

# The Hans Knot International Radio Report June 2012

First of all I wish you all a warm welcome to the June 2012 edition of the Hans Knot International Radio Report. May wasn't the month we expected it would be, as the weather didn't really bring us pre-summer feelings. But it felt much warmer when receiving again so many e mails from the readers as well as other persons who wrote to me for the first time. So thank you all and let's begin with a long e mail, which we got from Paul Peters in Kent, as he promised us that something really interesting is going to happen early this month.

'On the 6th June 2013, at 6am in the morning, the 'Route 66 Mother Road Radio Tour' will set off from downtown Chicago, for a 30 day road trip along the old Route 66, crossing America from Chicago in the East to L.A. in the west. As we travel along this wonderful old road that has been used by so many before us, we shall be seeking out interesting people and places to see. Not just the usual tourist spots, but some of those out of the way places that most tourists never see. In fact the main purpose of this tour is to highlight the role that local radio stations have had through the decades, and still do, in small communities strung along such an iconic roadway.



WRLR's Morning Drive Time Show will be broadcast live each day from wherever we are, and Geoff and I will be presenting our weekly 'Fabulous 50's

Radio Show' from a different town or city each week, which will, with the generous help of the Comrex Corporation, be beamed back live to WRLR in the Chicago area and to Forest FM in the south of England.



As the days go by, we hope to be able to tell you more about the people, the radio stations, and places that we intend to visit, and any help or suggestions from you would be very welcome. This is one of the many studios that we shall be broadcasting from, as we travel the road. This one dates from the 1960's, and is still in full working condition. It's now part of the display at the Route 66 Museum in Pontiac.



All the best, Paul Peters'

Well Paul what a wonderful opening for this month report and I hope you will bring us up to date in the weeks to come. Take care and enjoy it for more than 100%. Readers can follow the Route 66 tour by going to

<http://www.forestfm.co.uk/>

Look who's here as second in this month report? Rosko information!: Legendary deejay Emperor Rosko, is inviting one and all to send him an e-mail stating what your favorite Beatle song (written and recorded by the Beatles) is. He will keep a record of all submissions via Facebook and his radio shows on various outlets over the next few weeks. And in due course reveal what the top 30 Beatles top 30 are. Please send e-mails to the Emperor Rosko at [erosko@roadrunner.com](mailto:erosko@roadrunner.com) with the subject 'Beatles Top 30' in the subject bar and give the title of your favorite Beatles song. And thanks to all who participate!

[erosko@roadrunner.com](mailto:erosko@roadrunner.com)

Let's go to a former colleague from Rosko, during his Caroline South days as Steve Young sent the next thing to me: 'I was doubled over with laughter when I saw this!'



Hi Steve and thanks a lot, I had a big laugh on it. Good wishes to you and your lady Trisha from Groningen.

Last month it was Richard Kinch who sent me wonderful photographs, which he took during a couple of visits to the Radio Caroline ships in Zaandam harbour as well as to the Mi Amigo in international waters. Richard was working in Zaandam as one of the many volunteers. All photos we have put on a special page, which can be found at <http://www.offshore-radio.de/>



**Mi Amigo in Zaandam harbour in remarkable yellow colour**

Next message came in from Trevor: 'Those of us of a certain age may remember a T.V. drama series called Danger Man from the 60s, it featured John Drake played by Patrick McGoohan. One episode was called 'Not So Jolly Roger' and the location for this episode was the Red Sands Fort, home of, at that time, Radio 390. John Drake played a deejay on 'Radio Jolly Roger' trying to track down who was sending secret messages to an offshore submarine, these messages were always preceded by a piece of music called 'The Blue Danube'. Sadly I think the DVD of this episode is only available as part of a boxed set. The music from this episode including Patsy Ann Noble singing 'He Who Rides a Tiger' (she also played Suzie Wade in this episode), is available to download as MP3 and free, re link. Also if you click on Minas/Banwell Discography link it takes you to a page that has a few vinal 45s including a song by Mike Lennox (former Radio London) called: 'Images of you'.

<http://www.danger-man.co.uk/jollyroger.asp>

In this hectic world of Twitter, SMS and more text messages and e-mails are also sent to me by I-phones or BlackBerry's. It are really small messages, whereby sometimes I think why it isn't possible to take some more time and to tell me what you want to tell. For instant the next one from former manager for 40 years for the Emperor: 'Not that sure Rosko will be accepted either! That's unless he has a hot line to heaven. Good report, Chevy.'

Well you must be a good follower of the Hans Knot International Report to understand the message. In last report Rosko reflected on a comment of Tony Prince and asked himself if Tony Prince would ever take a nice place in heaven. And so Chevy reflected to Rosko with the same question. Wonder if Rosko is doing well these days with his new manager. Please respond both! When there are positive answers I can send the invoice for a few years with plugs in the report.

Oh! I forgot that it was the Emperor himself who also was active in his sun powered studio in California to send me his exclusive e mail. 'Well I suspect I am not the first to check in today, but, a regular never the less. I have been called a 'Ball Breaker ', but never a 'Gold Buster', where on earth did that come from? I hope to reveal some exciting news in a future issue of the 'H.K.R'. I don't want to tempt fate by announcing it in advance, suffice to say expansion is in the works. Have a good Radio Day and hi to all. EMP.' Thanks Rosko well to protect the innocents I won't tell you who gave you the nickname. Also thanks for the wishes for the RadioDay. It's in November so I thought you would join us?

In last issue we saw a photo from three people on a tender from Queensborough to the Ross Revenge in the eighties, the trip which didn't finish on the Ross Revenge but was ended by the captain when the radio ship was already in sight and so we returned. It was Jille B Westerhof, who found another photo from the same trip which he wants to share with us: a look from the tender to one of the forts, probably Shivering Sands Towers.



This photo is showing Ton van Draanen, who was and is a 100% radio man. He produced in 1974 a 6 hours excellent documentary on the History on Offshore Radio. Started - together with Freddy Joris and Hans Knot in 1978 the Freewave Media Magazine and worked many years for that - still published - magazine. He worked for several radio stations in the Netherlands and has done several decades of volunteer work for a local radio station in the Provence of

North Holland. Recently he was honoured and is now a member in the order of the House of Orange. Many congratulations Ton! You truly deserved it.

Next we go to a story Mark King sent me some weeks ago: 'Hi Hans. Thanks for your latest report, your recent descriptions of trips to the ships reminded me of trip myself and Rob Holland made to find the Mebo 2 when it was docked in 1975. We had read in an Offshore Radio magazine that it was in Rotterdam, Slikkerveer. We had no idea where this was and could not find Slikkerveer on our fairly poor map of the Netherlands. After flying into Zestienhoven (Rotterdam Airport) we made our way to Rotterdam's main port area and asked anyone we saw working on the boats there where Slikkerveer was, this was met with much laughter, but eventually a port worker told us it was nowhere near there and told us the bus number to catch. It was indeed nowhere near the centre and after a long bus ride the driver shouted "Slikkerveer Here" and we got off in this small village, there was not much to see or indicate where the Mebo was hidden and nobody about to ask, just lots of trees obscuring the view.

We climbed the nearest dyke and there was the shipyard of De Groot where we knew the Mebo was kept. We made our way to the front gates and now we could see a glimpse of the Mebo 2 and Angela (Mebo 1) at the back of the shipyard, we asked the security guards if we could go in to take some photos.' No' was the answer, there was no one on board and entrance was "verboden" (no entrance allowed) , we tried Guilders, but be warned, bribes do not work in the Netherlands. So we walked around the outside perimeter fence to the back of the yard to get as close as possible to the ships, as we stood looking over the fence the two guards walked passed repeating "niemand aan boord" (no one is on the ship) as you can guess as soon they were out of sight we leapt over the fence and ran over to take our photos and stand on the famous deck of the Mebo 2, the only signs of life were a few T-shirts drying on a washing line at the stern.

After a few drinks in the village bar/disco (a wooden hut) we tried to explain to the locals what two Englishmen were doing there, our poor attempts at Dutch were initially mistaken for Limburgse, and we soon discovered that for some reason unknown to us that crazy Englishmen were far more welcome than

Limburgers, drinks all round! We made our way back on the last bus of the day to Rotterdam, relieved that we were not caught and confined to the nearest police cell. Best regards Mark King.'



Mebo II in Slikkerveer harbour photos: Mark King.

Well Mark, wonderful memories and thank you for sharing these with us. Anyone who has memories, questions or photographs to share, just write to [HKnot@home.nl](mailto:HKnot@home.nl)

Now we go back to the 16<sup>th</sup> of July 1966 as we heard an old radio show, featuring Emperor Rosko who mentioned himself 'The Emperor Rosko, the gun of the American destroyer', followed by the remark: "Brush your teeth Rosko".

Well what about a journey to Norway to see what Svern Martinsen has to tell us: 'Dear radio friend, I thought you might be interested in this announcement: Beginning last week, Radio Northern Star has started trade test transmissions and reception reports are welcome. Regular programming will start soon. Our general format is Favorites, Flips and Flops! Rarities too! The music is intentionally broad to cater for a wide range of listeners and to provide an alternative to heavily-formatted domestic stations, some of which use a playlist of only 300 songs. The station wants as many listeners as possible, but especially targets adults 50 years and older. Through the internet, a radio platform with great potential, we broadcast to listeners all over the world, but our main coverage area is Scandinavia across the North Sea to UK and Ireland, the



European continent, and across the North Atlantic across the North American continent down to the Mexican border. The station is available on our webpage

[www.northernstar.no](http://www.northernstar.no) also you can get us through iTunes and Windows Media Player plus a variety of other platforms. Especially, you can download our smartphone apps here: For Android phones:

<https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.rnstar.radio>

For the iPhone/iPad/iPod touch family:

<http://itunes.apple.com/WebObjects/MZStore.woa/wa/viewSoftware?id=502037933&mt=8>

Are you interested in broadcasting over, or contributing to the station, for example by producing a promo? Please download our station brochure (.pdf format) from the webpage (button "About Us") and look up the last page in that document. We look forward to working with advertisers, sponsors, and those who want to broadcast over our station or rent air time with us. Please see our rate cards on our website. Good listening on -The Northern Star- The Worldwide Norwegian!

And another e mail from Svenn brought the first results and more: 'Following the start of trade test transmissions a couple of weeks ago, Northern Star Media is proud to announce the start of official transmissions from Radio Northern Star at 1200 Noon CET, Friday, May 4th, 2012. The festivities began at 1130 with the playing of all the station jingles. Then the stream was taken away from the website for a short time, to return with jingles shortly before the magic time. Up to 1200 Noon, The Ennis Sisters sang their song "Turn Up the Radio", and then The Northern Star started with the Norwegian National Anthem, then continued with the Anthem of Bergen, the station theme tune "Northern Star" by Ann Reed, and then to Hank B.Marvin's Theme from "The Young Ones" over which the station's CEO "Svennm" gave the opening announcement in English and Norwegian. Another jingle and two promos were played and then, as has been planned for a long time, Bob Dylan sang "Like A Rolling Stone" as the station's first song. After this, a listener on Dublin's South Side had his request "Congratulations" by Cliff Richard played!

At this stage, the request machine does not work during weekends, when when run special programming. If you missed our opening, you can download it from our website as an mp3 file and replay it later. The following night, we treated listeners to an "All Jingle Night"! The station is now available via the company website [www.northernstar.no](http://www.northernstar.no) as well as iPhone/iPad/iPod touch,- and Android apps. Listeners may also access the good sounds of the station in iTunes, Windows Media Player as well as many other platforms. Needless to say, our aim is to be as many media platforms as possible!

Well Svenn a dream has come through! I wish you a lot of success and keep us informed!

Now we go to Jon at the Pirate Hall of Fame: 'New for the month of May: we have photos from the memorial to Boom Boom Brannigan held recently in Roanoke, Virginia, kindly forwarded by Jack Curtiss; correspondent Munro Jack shares some pictures from a day-trip he took to Radio Northsea International's Mebo II in 1971; and it is congratulations to Kevin Stewart ("David Brown" on Radio Caroline in 1977) who has just been elected a States Deputy in Guernsey's parliament. All the best, Jon [www.offshoreradio.co.uk](http://www.offshoreradio.co.uk)

Radio Nord articles and newspapercuts can be found at:  
<http://radiohistoria.jvnf.org/rn/pk/> With thanks to Martin van der Ven.

Question time from John at the Horizon office in Kent: 'Hans I hope you can help. A Horizon reader (who has helped me and Radio Caroline over the years) Chris Curtain wants to contact Mike Regan, Mike was on the Dover RSL. Chris lost contact a few years ago. I am happy to use my address to forward to Chris. Cheers, John Knight Horizon Magazine.' Well anyone who knows and is still in contact with Mike Regan, please contact John Knight at:  
[jwknight558@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:jwknight558@hotmail.co.uk)

Last month Alan Bailey wrote: 'For those of you who remember Radio Luxembourg (208), this is to let you know I've just finished a stint at BBC Radio 2 talking about my times at that famous radio station for a forthcoming documentary to be broadcast. Pete Murray, Tony Prince, Paul Burnett, David Jensen, Benny Brown, Mike Knight, Brian Matthew and Mark Wesley are already in the can and Noel Edmonds will be doing the links this Thursday. I also provided most of the audio. If you want to remember those sounds of yesteryear put it in your diary now.'

And a second e mail from Alan: 'The BBC has now rescheduled it for May 31st and June 7th at 10 p.m. to 11 p.m.' BBC Media Centre has released details of the first part:

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/mediacentre/proginfo/2012/22/208-Your-Station-Of-The-Stars.html>

Sad news from Mary Payne, who wrote: 'We are very sorry to learn from Mark Roman of the death on May 1st of Chris Elliot. Chris, who was Programme Director for the Radio London RSLs in summer 1997 and the winter 1997/8 and

author of 'The Wonderful Radio London Story' had been ill for some time. An obituary is added to the website. Mark has spoken to Chris's mother and has promised that he will keep us updated with any news. For more and also other news: [www.radiolondon.co.uk](http://www.radiolondon.co.uk)

Well next a surprising e mail from someone I was in contact decades ago and who found me back on internet: 'Hans, if you can believe it, we were in touch in the 1970's when RNI was on air! I am Peter Watson, and I published a magazine called Offshore Radio, with Trevor Keen. Seeing your website brings back many, many memories, which I haven't thought about for many years. Do you still keep in contact with Paula Sengers (originally from Wamel)? I have been remembering those glorious radio years with your websites. Also that you sent us a tape of the Mi Amigo jingles even before the station went on air, which was supposed to be top secret! That was an exciting time. Also I remember you had for sale, many hundreds of reel to reel tapes of the programmes of lots of different stations. Wonderful days. Keep in touch, Peter.'

Yes indeed I do remember those days; we had, through Pirate Radio News, several contacts in England. It was the historic version of the International Radio Report. Yes, I remember the Mi Amigo jingle tape, it was October 1973. There was a court case between Caroline and the Dutch PRS I could help as papers were stolen from the office and clarify why I couldn't be paid as the letters were stolen by an Anorak. On the end of the day I got the top secret tape from Andy Archer and we had to wait some months before a few of them were on the air. Most of them never got it into the air. It all happened on the van Hoogendorpstreet in The Hague. Here a link to a long story Andy wrote for my report about the seventies but he didn't include the court case. Enjoy it and take care!

<http://www.offshore-radio.de/HansKnot/reports/HKnot-Easter2011-AndyArcher-part2.pdf>

And talking about Andy Archer, he also wrote an e mail early May: 'Hi Hans. Johnny Jason and his wife have relocated to Lot et Garonne in France. I met up with them last week for a very anoracky lunch with lots of lots of champagne and excellent food. We are planning a Radio Caroline 40th anniversary get together in Scheveningen in 2014.



Johnny Jason and Andy Archer 2012

Earlier this month I was listening to an old Caroline Eastern 1966 program and I remembered someone was asking for this show a long time ago and so I uploaded it and got the next response back: 'Dear Hans This is the sound grab I've been trying to get for the past year. Last time I chased it, some IT person wanted me to pay for it. Thank you again' Graham "Spider" Webb \*Webby)  
P.S I hope you can add it to your Newsletter someday! Well there you are Graham, over in Australia and one of the sixties Caroline deejays of course!

<http://zeezendertunes.wordpress.com/>

Since last report came out Martin van der Ven and I have opened a new blog on internet. Readers who wanted all info concerning tunes, music used for jingles and more have followed the 'Zeezender Discography' since 1994 on [www.soundscapes.info](http://www.soundscapes.info) Thousands of musical pieces are mentioned there. But we had a lot of questions through the years of fillers, tunes and music for jingles which weren't answered. With the new modern app's for I Phone, it's possible to solve a part of the unknown things and so we go through all those unknown things to see what we can find and update the blog regularly. And it really brings a lot of surprises. So go to:

<http://zeezendertunes.wordpress.com/>

In last issue the American researcher Wayne Hepler told us about his project making a documentary on the history of Offshore Radio for his University. Here a link to a newspaper article in the USA about his work:

<http://www.communitypub.com/arts/x1942593859/Local-filmmaker-Wayne-Hepler-sheds-light-on-pirate-radio>

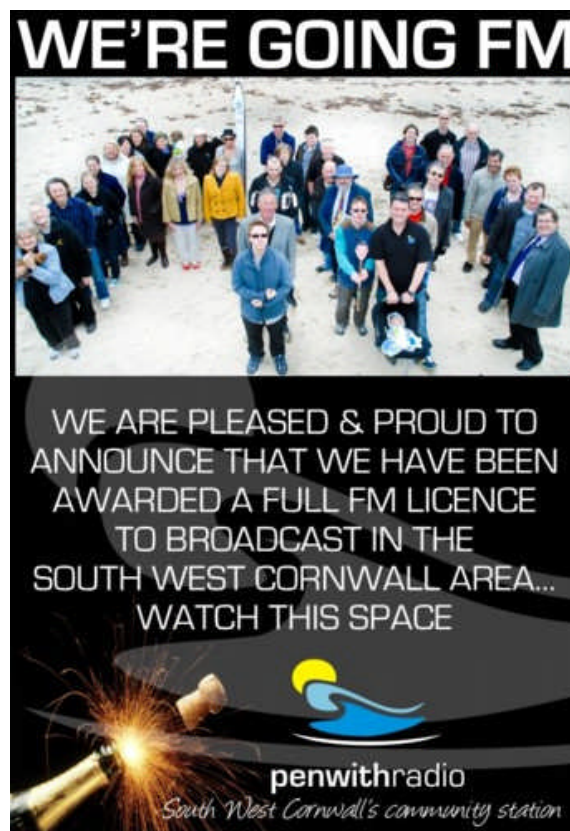
Talking about America, do you remember the first American Offshore Radio station which really made the press? Radio Free America in the seventies only made it on air for a few hours. But many programs were prerecorded on forehand. Read all about the Ref. Carl McIntire and his failed project but also listen to a load of his, never transmitted programs

<http://www.carlmcintire.org/rfa.php>

More emails came in: 'We at Penwith Radio are thrilled to be able to officially report the exciting news (for us here in the Penwith community of Cornwall, UK) that OFCOM has granted us an FM License! I am delighted to be able to share the following with you. Our website is <http://www.penwithradio.co.uk>

Some Penwith Radio news, video and picture

gallery. <http://www.businesscornwall.co.uk/news-by-industry/charity/radio-station-secures-fm-licence-123>



Sherri Lynn, Member of the Board of Directors, Penwith Radio Cornwall, UK. The community radio station received the news as it marked its third anniversary of broadcasting a mixture of music, local news and interviews over the internet. Dave Pascoe, one of the current station managers, said: "We've been working towards this since we first started broadcasting and to receive this license is, in no small part, due to the dedication of the volunteers who put in so much effort in the day to day running of the station. "In the words of Zane Ibrahim, We believe that community radio is 90% community and 10% radio. Clearly this is the ethos and approach that Ofcom appreciated. "The next few months will obviously be pivotal in development of the station as there is a lot of work to be done before we can take advantage of Ofcom's award and move Penwith Radio to the next level." Penwith Radio is expected to start live FM broadcasts sometime next year. In the meantime, it will continue online.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-17980948>

Another link to share is about Sealand in 1978, and not 1972 as it's mentioned above the video:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JgvxgYy10S4&feature=related>

News from a special record and here is the report sent by the company: 'Cherry Red is delighted and incredibly proud to release the very first CD from the legend that is Tony Blackburn. Some great comments from Tony about the CD, Tony Blackburn Singles Collection 1965-1980 at the link. Amazon UK has the release date as June 25, on pre-order there at £7.

More information:

<http://www.cherryred.co.uk/shopexd.asp?id=3707>



Well just 5,5 more months to go before we meet again in Amsterdam at the 2012 version of the RadioDay.nl. For updates on the program for November 17<sup>th</sup> just go to [www.radioday.nl](http://www.radioday.nl)

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### Graham Gill Archive Volume 18

Well another bunch of interesting letters and notes I found in the Graham Gill archive. First one is written late at night in Glasgow by John Shields, who wrote: 'I've been meaning to write you for a while, but I have never get around to it. I'd just like to say thanks for all the great programmes on Caroline, which I listen to every night. The music you play is also a lot better than the garbage we get from the BBC and other similar stations. Sorry if the writing is bad, but I have been out boozing tonight, drinking Guinness and whiskey, and I can feel that it has some effect. I hear you like Guinness yourself.'

Further on in the letter John went on about rumours he heard, but did not check on the truth of it: 'I've heard you were deejay on the original Caroline. That was when I still was a lad and so I don't remember it. In those days I listened to Radio Scotland, which was on the pirate ship the Comet. Several of the deejays of that station now joined our local station in Glasgow.'



*MV Comet on tow September 1967*

The letter went on for four pages and was partly unreadable. Of course it was the influence of the Scottish beer. Probably John got some rest in writing as

suddenly it was normal writing and he went on with: 'I've heard you do a very erotic dance to the record 'Easy Street' by the Edgar Winter Band. I'm sorry if I have been rambling on, but as I said before the Guinness has affected me a good deal. God, I'm rambling! Yours in L.A., John Shields.'

Of course I confronted Graham with some of the information written in the letter and he commented with: 'Well, in the first place I've never heard of the Edgar Winter Band and doing an erotic dance to it. I do remember however, way back in the sixties, performing and enjoying some erotic ... with Dean Ford of the Marmelade. I still have dreams about that some times. Well that's all now, it's my age! Just dreams, but wonderful dreams.'



Graham Gill, Brian McKenzie and Rudi Kagon

Photo: Werner Hartwig

A very interesting letter was dated February 12<sup>th</sup> 1974 and was send from the Hague: 'Dear Graham, This is a request, but not for your request-show. What I'm going to ask is very brutal. But before my question comes up, first a short story. Some people collect stamps, others collect sugar-bags and I collect jingles. Probably you already thinking that you've got a letter from a mad man, because a lot of people think that I'm crazy when I tell them I'm collecting jingles. My collection is up to about 2000 jingles. I am happy to say that I have some really groovy things from the old offshore stations like Caroline, London, England etc. Two months ago I phoned Andy Archer and I asked him how I could



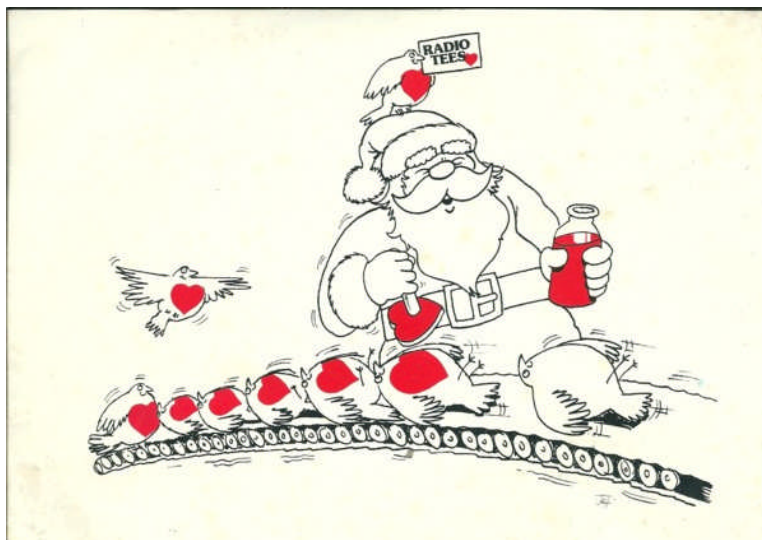
get Caroline '73 and Mi Amigo jingles. He said: "We'll just get around immediately" and 'wow', what a jingles he got. A large tape, full of Caroline '73, Atlantis, Mi Amigo and American jingles. I really didn't know how to thank him. Two weeks ago I got in touch with a former Caroline deejay, Dennis Koning. One night ago he phoned me, and we spoke quite a long time about radio in general and jingles. '

Next phrase must have been a shock for the writer of the letter, insiders who were regulars on the Caroline office in those days know how they tried to shock everyone. 'Dennis said that Andy Archer would like to know who was on the line. He phoned from the Caroline office and if I should believe him Andy was sitting on his knees. He handed the phone to Andy, and I spoke to him for almost an hour. I don't know if he will get angry when I tell you something he said about you. He said: "I think Grazilda is one of the best jocks I've ever known." Andy motivated that your chats are really to the listener and I think he's completely right. We discussed the programs on RNI and came to the conclusion that your show is really the best. Don't think that I am writing this to bring you in a good mood, for the question I'm going to ask. One other subject was discussed was how I get the RNI jingles and simply advised me to write to the boys on the Mebo II. I think the best thing to do was to write to Graham, or Grizilda (whatever you like). So where you also a maniac in collection something in the way I'm trying to collect jingles. Of course I will pay for all the cost you made to put the jingles on tape. I realise that isn't easy for you, so I shall pay you for all the work you are doing for me.'

And so the letter went on and on: 'I suppose it's very cheeky to give you a list of jingles I'm fond of. I won't do this but I will give you an idea of what kind of jingles would make me extraordinary glad.' A rundown of the wanted jingles followed and the writer ended with a big thank you on forehand. Well we're 38 years later and all the wonderful RNI jingles are still played by several offshore fans, or - as Andy innovated - Anoraks. By the way, the guy who wrote the long letter to Graham would become one of the most well-known voice-overs in the Netherlands. He was for many years the voice for the RTL Television in our country and his name is Jos Berghenhouwen.

It's also nice to find hundreds of cards which are sent to Graham through the years, for instant the one he got before Christmas 1979 from a former

colleague on Radio Caroline. It was Brian Anderson who wrote: 'To dearest Grizelda from Brian and Lesley Anderson and the baby, which is due in any minute. Hope you're getting enough! See you in 1980.'



It's also amazing to see how certain listeners, although they possibly didn't get a response, were writing very long letters to the deejays onboard the Mebo II, RNI's radioship. For instant Dorothy Stigwood wrote from Newmarket in Suffolk. 'Dear Graham, so you found the Mebo II. I wonder for how long as the station had three new voices in such a short time. Well, let's hope you will stay. They all sound a good group on there. Brian McKenzie sounds awfully kind. Arnold Layne is a great guy and I think he's very humorous. Nice to hear also all his bits in between. He's really quite nice and speaks so beautifully. Don Allen is a great one too. I love his Saturday night Country and Western programmes. Mike Ross has made a big hit with his Sunday evening 'Hit Back Programmes'. I also like Ian Anderson, when he's on, which isn't very often I'm afraid. So you should be okay with a nice crowd of guys like that. I hope will be very happy out there'.

After some lines about music and artists Dorothy went on writing about Caroline: 'I see you were on Caroline with Tony Allen. When did you leave the station? We cannot receive it here, too much interference. Not that I should in any case as I cannot listen to the both. I like RNI and have been listening to that for a long time ever since. Roger Day started it. Do you know Roger? I suppose he's doing quite well doing discotheque and getting on fine. So I should not drop RNI for Caroline if we could get it. I also don't have any idea who's on there. I know Crispian St John has left there and that Tony Allen is still on the

station. I learned it from Buster's magazine.' Dorothy ended, like most of the letters from listeners did, asking for a request.

Then I'm focusing on a letter from P. Verstege from Utrecht in the Netherlands, who wrote his experiences with receiving the signal from Radio Caroline on '259 metres'. Next to that he told in his letter that he had almost all the books which were published about the subject 'Offshore Radio'. The later was dated June 9<sup>th</sup> 1974 and in those days probably 8 books on that subject. Nowadays the amount is countless. Maybe one day I will make a list of all publications on my shelf. Next the guy from Utrecht wrote about his visit 'near the radioships' with the MV Fortuna, organised in those days by the FRC Holland and their front man, the late Hans Verbaan. It would be lovely to know if this P. Verstege, then living at the Muiderslotplantsoen 35, is still around in our hobby world. He made, during the trip on the MV Fortuna photographs and would be nice to show them to my readers.

Utrecht, June 9<sup>th</sup> 1974.

Dear Sirs,

Today I received on my transitor your program from 0.130 till 0.300 o'clock, on 259 meters in the medium band. The reception was fair, I noted SINPO 44454. However I taped the complete program I will only mention a few details as You can probably understand. ( see the other side of this letter ).


I am very interested in everything that has to do with offshore radio , I have almost all records and books that deal with this subject. Of course I have quite a lot of articles too.

The ~~end~~ <sup>end</sup> of June 1974 I made a trip around the radio ships with the passengership "Fortuna" from Scheveningen harbour, which was organised by FRC Holland. During the trip I made some pictures of the beautiful ship, the aerials and of course the DJ's on board the ship who could very much appreciate our arrival.

I also succeeded in making a close-up picture of the mast in front of the ship.

I hope or better beg You to send me a QSL-card as a verification of this reception report. I wrote to times before but was very disappointed because I did never receive a QSL-card. It would be a great honour for me to receive one!

I want to thank You in advance and remain,

  
Yours sincerely,

Please Graham if you can not send one , hand this letter over to someone who can. I hope You will accept my apologies for my bad English.

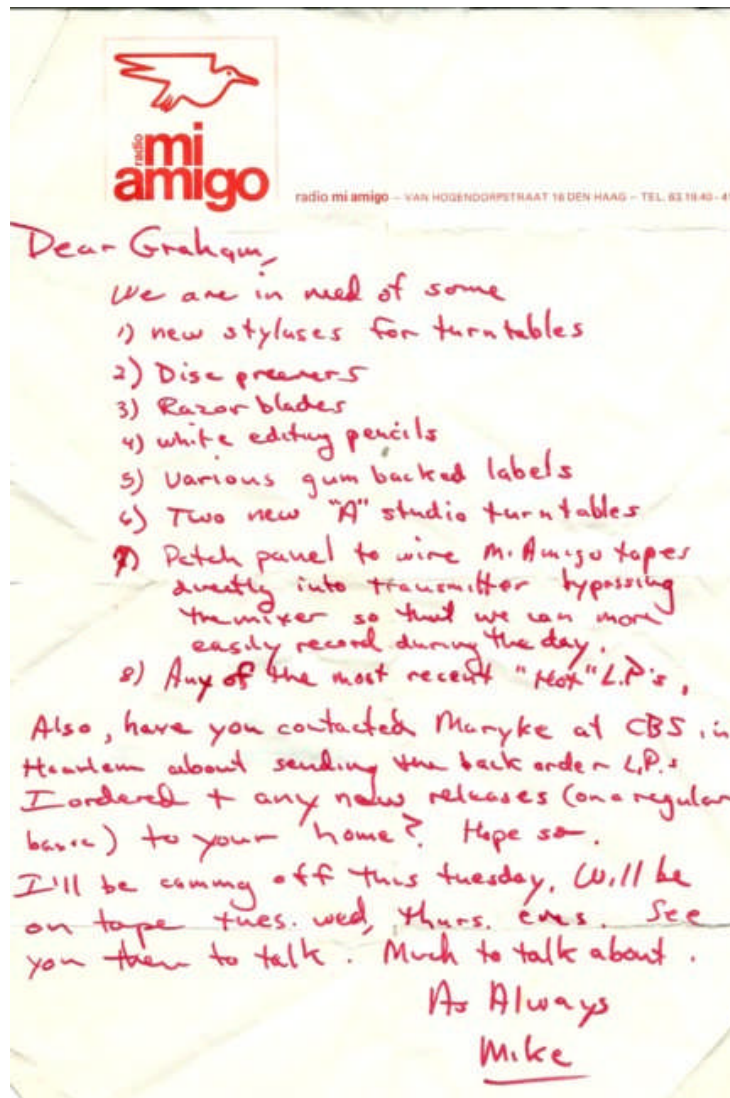
Than next comes a letter from July 12<sup>th</sup> 1974 from a certain Michael Shepard. It seems if the family name was specially chosen. Why? Well listen what he wrote to Graham: 'This is my first letter to you. I have listened to a lot of your shows from when you were on Caroline through the RNI days. I personally am glad that you have returned to the Mi Amigo. Last September my sister, her boyfriend and I came to Holland with the intention of getting to see some of

the deejays. On the Tuesday we went on a trip round the radio ships. Than the next day I rang up the Caroline House. To cut a long story short we came away with the impression that Caroline is real and her deejays are also real. We received an album and car stickers. All this was done by Andy Archer. '

It was not the end of the special trip for Malcolm as he had informed him very well when it was possible to see some of the RNI guys: 'On the Friday we went down to the quayside at Scheveningen to meet some of the RNI deejays. We saw Don and Robbie and then on the return of the tender we met you. Robbie and you were very pleased to see us but Don gave us the impression that he didn't care. Again we met Andy and he made our holiday complete as he took us to the MV Mi Amigo. '

It seems Malcolm saw the light after visiting Caroline: 'Since that holiday I have been a very dedicated listener to Seagull and now Caroline. I have written to the most of the deejays on board Caroline. It's what they stand for which has changed my life. I now feel that I can say the words 'Love and Peace' with conviction. The musical content of the station is superb. I hope to go to the theological college and try to become a priest. As I said earlier it is through Caroline and without her deejays help, well I would probably still just be in the middle of the jungle. I want to help people but it is my own opinion that you must have faith to help other people.' Well let's hope Malcolm Sheppard found his way to become a good priest.

In the Graham Gill archive also I found crumbled notes, which were written on the ship and were sent - with the tender - to the Caroline and Mi Amigo Office in the Van Hoogendorpstreet in The Hague. The next note, which has several subjects, speaks for itself.



Also, we saw it in earlier chapters, Graham was 'in' by female listeners but also girls he met in clubs. I found a letter which was sent from Amsterdam in June 1973 from a girl called 'Ada': 'Dearest Graham I wanted to write down my feelings, when I heard your voice on the radio again, this after a whole year or more. I am so unbelievably happy now. I don't think you'll remember me. I was one of your biggest fans in bar 'Copacabana' in Amsterdam. I still got the sticker with your name on it. My name is Ada, we used to play together tambourine on the song 'Midnight Special' from CCR. And you sang 'Close to you' for me. I heard you suddenly on Wednesday night singing again 'Way back home'. Where were you all those months? In Germany, or in England, or maybe in Holland? You were so suddenly gone. Well, now you're finally where you belong, on Radio Northsea. Please don't go. I like you, your warm and tender voice. Many kisses and thoughts. Ada'.

Even months after the close down of RNI, August 31<sup>st</sup> 1974, people were writing in. The last letter in this issue of the Graham Gill archive was dated 15/11/1975 and came from Stephen Cox in Harrow on the Hill: 'Graham, You may remember me from those great days on RNI. I hope you are keeping well. Dorothy Stigwood has been unwell. She is always hoping that RNI will come back and I will write her a few lines too cheer her up.'

Well, amongst others Dorothy was one of the regulars tuning in to RNI. Stephen went on with: 'I can tell you Graham I still got hope in RNI coming back on the air from sunny Italy and with those transmitters on board the Mebo II we should receive the station. I got more faith in RNI than Caroline. I still listen to Simon and Mike out there. Graham, I don't often look into other peoples affairs but Mr. Meister and Mr Bollier will lose their court case. Why don't they pay up the harbour charges and do what they did in 1970. Save the Mebo II, there is still a lot of RNI support.'

The Mebo II was in those days impounded by Dutch authorities in Slikkerveen harbour, which is near Rotterdam. It would last up till mid 1977 before the ship, including the tender MEBO I, was given free and they went to the Middle East. However Stephen still had believe in RNI returning and even had the idea he could be of help: 'I don't say what some deejays say that those wonderful days are over. Even Adrian Love and Crispian St. John think so. I would love to send a 5 Pound note as we want our harmless entertainment back on the air.'

Well, I hope to have time to dive in the boxes again another time for more from the Graham Gill archive.

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The organizing team from the RadioDay is already busy for month to get several people to the Netherlands for the panels we have planned. Of course there are people who cannot fly to Amsterdam but did send us a nice message, like the next one from Sheridan Keith Street in Chiang Mai Northern Thailand: 'Dear Martin and Hans. Thank you very much for your invitation to the RadioDay in Amsterdam Saturday 17th November 2012. Unfortunately I shall be unable to attend, but our thoughts will be with you and look forward to the photographs' of that event, please pass along my apologies.



Sheridon on Caroline 1967 and in 2011

Then the next one: 'Dear Hans. My name is Fiona Glendinning and my father John (Ray) Glendinning was one of the engineers on Radio 390. Your site is fab and so very interesting to read. Radio must be in my families' blood as my grandfather William worked as an engineer on Radio Caroline and at present I'm working for Bob Le Roi on Redsands Radio. My father went on to work for the BBC World Service after the demise of Radio 390. He stayed with the BBC until he retired in 1995. Sadly my father died in May 1996. I am trying to trace Laurence Bean who was the senior engineer on Radio 390 could you possibly help. Take Care. Fiona.'

Of course I got back to her and you will soon see what a nice radio family we are: 'Dear Fiona thanks for your e mail. Well I've two internet sites

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

[www.soundscapes.info](http://www.soundscapes.info), which is the online Journal for media and music.

Sad to hear your father passed away and nice to see that a third generation is working in radio. I've send a few e mails around to people who might know an answer, so I hope I can inform you in the weeks to come. I will also mention it in my monthly radio report, which some of the 390 people of the past are reading too. With best greetings Hans

First answering my email was former Radio 390, Caroline North, RNI and more presenter: Greg Bance: 'If Laurence lives in Kent, as I think he might, Fiona might consult The Phone Book, as there are listed in it four Beans with his initial (L., L.J. and two L.S.s). Telephone directories are a little used resource these days! I don't personally know of his whereabouts. Best, Greg Bance.'

Another response came from Germany and our good friend Martin van der Ven, who wrote: 'We tried to invite him a couple of years ago by normal letter for a 390 Reunion, but he never responded to the invitation.' Next Martin sent me the address of Laurence Bean in Canterbury (Kent), which I forwarded to Fiona as well as to Greg, who came back very quickly with: 'Extraordinary! From the answer, given by Martin, about the location of Laurence Bean - my 390 colleague from 45 years ago. It transpires that he lives virtually just round the corner from me here in Canterbury. Small world, eh? All the best, Greg.'

And next was Fiona again: 'Hi Hans. Many thanks for the address. Please say a big Thank you to Dr. Martin van der Ven for me. If you ever listen to Redsands Radio we are back on June 30th and we have a college of Laurence Bean from Radio 390 opening the station this season. Kindest regards Fiona.' If any of the readers of the report has memories to tell about Laurence Bean, please feel free to tell us at [HKnot@home.nl](mailto:HKnot@home.nl)

Lord Glenamara, who has died May 4<sup>th</sup> 2012 aged 99, was, as Ted Short, deputy Labour leader from 1972 to 1976 and Chief Whip, Postmaster General, Education Secretary (the first ex-headmaster to hold the post) and Leader of the House under Harold Wilson.

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/obituaries/politics-obituaries/9260852/Lord-Glenamara.html>

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/obituaries/lord-glenamara-politician-who-fought-to-keep-wilsons-labour-government-in-power-7729081.html>

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/politics/2012/may/10/edward-short-lord-glenamara?INTCMP=SRCH>

Alex van der Hoek wrote to me that he has finished dubbing the video he made at the Veronica reunion in April. You can watch it at You Tube:

[http://youtu.be/wWRoVKAdc\\_s?hd=1](http://youtu.be/wWRoVKAdc_s?hd=1)

Next we have an update on the AFN Blog from Tom Wheston in the USA: 'The big story this time is that the Korea network has ceased over the air broadcasting. If you were ever a part of AFVN, the big reunion is coming up. The singer that replaced Buddy Holly in the Crickets, Jerry Naylor, was an AFN vet. He was on tour in 1970 and was a part of Weekend World. You have a Date With Chris. Jim Gough (AFRS Sangley) is doing a radio show for bobwills.com. , some of it is with AFRS recordings. Wolfman Jack howls us to



1975. Command Performance with Spencer Tracy hosting. When Roger Carroll was at KMPC, Frank Bresee would stop by and talk radio. Roger sent a couple of them. AFPN and the Hitmakers feature 1962 and 1963. There's something for everyone. If you enjoy it tell a friend. Thom Whetston AFKN Korea 1976-77 and SCN Panama 1980-83

<http://afrtsarchive.blogspot.com>

For the third time in a row a reader is writing about Heatwave and Johnny Flux: 'Hello Hans, I was nicely surprised to see Paul Rusling's letter mentioning the band Heatwave and the disc he pulled from his record library is a promotional copy that we, as the band, were not privy too. In fact, neither Penny Farthing Records nor Johnny [Flux] Edward [our manager, with whom I'm still in touch and who wrote the songs] informed us the record was available outside the U.K. - i.e. Holland and, more especially, Japan where it sold the most copies. The 'foreign' copies even had different covers - e.g. attached, my bland [band-autographed] orange U.K. sleeve + the German photo sleeve. Not radio-related but, DJ Col Wolfe [at Spoke Records] recently posted the Heatwave story:

<http://www.forumusic.co.uk/heatwave.html>

Many thanks for all your continued good work with the monthly Radio Report... keep them coming! Martin Samuel.'



Thanks Martin of course this is also radio related as without the music our generation wouldn't have loved it as we do all those decades greetings Hans'.

Nickname time again as in an old recording from Caroline International in August 1967 we heard Roger Day mentioning himself 'your Beachboys buddy deejay number one'

It must be a year or more ago we heard from PJ at Special Music Radio and he wrote this time: 'Hi Hans, thank you for the latest News Report, it's always a pleasure to receive your Reports. Last week, I heard my 3rd Special Music Radio event at Weymouth Harbour and once again it was a great success. As always the event was held on board Weymouth Charter boat Als Spirit, but this time the boat was board on the Marina side of the harbour. This year the presenters were Mandy, Neon Nancy, Iain Johnston, Pete Bryant and myself, PJ. We had two very special guests this year who agreed to visit us and do an interview. None other than former Pans people member Dee Dee Wilde and her husband Henry Marsh of the band Sailor. Dee Dee and Henry were great sports, they did a superb and entertaining interview and it was wonderful to meet them, I am a lifelong fan of Pans People and I have always enjoyed Sailors music. I've included a picture of Dee Dee on board Als Spirit in the on board studio and I believe some of our programmes will be featured on [www.panspeople.com](http://www.panspeople.com) in coming weeks, this is a great little site run by fans of Pans people and the other classic Top Of The Pops dance troupes. Keep up the great work Hans and best wishes to yourself and everyone. PJ Special Music Radio.'



Alan in Manchester has also something to tell you all: 'Hi Hans I hope you're well. I came across some interesting posts on Facebook about DX'ing and, following one link, I arrived at <http://radioberlininternational.blog.co.uk/>. I was rather shocked to see the following comment there attributed to Wikipedia: "Radio Berlin broadcast in many languages, with many of its announcers at the different services — such as English, French and even Danish — coming from their country's respective communist parties. It was one of the major international broadcasters of the Cold War era. From 1970 until 1974 its programs were rebroadcast by Radio North Sea International between 03:00 and 06:00." I've read comments in the past about Meister and Bollier's supposed links to the former GDR Secret Services, but this is a new one. Can anyone shed any light on it? Thanks Best wishes Alan Milewczyk.'

Well Alan I don't know who put this on the page of Berlin International but must have been one with a very big thumb. I shared it with some people and an avid listener to RNI Shortwave in those days was Herbert Visser and he wrote: 'Indeed Hans, this info cannot be something else than nonsense. Although it should have happened in the middle of the night, just any moment the DDR propaganda should be on the air on the MEBO II, many should have noticed this. Next to that there were in those days far much powerful transmitters to use for Berlin International. From the DDR several medium wave signals could be received all over Europe. And what to think about those propaganda transmitters in Kallingrad, which is directly above former Eastern Germany? Those transmitters were so strong that they could be received in the Netherlands as easy as we received the signals from Hilversum 1 and 2. I was living in Zevenaar, near the Western German border, and know when it was getting dark, RNI's signal was almost not receivable anymore. And you can add to it that when RNI would have transmitted those Berlin International programs the political forces had taken off the offshore stations at once!' Thanks a lot Herbert to reflect on that nonsense about Radio Berlin International.

And while talking about RNI in 1970, I received an e mail from former Captain Hartevelde. 'Hello Hans, I don't know if I ever sent this photo, which was taken on the bridge of the MEBO I. From left to right you see: Dr. Lauber, Captain Jan Hartevelde, transmitter engineer Sors and the most important man aboard, Cas the Cook.



Photo: Collection Jan Harteveld

Thanks a lot for the photo and I hope, when receiving this that the small operation, you underwent, was successful!

Sad news from Roger Day, who wrote on Facebook: "As expected my programme will be axed at the end of the year, replaced by a national network show. My extreme gratitude and thanks for all those who have been fighting my corner. Your support has been incredible. Hopefully I will resurface somewhere else as I have no intention of retiring and love what I do." Well Roger, let's fingers crossed and hopefully we can hear you somewhere in 2013 too! Good luck!

The next e mail comes from: Mebo Ltd. Headquarters, Zürich/Switzerland: Radio Northsea International, Radio Nordsee International.

During the past weeks I was working on a long article for another publication and some questions came above again. And so I wrote to former station manager Vick Pelli in Switzerland, from whom I know that he is in weekly contact with Edwin Bollier in Zürich. Till now we only heard officially in 1987 - by telex from Hamburg - that Theo Dencker from the Free Radio Campaign and the German Radio News, was informed about the fact that the RNI ships were used as a

target for the Libyan army, but officially it was never confirmed. So I asked, versus Vick Pelly, to Edwin Bollier if it was true that both ships were used as a military target. The answer I got back was: 'All the radio equipment and the studios have been removed before. The rumour that I attended the shooting exercises by the Libyan Airforce is not true.' Thanks Vic as well as Edwin for the answer and after almost 2,5 decades it's officially confirmed that the ships were targeted.

But Edwin Bollier also asked me to bring the next official message:



As you know I was planning to publish a new and colourful RNI-Souvenir Book with exciting stories about RNI and Mebo. Working title is: '**Radio Northsea - The true story**'. I told some radiofans in Germany that the book would be out by the end of 2011. Victor Pelli was ready to publish and co-write. As it turned out I was too optimistic. I expected that 'the Lockerbie case' would be solved by the end of the year 2011. But unfortunately it was not so. This is the reason why we have postponed the book project to a later date. I am still fully focused on a fact finding mission, in order to find the truth and have justice done. It is a very complicated story but I am convinced that sooner or later the truth will be

revealed beyond the shadow of a doubt. All the best Edwin Bollier Mebo Ltd. Zurich, Switzerland 16-5-2012'.

For those who love nostalgic music from more than half a century ago and including records from 78 rpm and Radio 390 have to listen to the next internet radio station: <http://radionostalgia.nl/>

From Radio 390 to nowadays Radio 227 is a small step. It's run with station boss Look Boden, who worked on the original Radio 227 from the Laissez Faire. Well on their internet site there's a promo about the nowadays Radio 227 including nice shots from the sixties.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=A7ACsZjBfJk&feature=youtu.be>

Finally I heard, while working on this edition of the report, another nickname. This time it came from the late Peter Sonneveld on Radio Caroline in 1973 when he announced that next Andy 'argeloos' Archer would come on the air. Translated this Dutch word means 'inoffensive'.

Well dear reader, summer is coming nearer so in the July/August period there will be only one edition of the Hans Knot International Report. When it will be published cannot be mentioned yet, but one day it's in your postbox. Enjoy summer and best greetings Hans Knot.