

HANS KNOT INTERNATIONAL RADIO REPORT APRIL 2011

Welcome everybody to this months report and thanks for all the e mails, the memories, news and photo's, which have been send in to me. Let's get it off with an e mail from someone who, I do remember, once worked for AFN but also helped Dennis King and Johnny Jason a bit with the Caroline Berlin Hour, way back in the seventies of last century: 'Good Day Hans Here's trusting you are well. I appreciate being added to your mailing late and enjoy it very much! The following is from the AFN Europe Yahoo Group. Thought you would like to see it. Joel O'Brien Randolph, VT.

The US Army on Radio Luxembourg. Posted by: Jack Perkins: The American/Allied liberation of the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg began on September 9th of 1944. This also brought the seizure of Radio Luxembourg from the Third Reich. The station was intact, not destroyed by the departing Germans. The Luxembourgers immediately offered the station to the Allies as part of the continuing war effort, and the US Army made good use of Radio Luxembourg, returning it after the surrender. Today, Radio Luxembourg still transmits its French Service on Long Wave at 234 KHz with 500 KW. (The Long Wave band has always been active in Europe.)



A look at the misty transmitting site from Luxembourg
Photo: Hans Knot

A second posting came from someone who worked for AFN as well as Radio Luxembourg and had a spell with Cable One, the very first satellite radio station in the late eighties for the Netherland: 'The accompanying short film clip from the Army Pictorial Service, European Theater of Operations, has recently become available. The scene is the town of Junglinster, just outside the capital city. The large building shown in the film even today houses the current transmitters and auxiliary power for a number of RTL stations. The antenna farm shown is long gone, having been replaced and replaced again. Many of you may find it interesting.

<http://www.videosurf.com/video/allied-soldiers-prepare-material-for-especially-prepared-german-broadcasts-at-radio-luxembourg-during-world-war-ii-1218233041>

Benny Brown AFN Frankfurt, '74-'76 And again this evening, live, on Radio Luxembourg.'

And talking about another former Luxy deejay, Shaun Tilney: 'Local BBC stations in Devon and Jersey are offering an alternative to the weekly Top 40 show on Radio 1, by broadcasting a vintage Top 40. The programme will air between 5pm and 7pm, hosted by Shaun Tilley and various former Radio 1 and Radio 2 presenters. Included in the special guest line up is Mike Read, David Hamilton, Ed Stewart, Pat Sharp, Adrian John and Adrian Juste. Shaun told RadioToday.co.uk: "Although hosted in a contemporary style, the show's format and sound tips its hat to the halcyon days of the chart show." It is hoped the show will be extended to other local stations in the future.

<http://radiotoday.co.uk/news.php?extend.6740>

March 15th saw the death of Keith Fordyce at the age of 83. He began his career at BFBS and later worked on Radio Luxembourg during the days the station still had announcers. He even got the job as chief announcer. After Luxy days he was involved in the TV programme 'Ready Steady Go!'. He presented and interviewed The Beatles on a number of occasions, and worked for Radio 1 in the late 1960s. Later on, he became the first presenter of 'Sounds of the '60s' on Radio 2 from February 1979. In the eighties, for a short spell, he was back on Radio Luxembourg and after that he was back on radio on BBC South West stations in the 1990's and the early years of this century. As Alzheimer made it difficult to present radio

programmes he then decided to stop using the microphone.

Next is Edna from Ireland: 'At the moment I am working at Dublin's FM104 as a cover presenter. People can find the station's site at www.fm104.ie

I do not forget the warm welcome I was shown by yourself, Yorkie and Don Stevens in 2006 when I met you first Hans and I look forward to visiting another Radio Day in Amsterdam again in the future. It is still with great sadness that I think of the passing of dear Yorkie. (Keith York)

Enda www.radiotalent.co.uk/endacaldwell

Jan van Heeren from the Netherlands is active on the internet searching for all kind of material on offshore radio and in this issue he does surprise me and you twice: first he comes with pictures from a single, which was for sale on e bay. And if you watch those closely, you will see that two marks have been added: 'Radio Caroline not for sale', including the Caroline bell. Well I must admit I've never seen this before. Anyone of those worked on Caroline North and South in the sixties could probably tell me more at

HKnot@home.nl



Next it's Harald from Germany who wrote: 'Hi Hans, after all these years it's still a great pleasure to read your international radio reports. For your readers I send to you a link to an article from magazine 'Spiegel online' concerning Lord Sutch and Shivering Sands, dated from 18.02.2011.

Although it is in German language there are some interesting photographs included.

http://einestages.spiegel.de/static/topicalbumbackground/21241/die_festung_des_bruellenden_lords.html

Best wishes Harald Urbig'.

Well indeed a very interesting article and wonderful photographs Harald. Of course thank you for that and also to Christian van der Ven who spotted the same article for us. Next it's Paul Ciesielski who has built many models from the former radio stations in international waters. This time he's other memories: 'Good morning, Hans. I've read on 'Media pages.Nl' the story about the MV Bellatrix on scrapyard. In 1987, I've boarded on this beautiful boat, to go on board the MV Ross Revenge. I've good memories with the captain Willy and the members crew. I've slept on board the night before we boarded the Ross Revenge. Also, I've taken many photos on board. So it is very precious for me, to build the model of the 'Bellatrix'. (I've realised 2 models: 1 for Willy, and 1 for Fred Bolland. Live is strange! At the moment, I've begun to build a model of the Bellatrix on scale 1/100. Enclosed is a photo of his hull. When she's ready, I will send others photos. I also remember, I've seen the ship, together with her sister ship the MV Sirius in 1987 in the harbour of Duinkierk in Northern France. Greetings Paul C.'



Hull of the Bellatrix
Photo: Paul Ciesielski

But Paul was not the only one reflecting on the story about the scrapping of the Bellatrix as from the USA came the next e mail from Paul Jackson ex Laser deejay: Hans I hope you are well! Sad news about the Bellatrix! I hate seeing a good ship cut up for scrap! What ever happened to Fred Bolland, I knew he was sick a few years back. And what happened to the Captain of the Bellatrix from those days named Willy Wurmlitten? I think I spelled it correctly. Willy was very good to me back in 1987 and 1988! Paul Jackson.'

Well thanks Paul, good to hear from you again and I hope all is well with you. I thought to give some space for answers on your questions for someone else you do remember from almost 25 years ago: Leen Vingerling. 'Life goes on, even after scrapping the Bellatrix. Herewith the answers to the questions of Paul Jackson: With respect to Fred Bolland, he's seriously ill. Fred has a heart disease for many years. Last December he was found on the street due to a cardiac arrest. Since he was in hospital several times, but now he's back home. Fred is waiting for a heart transplant for two years. His life is restricted. He's not allowed to drive a car or a scooter and must stay indoors to avoid infection. He's very tired and sleeps most of the day. The slightest exercise is too much for him. Fred is very worried about his health, but luckily he stays optimistic.



Fred Bolland and Leen Vingerling (Archive Leen Vingerling)
2008

Willy Wormleighton, the former Zeemeeuw, Windy, Poolster and Bellatrix skipper, is in a better shape. In the early nineties he was arrested on a

tanker that had drugs onboard. Although he was not an accomplice and should be declared innocent, the Spanish authorities put the whole crew in jail. Willy spend almost six years behind bars. After his release he set up a bar, a restaurant and a relax club in Spain and Belgium. Lack of clients forced him to stop these businesses. Then he worked a short period at the Cape Verdian Islands, but returned to Belgium. Willy is earning a living by doing renovation works and prawn fishing. Salut Leen Vingerling.'



Leen Vingerling and Willy 1986 Photo collection Vingerling

And just before the report closed there was another photo coming in from Paul Ciesielski which shows he's worked hard on the hulk of the Bellatrix



From French, where Leen Vingerling is living these days, we go to Colin Dale in England who wrote: 'Hi Hans, on Tuesday 22nd of February, old ex Savages, Terry Clemson, Pete Newman and Colin Dale (DJ Radio Sutch) met up at the ace cafe, North Circular road, North West London for a photo shoot. This for a new story about David Lord Sutch, which is going to be published in a top magazine. The Ace cafe was (still is) one of the main venues during the Rock n Roll years 50s and 60s. More ex members of the Savages were invited but were either too ill or too old to make it, others were living abroad. Among those invited were such great names as Freddie Fingers Lee, Jimmy Tornado Evans, Ronnie Harwood, Clem Cattini, Ron Young, Rick Winters, Bob Bugos, Mac Poole, Ian Terry and Nick Simper. Photos are on: colindaleradiosutch@live.co.uk and they are on face book etc. Also on my youtube site www.youtube.com/colindaleradiosutch I hope this is of interest to you, Regards, Colin Dale.

Well thanks a lot for sharing this with us Colin!

Next we go to a very interesting question from reader Paul Morley: 'We have not been in touch before so a few words by way of introduction. I am the author of **THE AMERICAN FORCES NETWORK: The Anglo-American Battle of the Air Waves in World War II**. It was published in the States in 2001 by Greenwood Publishing under their Praeger imprint. Reviewers were kind enough to say it was the definitive history of the setting up of AFN in Britain during the war. I wrote an article for the American publication Radio World and as a result I had an email from the son in law of a man who was a technical engineer with AFN during the war. He has now sent me a collection of letters his late father in law wrote home during the war covering a 15 month period. They are, as far as I know, the only first hand picture of working for AFN in the war. I am writing an article about them for 'Tune into yesterday', the journal of the Old Time Radio Show Collectors Association with which I am sure you are familiar. I would be happy to let you have some notes on the letters which might be of interest to your own readers. However there is one aspect of what the letters recount which you possibly would like to draw to the attention of your readers apart from anything I write about them.

That is this: During the war a British listener to AFN (there were an estimated five million of them) wrote to AFN saying he had obtained from

the United States some recording discs and would like the network to record some of their programmes for him. Obviously he did not have the equipment to record anything himself -- there were of course no such things as tape recorders in those days. AFN said they would be happy to oblige him and presumably did so. The question is: who was this British listener and is he still alive today. And if so does he still have these recordings. As you know there are very few recordings of wartime AFN material in existence (as distinct from AFRS programmes of which there are many). Do you think you might circulate this information just in case the lost recordings come to light? I look forward to hearing from you. Best regards, Patrick Morley'.

Well thanks a lot for this AFN historical fact and you see I've published. There are a lot of former AFN fans reading my report too, as AFN is reflected from time to time. I hope someone has heard this story before and can reflect to your question at HKnot@home.nl And of course all kind of stories and articles are very welcome to share in the Hans Knot International Radio Report.

Well I'm on page 7 into this issue and no Rosko yet, although someone was mentioning his name in her letter: 'Hi Hans Great stuff! Very interesting newsletter! Nice to see several names I know mentioned and the picture of Rosko from way back when. I see that my good friend Paul Rusling has mentioned me as "running" Beacon Office, which is very kind of him. And at the same time not quite accurate as Milton Samuel, the owner of Beacon Records, 'ran' the office. I merely promoted records from there and also went to various gigs looking for potential recording talent for Beacon Records. I saw Genesis and UFO before they were signed up and went back to Beacon the next day and raved about them both to Milton. Before he could personally get out seeing them, within a day or two they had both been 'snapped' up for recording deals by other companies! So close....and yet so far! Thanks too for the other write-up about me. It's so nice to have had a part in the history of those days! So take care, Hans I hope you keep well and happy. Warmest regards. Sherri Lynn.'

Well Sherri what about a photo from those days within the record industry? Talking about photo's, as I didn't hear a thing from California here's another outbreak from my photo archive! It's one send in by Rosko recently and shows him at work in his home studio.



PHOTO COLLECTION: EMPEROR ROSKO

Recently I got a big envelope with newspapercuts, booklets, photos and many more about the history of offshore radio and commercial radio as well as AFN/AFRTS radio from one of the readers from the International Report from England, Brian Goolding. Many of the material is bringing back a lot of memories but some of it is very rare and unique as well as totally unknown to me. For instant the 'WRNC Dial Spot news,' which, I think, is a leaflet from 1969, It brings information of interesting radio programmes to be received in those days in Western Europe. Programs from station(s) from international waters, with Veronica as example, were not included, because of their location. Of course the editor of this leaflet thought about the problems he could get with the British Authorities when he would publish the programs on offshore radio in those days. The Marine Offences Act would certainly count if he had published more about offshore radio. The mentioned leaflet was published by the WRNC team with a BCM called Radio News in London WC1. My question is who knows more about this publication and if more than one issue was published. As always answers and your own memories may go to HKnot@home.nl



PROGRAMMES

- 2400 (208)(344) World News
- 0005 (208) Alan Presson Show -Sun, Tue-Sat.
- David Christian Show -Mon. -until Jan.
- (344) Johnny Grant Show -Sun. -music and star interviews.
- Roger Carroll Show -Mon-Fri. -easy music.
- Music and Me -Sat.
- 0100 (208)(344) World News
- (428) Radio Caroline Show -one hour of memories. March 2nd only.
- (208) Noel Edmonds Show until Jan. -Tue-Fri.
- The Late Show -Sat. Jimmy Saville Show -Sun.
- (344) Duke with Chris -Mon-Fri. -Hollywood's euro dejayette!
- Around the world in Music -Sat.
- 0200 (208) World News
- (208) Noel Edmonds Show -Sat. David Christian Show -Sun.
- (344) Just Music -one hour non-stop good music. -Mon-Fri.
- Fransmude Concert -Sun. Jazz Unlimited -Sat.
- 0300 (208)(344) World News
- 0305 (344) The Young Sound -one hour non-stop uptempo music. -Mon-Fri.
- Toscanini -Sun. Many Faces of Folk Music -Sat.
- 0400 (344) Parade of Spotlight Bands -Mon-Fri.
- Our Musical Heritage -Sun. Finch Bandwagon -Sat.
- 0410 (344) All that Jazz -Mon-Fri.
- 0435 (344) Herman Griffith -Mon-Fri. -wake-up and shake show.
- 0500 (344) Just Music -one hour non-stop good music. -Sun.
- Country Corner -Mon-Fri. Jimmy Wakely Show -Sat.
- 0600 (344) World News
- 0610 (344) Top of the Morning Show -4 part request programme until 8.30am. News headlines at 8.30am.
- Music a la Carte -Sun. C&W Hit Parade -Sat.
- 0700 (344) The World at 0700 -half-hour world news round-up. -Mon-Fri.
- (208) World News (208) -Sat-Sun.
- 0705 (530) Early Morning Special -music with headlines at 7.30am.
- 0800 (344) World News
- (530) News Magazine
- 0830 (344) Ira Cook Show -Mon-Fri.
- (530) A.S. Other Show until 10am. Mon-Fri.
- 0900 (344)(530) World News
- 0905 (344) What's Cooking? -today's kitchen special! -Mon-Fri.
- 1000 (344)(530) World News
- 1005 (344) Boston Symphony -Sun. Folk Party -Sat.
- Andy Russell Show -Sun. Bobby Troup -Tue.
- Music a la Carte -Wed. Andy Mansfield Show -Thur.
- Jazz Unlimited -Fri.
- (530) Housewives Requests
- 1100 (344)(530) World News
- 1105 (344) Herman Griffith Show -Mon-Fri. World in Music -Sun.
- 1130 (344) Noon Request Show until 2pm. -Mon-Fri.
- 1200 (344)(530) World News
- 1202 (530) Hospital's Requests -Mon, Thurs. RTE Orchestra -Tue.
- Terry-a-Whille -Wed. Weekend Sound About -Sat.
- 1300 (344) World News
- (530) Sponsored Programmes until 3pm. -Mon-Sat.
- 1305 (344) Adventures in Good Music -Mon-Fri. Jim Fawcett Show -Sat.
- 1330 (530) News Magazine
- 1350 (344) Songs By..... -Mon-Fri.
- 1400 (344)(530) World News
- (344) Weekend World until 4pm -Sat, Sun.

.....the John Doremus Show:
 At age twelve young John played at radio with a light bulb as microphone and wind-up gramophone for his studio equipment. Now, at age thirty five he no longer listens alone to his show. In the air United Airlines carry the show- its coast-to-coast in the US and global on AFN. Join the many millions when you listen to the 'King of Good Music' Monday-Friday at 11.15pm on Radio 344 from Frankfurt.



Well Brian once again thanks for the interesting bunch of memories.

Now we go to Jon in London: 'Hi, Just a quick note to let you know I have updated The Pirate Radio Hall of Fame. As I am sure you know, Radio Caroline commenced broadcasting in March 1964. We turn the clock back forty-seven years and look at the station's launch press release; we have some correspondence written to a listener in 1965 by Radio Caroline South 'Good Guy', Keith Skues. And there is another batch of City Sixty charts, this time from December 1966 - January 1967. As ever, my thanks to everyone who has contributed. We'll be back next month with, sadly, the final batch of City Sixties. www.offshoreradio.co.uk

And talkin about updates here's the one from Bob LeRoi: 'Welcome to the Spring Update. Whilst we're bi-monthly our updates are big with masses of new photographs, fresh facts and revisions. This time in 'ScrapBook' we visit the Netherlands for a long overdue catch-up with Radio Seagull that transmits from the old Trinity House Light Ship the LV8. Also in 'ScrapBook' we venture along the Kent coast for a close-up view of Tongue Fort covering the years 1942 - 1996. 'One Subject One Link' reviews one of

the Radio 2 series 'Sound of the 70's'. Coming full circle we kick-off a new 'Auction' for the single by Dutch Radio Monique's Eddie Ouwens recorded under the name Danny Mirror 'The King is Dead'. Plus we've added more titles to the 'CD Rack' and some collectable Hollies albums to the 'Record Store'. Enjoy the longer days and your visits: www.bobleroi.co.uk



I think the above Photo has been taken some 15 years ago in the studio at European Klassik Rock with from left to right: Bob LeRoi, Hans Knot and Dianna Bressens. Photo: Rob Olthof

Next some space in the report for a press report from our friends at the France Radio Club and once again I tell the readers that the International Radio Report is a free platform for everyone to bring their views on radio and related subjects.

COMMUNIQUE FROM FRANCE RADIO CLUB

In a recent post on an internet forum, Malcolm Smith (aka Peter Moore), managing director of a small internet/satellite radio station named Caroline, made an attack on France Radio Club and the people associated with it, simply because on a new website at www.radiocaroline.org/ someone has taken over an old site, that he thinks we were behind. About 10 years ago, a French site named radiocaroline.eu stated quite openly the France Radio Club view. We made it clear at the time that we had nothing to do with that site (we had our own site!) and didn't know who was behind it, although we fully supported the content of it, as these views were largely stated in OEM at

the time. (The site was reported to be held by Pierre Washington). This site is still around, now at radiocaroline.free.fr although it seems it hasn't been updated for quite a while.

France Radio Club/Offshore Echos received several somewhat threatening letters, from Mr. Smith, at the time, who didn't want the site to be called Radio Caroline. He wanted to sue us because he claimed ownership of the name in England! We told him then once again that we didn't have any contact whatsoever with the operator of the Caroline.eu site. Smith alleged that it was maintained by Robert Magniez, an OEM reader at the time, and member of the France Radio Club, although Robert always denied he owned this site. Robert left France Radio Club about 6 or 7 years ago for personal reasons.

Now this www.radiocaroline.org/ seems to have taken over some of the ideas mentioned in radiocaroline.free.fr. Although, we still support fully the views expressed there, once again we would make it clear that we have nothing to do with it, as we had nothing to do with the previous site! The stupid arguments against us by Malcolm Smith are really puerile ('You see, we all think that Ronan is a God!' etc.). If that is all that Smith has to oppose to our views, then it is quite clear why Caroline failed while he was in charge! We all know that the Ross is still berthed in England, doing nothing, it is all due to Mr. Smith who is said to have signed an agreement with the authorities so the ship wouldn't leave England. We have several letters from that same Mr Smith asking us to provide a berth in a French port in the early 90's (If he wants, we can publish all those letters!) "Anywhere but England" as he said then!

That, we did. We had a place for it in Calais - for free - the time to restore fully and freely the ship. We also had the possibility to have the Ross Revenge fully repaired for a shipping festival display on the River Seine in the mid-90's and once repaired the ship could have gone back to open sea. But by then Mr. Smith had changed his mind, and didn't want the ship to leave England, with the argument that it was needed for a restrictive RSL! But the real reason? We all know the answer! We did a lot for Caroline in the late 80's and early 90's until we found that our money was going for something else. We clearly mentioned our views then to Mr. Smith, before we departed from his project. He certainly took peoples money to start his small venture, claiming it was for putting the ship back at sea, while, in the

background, he acted the other way. Certainly he was the traitor in that respect! All that Mr. Smith has succeeded in doing is to make a world famous radio station, with millions of listeners, into a station for a minority group of just a few hundred! But of course, as you all know the true Radio Caroline stopped broadcasts in 1990! France Radio Club. OEM

Mail: oem@offshoreechos.com

Site: <http://www.offshoreechos.com>

The next link was sent by Martin van der Ven and Svern Martinssen

<http://www.twrafrica.org/0344.asp>

Clearer, Stronger Medium Wave from Swaziland. Tonight, when the sun goes down and you tune your radio into AM 1170 to hear TWR's broadcast, in Gauteng, say a prayer of thanksgiving to God for making such a feat possible! It is a miracle that we have been able to replace our old medium wave transmitter with one which produces a clearer, stronger signal. The best part is that the costs are being covered by what we're saving in electricity! This rebuilt transmitter was a prototype, which was never intended to be sold or used on the open market. It was originally given by its manufacturer, Harris, to HCJB Global, as payment for work done. There it sat, without being used and with no real future possibility of use. But God had His eye on it, for Kingdom use!

At the request of Swaziland's Station Manager, Mark Blosser, HCJB Global agreed to give us the transmitter for a fraction of what it would cost to buy a new one. This would have been in vain however, if the HCJB Global Technology Center hadn't also allocated two of its engineers to refit the transmitter for use on our frequency of AM 1170. Furthermore, the input of the Harris engineer who built the transmitter was needed and when he heard that the transmitter would be used in Africa to reach people with the gospel, he got stuck right in. What was planned to be a simple three-month project, turned into a massive one-year undertaking which only God could make possible.

The old Continental transmitter remains in Swaziland as a back-up. "It is of such an old vintage," Mark Blosser says, "that I'm told it could be the only transmitter of its kind still being used!" It is famously known as the "pirate

transmitter." During the 1970's radio stations operated on ships out of the English Channel, illegally. When one of these ships entered into port, the transmitter was impounded, and then eventually sold to TWR. "Now maybe" Lauren Libby says, "...the 'pirate' transmitter can get a well-deserved rest." Indeed! The replacement transmitter reaches a distance of 80km during the day (called: ground wave) and up to 1600km after the sun sets in the countryside, and 500km in the city. The first broadcast took place at 18:30 on 1 February 2011 in Zulu, followed by English. We ask you to pray with us that they will continue for many years to come. Pray that the transmitter would prove to be robust and that the modifications made would endure.

Don't forget to tune in and listen to the powerful radio programmes which God is using to transform Africa, one life at a time'. And the pirate radio station mentioned was SRE/Britain Radio.

And Svern Martinsen added: You can read my story about Texan Don Pierson's 6 radio stations "A Radio Rose of Texas" on this start page www.northernstar.no/olgapatricia1322845.html

About the Olga Patricia's Continental transmitters, see www.northernstar.no/chapter8.htm

About the radio broadcasting ship itself, now a fishing vessel in Virginia, see www.northernstar.no/chapter10.htm

I update the story as more information comes in. Much material is still unpublished.'

Hi Hans. In last report Jan Fré Vos had his story about a visit to Liverpool. Just to point out the report mentioned Caroline North being at 61 Liverpool St in Liverpool. Caroline North's office was at 61 Lord St'. Liverpool 2. Worth correcting this error. Regards Paul Graham.' Well thank you so much to have this clear eye Paul!

Ronny Forslund did send me the next press report on March 3rd. We just got the confirmation from The Swedish Post and Telecom Agency (PTS) that our application for MW 1512 kHz and SW 6060 kHz has been approved. On March 8 at 0848 UTC/GMT (0948 CET) we will start by broadcasting the opening of offshore station Radio Nord just as it was aired on this date in 1961. We will also make some short test transmissions on these frequencies before our regular programme starts. Power will be 1 kW on 1512 kHz and 10

kW on 6060kHz. The MW tx is located at Kvarnberget, Vallentuna some 35 km from Stockholm city and the SW tx outside the town of Sala. If you catch our signal please comment in our blog.'

<http://www.radionordrevival.blogspot.com> and let us know how well you can hear us in your area. QSL cards will be available later. Ronny Forslund, '

A pity this was too late to have in our March report and so the transmissions were heard by some of the readers and I advice you to read the blogspot.

Nickname time again: with first two deejays from Laser days, so the eighties of last century. Craig 'cranking up the hits' Novak, followed by Jay Mack 'Attack' On Radio Delmare we heard: 'Ome John met de zon' Anderson. (Uncle John with the sun Anderson). Listening to an old recording from Radio Scotland I heard: Tony 'TM in the AM' Meehan.

Next an e mail from Michael Bates from the 'Royal Family of Sealand': Didn't my kids do well and all grown up their first time on their own in front of a camera. James bless him will do anything to promote his title sales and is doing really well with it. (Who is that skinny bloke with all the hair in the old footage?) http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=P_LnPYRSLIc

Michael of Sealand E MARE LIBERTAS

www.sealandgov.org

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<http://www.facebook.com/PrincipalityOfSealand>

Issue 204 from the Radio Review recently came with the postman and there was an review on Nigel Harris his recent publication. The review, written by Geoff Baldwin brought also some reminiscing about his connections to the Caroline organisation. With this he brought an answer to a question asked by a reader of the Hans Knot International Report, which came in about 9 years ago. I don't recall who the question had send but it was: 'Does anybody know who was behind the Radio Caroline postal address in Rosas, Gerona in Spain. Well Geoff mentioned the name Stephen Frances, who handled in the second part of the seventies for a while the post for the Caroline organisation and was also anonymous publisher of the Caroline Newsletter. I decided to ask Geoff if he knew more about this Stephen and he came back to me with the following answer: 'Hi Hans, It was always a mystery. Oonagh (who did also a lot of 'illegal work for Caroline' told me that Stephen was the author of the

books on which the TV series Callan was based (starring Edward Woodward) but Callan was actually the creation of James Mitchell. Mitchell also created another TV drama 'When the Boat Comes In' and wrote scripts for series like The Avengers and The Troubleshooters. Mitchell did also write novels under his own name and under other names. I wondered if the name Stephen Frances was just a pen name or not his full real name but the details don't tie up with Mitchell because the latter didn't go and live in Spain (as far as I know). If Stephen (whoever he was) went to live in Spain for health reasons (as Oonagh suggested), it implied he wasn't a young man even in the 1970's and I suspect, therefore, that he is no longer with us - Mitchell died in 2002. With the sinking of the Mi Amigo, that seems to have been the end of Stephen's involvement with Caroline and all contact was lost. From reading those issues of the Caroline Newsletter, he did have a way with words, so, I suspect he was actually a retired writer of some sort but, beyond that, the actual truth may never be known! Regards, Geoff'.

Thanks a lot for the interesting letter and anyone who want to know more about the Radio Review: www.radioreview.org.uk

Once again we go to our visual handicapped radio friend Ian Godfrey who always has nice memories and thoughts: 'Hi Hans, many thanks for the March Report and the two batches of downloads. I'm gradually working through them; on Saturday I listened to the one covering the last offerings of Radio Sovereign, including the last half-hour with Kevin Turner. I found the station at the beginning of June, 1983 and was quite excited to discover a station with a format so radically different from anything on offer anywhere at the time, I listened virtually every day till the end of that year but didn't hear anything from the final day - presumably work commitments. I know there have been attempts to recreate Sovereign at various times over the years and have a sneaking suspicion that it may still be around in some form. With the thousands of Internet stations pumping out virtually non-stop oldies there doesn't seem much justification for it, although they were the pioneers. If you can confirm whether Sovereign does still exist I'd be grateful for the URL details, etc. '

Well Ian I don't think anyone involved in those days runs a station with that name but I advice to go to the next memories on internet:
http://www.bobleroi.co.uk/ScrapBook/Sovereign_UK/Sovereign_UK.html

And there was more in Ian's e mail: 'I was very interested in the feature on Radio Delta. It looks like a classic 'April Fool' a few weeks early! I was aware of the attractions of the Costa del Sol but I didn't know a lot about the land-based pirate situation in Spain; presumably thousands of stations catering for a market not being provided for on legit radio - how many times have we heard this over the past few decades? One slightly amusing point is that it refers to itself as 'international' but uses a 200w FM transmitter with a 25-mile radius but, with offices on Gibraltar I wondered if Delta was on the Internet but that doesn't seem to be the case. If you can also shed some light on this I'd be grateful.'

I don't know what to say Ian as the date of writing this part of the report is March 24th so it's still no April.

Twice in the report is Enda Caldwell as he also sent interesting links: 'Hi Hans, these links are for Michael Wright - a Caroline Chief Engineer on Caroline South. There are some great memories of the time.

Enda Caldwell

http://www.rte.ie/ie/morningireland/entry/from_radio_caroline_to_morning

<http://www.rte.ie/news/morningireland/michaelwright.html>

Then to Southern Germany and Ingo Paternoster, who advised to go to the next link about 'Goodbye BBC world service 648 kHz' and BBC World Service idents over the years.

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WuJ5_j4U6HQ&feature=related

Update time again and let's see what Mary Payne has to tell us: 'The 12th birthday of the Radio London website is celebrated with the addition of Part 16 of Ben Toney's 'Amazing Radio London Adventure' - 'Tragedy and Farce'. This two-page final episode of Ben's personal memoirs tells of him giving up broadcasting in Texas and going back to sea, only to be hit by a family tragedy. Later, there's a doomed attempt to revive Radio London, but the memoirs end on a happy note, with Ben renewing old friendships from his days as Big L's Programme Director. We hope everyone has enjoyed reading Ben's memoirs. It was an honour to be allowed to present them in edited form and we are delighted to know that Ben is happy with the work we have done on them.' With all good wishes, Mary Payne'.

www.radiolondon.co.uk

Next a long, but interesting, story. It comes from a guy, who tried twice to get a career in radio, versus Radio Caroline and tells his story after almost 40 years. 'Hi Hans. This is the first time I've written, but for some obscure reason I feel after almost 40 years it might be time to set the record straight regarding my time with Caroline and a label that has hung around my neck for years. In 1973 I was invited to join the Mi Amigo for a new service about to start on 389 metres, but the story begins many years previously. During my early childhood, and whilst on a family holiday in Blackpool, my parents thought it a good idea to get me on a plane ride around Blackpool tower. I came off violently ill and was in bed for two days and that introduced a terrible fear of flying. It took many years to subdue that fear and eventually to realise it was not the flying that had really been bothering me, it was claustrophobia. Nowadays as long as I sit near the back of the aircraft I'm fine, but to be in a position where I cannot see a reasonable distance down the aisle or have an unobstructed view outside the window the old problem returns. But I'm getting ahead of myself.

389 was due to begin on June 4th 1973, but I couldn't get out there until late in the day hence my first appearance being on Norman's show around ten that evening. The trip was a nightmare, beginning with the flight. I was terrified, it was akin to being on a wild ride at a funfair. That's how it appeared to me anyway, although my fellow passengers appeared to take it all in their stride. At one point = whilst refusing to look right or left = I thought this flying lark was easy. It was so smooth my fears were almost allayed until I saw buildings going past and realised we were only taxiing to the runway! It was only a 40 minute flight but it seemed to go on forever. A very large American in the seat across the aisle noticed my discomfort and advised me the best thing to do was eat. Why not? This guy had obviously flown the Atlantic and knew what he was talking about, and so I tucked into the meal. I managed to keep it down for all of 5 minutes and then began vomiting badly. Finally Holland arrived and a very pale, sick dispirited individual disembarked. I actually kissed the tarmac and I'm sure it set the trend because the Pope started doing it shortly afterwards. How he got to hear of this I'll never know but there he was, wherever he went, kissing the tarmac.

If I thought my problems were over I was very much mistaken. Upon arriving at customs I was pulled to one side and after a lengthy interview was told I

had not brought enough money into the country and was going to be deported. Arguing the point that I was here to work, it finally took the arrival of someone from the Caroline office to get me out of there. Following a drive to The Hague - the driver was a maniac - I was confronted with the door with the name Radio Caroline emblazoned across the glass. Surely it's all over now I thought, but there was more to come. Chris had not heard my demo tape and it was Kate that had hired me. Therefore another tape had to be produced immediately and I was sent to a very strange studio upstairs given a 2 minute run-through and told to get on with it.



One of the two studios at the Van Hoogendorpstreet
Photo: Archive Hans Knot

After what I'd been through in the last few hours I didn't need this. Following completion of the demo I was once again wedged into my seat by Chris, Gerard and one other that kept constantly looking at me. It was very disconcerting. Anyway the tape proved good enough and I thought fine, they'll now find me somewhere to either sit down or preferably lie down and we'd be going to the ship tomorrow. Not so! Within 10 minutes we were off to Scheveningen and the tender was waiting. Whilst most of the people jammed into a cabin I preferred the open air and was glad of the sea breeze on my face to try and cool me down. At that time I was feeling very hot and had a blinding headache. Fortunately my mind was taken somewhere else when I saw the Mebo II to my left, she looked absolutely beautiful. I'd almost landed a job with RNI the year previously when Paul May was in charge. Veronica was to the right, and although it was bang in front of me = for some reason I didn't see it my attention being focused on the Mebo 2 = was Caroline. The old story of the three ships being in a line is not entirely accurate.

The shape was more like an arrowhead. Just as we were about to pull alongside hordes of people appeared from the cabin onto the tender's deck, and I wondered who on earth these people were. There must have been between 20 and 25 folk charging around everywhere throwing supplies over to the ship with whatever else that flew through the air. Eventually I was told to stand on the rail and jump. Obviously there was nothing to hang onto and with both ships going up and down I thought I must be totally out of my mind. I jumped into the open arms of Dick Palmer and we both ended up in a heap. Welcome to Radio Caroline! Within a very few moments I was asked the strange question "Are you into S and M?" Being a naive lad in those days, I thought the questioner was referring to Marks and Spencer! Upon clarification it was noted I was straight and told I would be sharing with Paul Rusling.



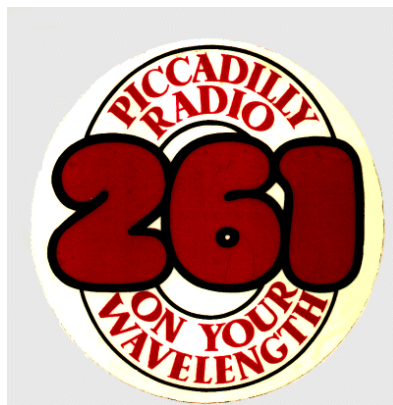
YOUNG PAUL RUSLING ARCHIVE MONITOR MAGAZINE

Our paths were to cross again years later. As the tender was about to pull away Andy Archer bulldozed his way to the deck and catapulted over the side. I was taken inside and introduced to my new crewmates. On board was Paul Rusling - Alexander - , Norman Barrington, Robin Adcroft and Dick Palmer. Also there was a Dutch guy that I was to get on very well with, Joop Verhoof. Later in the evening I was offered a meal but I couldn't eat, my stomach felt so bruised. The following day after a good night's sleep I was told I'd be on at 3pm, and so I went down to the library to sort out some music. Shortly afterwards Paul decided he was going to do some hovering but the smell from the thing was overpowering. It was a sweet sickly smell of the type that comes when you mix fresh orange juice with milk. The effect was something I didn't need just over an hour before my first programme and I finished up with my head down the toilet again. Just over half an hour

into the show with my throat extremely dry I asked Hans, a German engineer for a glass of milk. This disappeared very quickly and within a few minutes I was ill again.

That was the first show. I went and lay down in my bunk and was there for hours before Paul came in, worried I'd had no food and armed with Mars bars and cans of Heineken. I made a really good attempt at this snack and promptly fell asleep. The following morning Dick arrived and spotting empty wrappers and empty cans flew into a tantrum, claiming I was killing myself, would get heart disease and so on and so on. I lay there a while longer and then prepared for the afternoon show which went off without any problems. By this time I was getting concerned about my health, I wasn't eating properly and couldn't keep very much down and I decided it was time to go. Dick did everything in his power to dissuade me even threatening to barricade the cabin, but my mind was made up and away I went.

Looking back do I regret it? The answer has to be an emphatic yes, but as fate would have it my father died two weeks later and if I'd be stuck on the North Sea I would never have forgiven myself. So my final question has to be, was I allergic to seasickness or did events conspire against me? To this day I believe it was the travelling that scuppered me, but others will have to make up their own minds. After a spell in ILR at Swansea Sound I was revealing the potential people said I'd had for ages and so I decided to return home to Manchester and try Piccadilly.



This unfortunately came to nothing and years later I decided to try Caroline again. It was October 1987 and in the far flung North West I hadn't heard

Caroline for years. I believed they were still doing the album format and nobody seemed inclined to disabuse me of the idea, least of all the guys at Caroline. Upon my arrival and finding we were playing Rick Astley and Kylie Minogue I was thunderstruck. What did I know about this type of music? Further the guys were not expressing themselves; it was like a continuous jukebox. The music never stopped...ever! Talk about being a fish out of water. This type of radio was completely alien to me and I quickly realised I'd made a very grave mistake by returning. Besides that, the crew were the most unfriendly bunch I'd ever come across. From the time I arrived on board to the time I left, apart from Tim Allan, hardly anybody spoke to me at all.

Then came the hurricane, a night never to be forgotten. The winds had been getting stronger and the sea getting rougher all day. I couldn't face the evening meal and Peter Phillips asked me if I just wanted to spin the show that evening, which I did.



Peter Philips in the newsroom Photo: Monitor Magazine

The show was 8pm until 1am but by the time 12.20 arrived I could do no more. I went to the mess and asked Chris Kennedy if he'd spin the last 40 minutes for me and disappeared to my cabin, following advice not to go up on the bridge. Unbeknown to me Chris never moved, something which would never have happened on the Mi Amigo, and dead air followed. The last record I played was Smooth Operator... what a laugh! The following day I was suspended and decided to leave again, which I assure you was no hardship.

Was I ill on the Ross Revenge? No not really, I certainly can't remember any occasion, just those events again and probably the filthiest night in offshore history.

The final act was played in 1999 on the RNI RSL anchored off the Essex coast. At that time I was going through a messy divorce and smoking like the proverbial chimney. One day I was getting a great deal of catarrh in my throat which caused me to come off air. Little did I know that this was to be the prelude to a heart attack which happened two months later, but some entrepreneuring young journalist decided to write that mal-de-mer had hit me again. So there's the story folks, a seasick jock or just plain unlucky, and a tag that's followed me for years. I'm so glad I did the Mi Amigo and the RSL's. The Ross is best forgotten although the hurricane never will be. If anybody has any recordings of myself in '73 I'd be very pleased to hear from you. Dave West Isle of Man.'

Well, I thought sending the story to Paul Rusling to see what he remembered from those days on the Mi Amigo in the seventies regarding Dave West and he came back with: 'Thank you for sending me the Dave Cox / Dave West story. His troubles were much worse than I thought, poor man. I don't think any one enjoys travelling too much - not any more since 2001 and all the silly security checks. But he seems to have suffered a lot. A good job he was not with me on many of my journeys in Eastern Europe (before the Berlin Wall came down) or into the dessert countries since.

If you needed to add anything by me near Dave's words - I always found David a nice pleasant guy. He was a good broadcaster too and had a much better voice than I did. Very laid back his style was and he had a very interesting choice of music, he would suit the album format Caroline and current day incarnation very well. It was Dave contacting me again after he moved to the isle of Man in 1993 that alerted me to the possibility of a high power radio station there, and without his first moves the project would not have happened. He was really was one of the key men there for us and just wanted to resume his DJ career. My colleagues who are 'totally business heads' have no time for sentiment and removed him from the Board very early, which is a shame as he was very committed to the project. Dave had sold his business in Lancashire many years ago and moved to the IOM to take up a job with Manx Radio, but when he finally arrived, they said there was no

vacancy any more, so he really hated Manx Radio after that.

I don't think Dave and I had any contact since I left the IMIB role almost five years ago now and maybe he thinks I let him down by just walking out. Well Hans, I had to do something to get some work done and nothing was happening in IOM due to a deadlock over control of the company. My contract with IMIB prevented me doing any other work and I always stick to contracts, so I had to leave, there was no option. Please do give Dave my best regards Paul Rusling.

Jan van Heeren found a document on marketplace, an internet site where you can buy second hand things in the Netherlands. It was marked as a measurement instrument and had a Veronica signature. The person, who put the document on marketplace didn't know if the instrument had really something to do with Veronica.



Well Jan the instrument has probably nothing to do with Radio Veronica, although the sticker used is one of the two flexible stickers Radio Veronica used during the first five years of existence. I had one of these on my sleeping room wall and still both are also in pure excellent condition in my archive.

Well sit down in a relaxing way before you start to read the next subject, which has been send by 'Sloop John B'.

Got a problem? Don't know where to go for advice?

Need an understanding and impartial person you can trust?

If so, write to Honest John, Caroline Confidential, PO Box 3, Ramsey, Isle of Man, or Hoover over an email to: sloopjohnrb@btinternet.com

We start with a letter from Mrs. S.B. from, Liverpool.

"I'm very worried about my son (19) who has taken to: listening to jingles, commercials, programmes and aircheck from something called 'offshore/pirate' radio stations. It started off a little, but now it's all the time. Also, I caught him reading a book called, "The Radio London Story", and found he had similar books, videos; DVD's and a Laser Hot Hits T shirt under his bed.

He mutters strange and inexplicable phrases such as: 'Hey pussycat you're where it's at', "Tune in and turn on' and one number he repeats endlessly, '259'. What does it all mean? He used to be such an ordinary boy but now he's obsessed and I can't even get his attention much less talk to him. What should I do?"

Honest John replies:

Dear Mrs. S.B.

I believe that your son is an, "Anorak". There is, sadly, no known cure. To confirm that your son is indeed an Anorak, you can carry out a few simple tests.

1

Show him a picture of a ship, say around 200 tons plus. See if he spends a few seconds looking at the picture or, if he scans the ship from bow to stern and then raises his eyes about 5 cm or so. If it's the latter then he is definitely an Anorak as he is scanning the picture, working out where to put studios and the raising of the eyes shows where he is positioning a transmitter mast.

2.

Show him a large map of the British Isles. See if he looks for a few seconds, or whether his eyes lock into six specific locations over which he lingers: Ramsey Bay Isle of Man, west coast of Scotland, east coast of Scotland, Bridlington coast Yorkshire, the Thames Estuary (this should be the longest linger) and then observe if he sweeps down to try and find a place called, Scheveningen, on the Dutch coast. If this happens, your son is an Anorak. Please let me assure you that your son is perfectly normal and that your

fears are groundless. He will not have stunted growth, nor will he grow hair on the palms of his hands or become short-sighted. As strange as your son's interest in Radio may seem, there are much more bizarre hobbies and interests. Do you know that electricity pylons have their own unique number and there are hundreds of different types? Some people travel the UK "Pylon Spotting" and note the number and take photos, etc. Some people go "Roundabout Spotting", which is the hobby of seeing and recording many different traffic roundabouts. Compared with these, your son's hobby seems pretty normal I would suggest.



It is just possible that your son could become an extreme Anorak. There is a member of Caroline North Triple F who has a skull and crossbones flag in his bedroom, has to go to sleep on his right hand side (as it faces the Irish Sea) paid absolutely silly money to get an Advertising Log from the studio of the MV Fredericia and always plays, "Caroline", recorded by, The Fortunes, every Easter Sunday without fail. I cannot divulge a name but his initials are, John Bennett. This is a very disturbed individual however, and your son is very unlikely to end up as mad and sad as this, in fact we're trying to get Bennett committed to an asylum. Try to understand that your son's infatuation with Offshore Radio, and his fanatical support for one station or the other is just the same as having a son who is mad on Footballing and follows a Footballing club, such as, Manchester Leyton Athletic.

Talk to him about his interest in Radio, and you will be surprised at his in-depth knowledge and maybe you will learn new words and phrases such as: "Tender boat", "Major Minor", "Shore-leave" and "Flashback". As all Anoraks have, by default; an encyclopedic knowledge of music, why not marvel at your son's ability to instantly snap out what was at Number One on the Big L Fab 40, March 10, 1966/76/86/96/06....., the label, the flip side (in vinyl days), the catalogue number, the matrix number and what colour socks the lead singer was wearing when it was being recorded?

There's one sure way to get his attention. Buy a small bell such as used on a cat-collar or as used as a toy for a budgerigar when placed in a budgie cage, and attach it around your neck. When you want your son's attention, say in a loud voice: "On 558 kilohertz, this is Radio Caroline", and ring the bell twice. You will have got his full attention immediately. If you follow my advice, time will prove that you have nothing to worry about.

Honest John Caroline Confidential

Let's go to the Far East with the next e mail:

'Hello Hans I must be the slowest reader on the planet of your excellent news letter as I have just got around to reading your Christmas special. I write to add, that whilst I have never met Andy Archer I felt that the article could have been written about myself, as descriptions and events of conditions aboard Radio Caroline were spot on, I almost felt that I was back on board again. Please see attached picture of me on the bridge with microphone in hand pretending to be calling somewhere. I was aware that daily communication took place with a shores station, and that station used a UK call sign. The Hamerland receiver, I recall had red or yellow labels pointing to specific frequencies used.



KEITH SHERIDON

I Hope to read your February's news letter soon.
Best regards, Sheridan Street.

Well Keith, thanks a lot for sharing this memory with us and keep enjoying the report.

Next a very short e mail from Svenn Martinsen in Norway but with a terrific photograph enclosed: 'I Hope all is well. Another take of 'Mosken' alias Cheeta II. This one is a post card. Svenn in Norway.'



And yes Jan van Heeren is twice in the report as he did sent also some beautiful photographs of the Veronica racing team in the seventies, from which one is here in the report.



Update time again from our AFN blogger Thom Whetston: 'I hope that you had a great month! Here's what's going on at the AFRTS Archive: Andoni is a Spaniard that has a blog celebrating American country music. Recently he found a Harry Newman aircheck he recorded in 1982 with Harry interviewing Emmylou Harris. A good show. John Doremus returns, Jim Pewter brings

back the memories. Ken Rubin in the Rock Garden at AFN SHAPE. Finally I've completed the turntable to play 16" ETs and I found a surprise. Andy Williams singing for AFRS in WWII, a good ten years before he became a worldwide sensation. Happy listening, tell a friend!

Thom Whetston AFKN 1977-78 SCN 1980-83

<http://afrtsarchive.blogspot.com>

Monday morning March 28th the former REM Island will depart from its current location in Delfzijl, where it has been since 2009, reports RTV Noord. The public broadcaster says that the Amsterdam housing corporation De Key has completed refurbishment of REM Island and is ready to move it to the Dutch capital where it will be used as a restaurant. The island was built in 1964 and placed off the coast of Noordwijk for the first commercial TV broadcasts by TV Noordzee, the precursor of the current public broadcaster TROS. Also the first Radio Noordzee transmitted from the platform during 3 months. Then Dutch authorities decided to take action and the stations were closed.

What about the last program on Phantom by Steve Conway, former Caroline deejay. Let's see what he has to write about it: 'After eleven very happy and eventful years with the Dublin Indie-rock station Phantom, I presented my last show on St. Patricks Day. I've thoroughly enjoyed my time with Phantom, but increasing time pressures from my other activities mean that I have had to make some choices about what to focus my energies on. I can still be heard every Saturday 6-8am (repeated 6-8pm) on Radio Seagull (AM in The Netherlands and online) with a show devoted to rock in all its forms and featuring a minimum of 50% newly released material, and each Monday 2-4pm on Radio Caroline (Sky Digital ch.0199 and online) playing album tracks from the last 50 years, including new releases.



STEVE CONWAY 2010: CONWAY COLLECTION

And I am currently in the planning stages of a new venture that will give exposure to independent and unsigned Irish bands and artists. I have very many happy memories from my eleven years with Phantom, and I will post some of them here over the next little while. For now I'd like to thank everyone from all of the eras of Phantom, pirate to temporary to commercial, for making me so welcome, and to wish the great team charged with taking the station into the future all the success in the world.
Steve.

Two items we didn't see this time were the t shirts as well as the artists visiting the offshore radio stations so I have to dive into the archive to see what I can share with you. First, as John Bennet already talked about a famous bell, here a photograph which shows the Caroline Bell as well as the Animals, who were awarded with this for their enormous success with their version of 'the House of the rising sun'.



And to finish this issue of the report I show you a photo from good old mate 'Johnny Lewis' wearing a Sunshine Radio T shirt. If you've also a t shirt to share or other memories that please feel free to send it to HKnot@home.nl

The next regular report will be late May. Around Eastern you will be getting an extra bumper issue of the Hans Knot International Report. It will be the biggest you've ever got, featuring the Second part of Andy Archer's memories, this time about his days on Radio Caroline and Radio Seagull in the seventies.



Take care and greetings, Hans Knot