engineer". I am using inverted commas round the words report and engineer very deliberately. Bruce fled Canada on a drugs charge (cocaine I believe) and found refuge on the Peace Ship. His administration of the systems was so bad that the station had to go off-air during Abie's hunger strike because of chronic transmitter problems. When we returned to the airwaves in July 1978 it was with the great Bill Danse in charge of Engineering - he came back for a week to oversee the complete overhaul of the two AM transmitters. With the help of Noam Aviram, for the first time in more than a year, he got the station back on 50 Kilo-Watts with really great sound quality. Some weeks later we

received a QSL report and an audio recording of the station from Japan!

Bruce may have been qualified, but he was not competent. Within a week of Bill Danse returning to Holland, we lost one of the AM's (there were two at 25Kw), and it never returned to life whilst I was there. Peter Lewis found the fault later that year - a simple trapped wire in the door! I remember Bruce wiring the new tuner for news reception. Instead of using the line outputs, he connected both speaker terminals together with the result that the DC offset (you can tell I'm an electronics guy!) from one channel fed into the other causing loud ripping sounds. The only talent I can remember that Bruce had was to cook pancakes. He made luxuriously thick pancakes and we happily covered them in Maple Syrup. Bruce also blamed most of the engineering problems on Mike Galloway's stewardship the year before - something that was very unfair. Without Mike we would never have had a Production Studio and Mike knew how to get 50Kw!



Robbie Owen in 2006 Photo: Martin van der Ven

Bruce didn't like the station, and was always moaning about how unfairly he thought the team was treated. He constructed this report as his way of getting even with Abie - he intended to pass the report to the Press when he left the station, and intended to cause great embarrassment to Abie. On my

first shore leave, I was with Bruce when he meet Betty (I believe her surname was den Ouden) a former Dutch prostitute who lived in Petah Tiqva. She was a hostess in 'Bernies Bottle Club' the BBC - in the old northern port area of Tel Aviv. Bruce and Betty quickly struck up a relationship, and soon after Bruce left the Peace ship to settle on shore. He tried to publish his report, but fortunately the Israeli Press could recognise a non-story and nobody was interested.

It is true that there were many safety hazards on the Peace Ship: the main staircase, the open insulator at the base of the mast, the old AM transmitters, and the slippery diesel fuel across the corridor. But, the electrical system was not one of them. This part of the installation had been done well in the US was very reliable. As for his 'earthling' hazards, he obviously was unaware that a metal hull in contact with sea water is in fact a rather good earth. That's why putting a quarter-wave antenna over sea water radiates so well - it has an almost perfect "earth mirror" below it - and kilowatt for kilowatt, ship-based AM has always beaten those on land.

The last I heard of Bruce was that he settled in Israel with Betty, never to return to Canada, and died some years ago. There were unconfirmed reports at this time of more drugs connections. The 'mother' of the Peace Ship family, Jacky Bennett (wife of Ships Engineer Bill) would be able to add a lot more detail as she lived in Petah Tiqva not far from Betty. Best Wishes, Robbie Owen.'

Well thanks a lot Robbie for your very detailed story on Bruce work and how things could go really wrong on the ship. Strange that after so many years still long 'new' stories appear in the history on offshore radio, especially in the history on the Voice of Peace. Anyone who wants to respond or add more to this story feel free to write to HKnot@home.nl

And for Robbie all the best and see you too in November, greetings Hans

Next one a plug for reader Oeds Jan Koster: 'Just for your information: starting Sunday November 29th I will make a series of radio shows with the title 'offshore radio in the seventies'. These shows will start with an interview with Hans Knot about the history of offshore radio during the period 1970 - 1974, varied with typical offshore radio hits from the

mentioned years. The interview will be followed by a survey of all # 1 hits only in the hitlists of Radio Northsea International Dutch and/or English service. After that some complete hitlists from Radio Veronica and RNI from the same period will be broadcasted. So many weeks of listening pleasure. This series will end with the complete last hour of Radio Veronica on August 31st 1974 (17.00 - 18.00 hrs local time) and the complete last hour from RNI (19.00 - 20.00 hrs local time) on the same day. Where can you listen to these shows? www.oogtv.nl click on 'Live Radio' at the left. When will these shows be broadcasted? Each Sunday between 14.00 - 15.00 hrs local Dutch time, starting November 29th 2009. All the best, Oeds Jan Koster.'

One of the former captains of the MEBO II, Jan Harteveld, did send me some photographs from which this one comes from 1971. It was taken in a discotheque in Zurich when there was a special anti drugs evening.



Jan Harteveld in the Middle. Priest Flurie on the right.

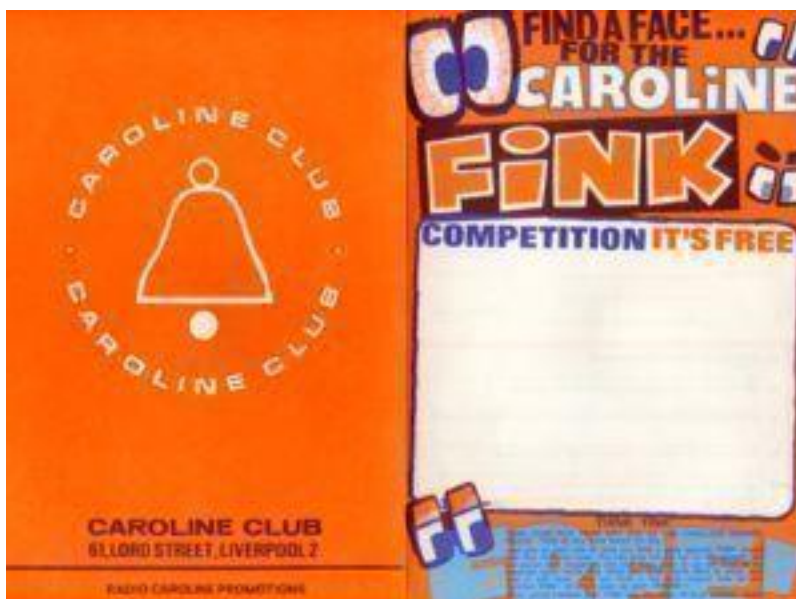
Another one shows Vic Pelli, once station manager on RNI with his wife and Harteveld in the garden.



Victor Pelli, his wife and Captain Hartevelde

Last issue came in a question from Mike Ryan: 'Which other offers were made and who has what? Thought it might make a good subject and bring back some memories. All the very best and keep up the good work. Mike Ryan.'

Well it's Bryan Kingsley from Ipswich who sent the following Caroline North leaflet for the Find a face for Caroline Fink Competition which is completely new for me. Who can tell me more? Also if you have something to share from in house promotion from any of the offshore stations please feel free to write to HKnot@home.nl



Next from Peter Messingfeld in Germany the next news: 'Dear radio friend, In July I had the chance to see the studios of the new EKR. Photographs and all about the return of European Klassik Rock at:

http://www.travelseries.de/trav2009/trav09_3.htm

Some weeks ago the annual radio day at Erkrath took place. Once again a good attendance and also there were interesting speakers. See and read all about it: http://www.travelseries.de/trav2009/trav09_4.htm

Graham Gill found some offshore radio studio tapes in his cellar. After digitalization a CD was produced. Read all about it including free download at: <http://www.travelseries.de/trav2009/grahamgillcd.htm>

Next an e mail from Robert James: 'Hi Hans, a question that you might be able to answer in a future report. In the latest issue of Offshore Echos magazine there is an article which mentions that tests were carried out from the Norderney in February 1975. I think this is also mentioned in Offshore Radio by Gerry Bishop. Can you explain why these tests were carried out and any other information about them? Kind Regards, Robert James.'

Well Robert the only person who could answer this question is the late Jose van Groningen, the head technician from Veronica in those days. So sorry this time I have no answer. Possibly the owners had talks with a second party for selling the radio ship but that's just an idea. Nothing was official declared.

Next Bill Barnes warns us not forgetting to inform you the reader about the New Horizon Magazine: Hi Hans,

I've made use of your excellent retrospective on Radio Veronica in the next Horizon Magazine <http://www.horizonmagazine.co.uk/>

I've also given a last plug for Radio Day (photos and reports very welcome for Horizon) and mentioned your problem with email newsletters. Best wishes, Bill.'

So if you want to know what I've written about the old Veronica just order your own copy of the Horizon Magazine. And Bill, thanks for the plug for the Radio Day.

In last Issue it was Mark Watkins from Reading asking for program schedules from

Laser 558

Wednesday 18-07-84 06.00-10.00 Rick Harris
10.00-14.00 David Lee Stone
14.00-18.00 Tommy Rivers
18.00-22.00 Holly Michaels
22.00- 02.00 Charlie Wolf

Radio Caroline

Monday 13-08-84 06.00-11.00 Johnny Lewis
11.00-15.00 Grant Benson
15.00-19.00 Stuart Vincent
19.00-23.00 Andy Johnson
23.00-02.00 Edwin King

News service: Jay Jackson

Thursday 27-09-84 06.00-11.00 Johnny Lewis
11.00-15.00 Simon Barrett
15.00-19.00 Alton Andrews
19.00-23.00 Tom Anderson
23.00- 02.00 Samantha Dubois

News service: Grant Benson

Monday 29-10-84 07.00-10.00 Johnny Lewis
10.00-13.00 Dave Richards
13.00-16.00 Andy Johnson
16.00-19.00 Paul McKenna
19.00-23.00 Tom Anderson
23.00- 03.00 Stuart Vincent
03.00- 07.00 Samantha Dubois

News service: Jay Jackson

Laser 558

Thursday 29-11-84 06.00-11.00 Tommy Rivers
11.00-16.00 Holly Michaels
16.00-21.00 David Lee Stone
21.00- 02.00 Charlie Wolf

Of course with a lot of thanks to Robin Westhof

Then record question time as this one came in: 'Dear Hans, Professor of Radio When Don Allan closed the International service of RNI, he played his Big 3 favorite funny records. The one I cannot remember the title of, had the lyrics: "You can trust shit or bust I'm going to live until I die". Do you know the title or artiste? God bless you.'

Well the last evening of the international service of RNI on August 30th 1974 I've not here at the moment so if anyone has it in the archive maybe you can send met the last three titles Don Allan played on the station. Just send it to HKnot@home.nl

Let's finish with were we started with and that's the late Mike Ahearn. On Friday October 16th Andy Archer was so kind to send me the following: Hans, Today, October 16th. a small 'Thanksgiving Service' for Mike's life was held in Sheringham in North Norfolk. It had been organised by Mike's sons, who had flown over to Britain from Australia. Picture shows me, with Angela Bond the former Radio One producer and Ray Clark of BBC Radio Essex drinking a glass of Bollinger champagne to the memory of Mike Ahearn.'



Photo collection: Andy Archer

Well friends that rounds up this November issue of the Hans Knot International Radio Report. Just one other issue to go in this year. May I wish you all the best and who knows that we shake hands on the 14th of November during the Radio Day in Amsterdam. See you eventually there. Hans Knot