

Hans Knot International Radio Report May 2014

Hi there everybody and the end of April is the moment that we're going to think more and more to a forthcoming, hopefully warm and sunny summer. Tell me about your memories in radio related to summer for the next report. By the way thanks for all reflections, memories, good wishes and more. A few of them are in the report, others did get a personal answer from me. In this and next issue we're still looking back at the Radioday event, which took place in Amsterdam as well some other free radio happenings from elsewhere.

First a fantastic moment to give Alex van den Hoek an absolute perfect sign as he made a terrific special: 'Radioday 2014 in Amsterdam was attended by more than 450 people. This is a 45 minutes video report of that day in March 2014. Many DJ's and technicians of famous sixties, seventies and eighties Offshore Radio station shared their memories with the visitors at Casa 400, the hotel where the gathering took place. People like Keith Skues, Norman St. John, Tony Prince, John Aston, Alan Turner, Johnnie Walker, Roger 'Twiggy' Day, Nico Steenbergen, Ferry Maat, Hans ten Hooge, Marc van Amstel, Andy Archer, Don Stevens, Arnold Layne, Robb Eden, Graham Gill, Peter Chicago, Ad Roberts and many, many more. Alex van den Hoek.'

<http://youtu.be/OyqJWZWZMro>

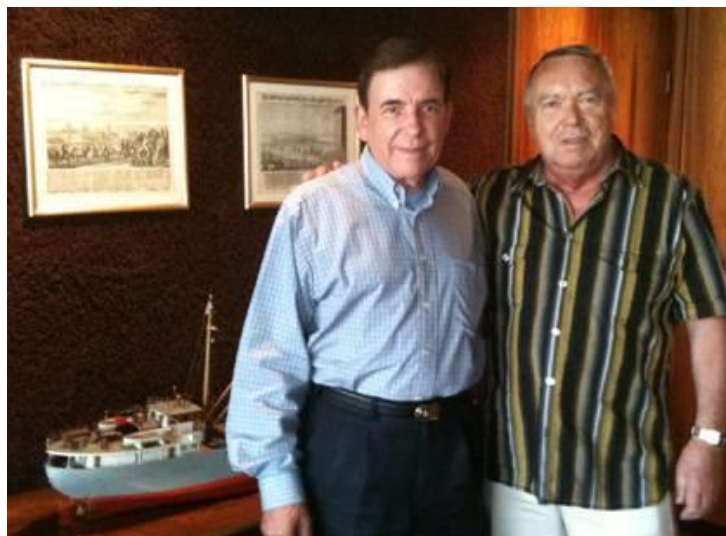
Martin van der Ven has worked very hard to get all the (more than 1500) photos taken at the Radioday, the sound of all panels from the day, the comments of the visitors and much more on our site so take some hours to visit: www.radioday.nl

Then a very remarkable e mail came in from Switzerland:
'Wonderfully your Radio Day, I could cry that I and my best friend

Erwin Meister, were not there. Thank you very much the organizers - and great apology - Edwin Bollier, MEBO Ltd. - ex Radio North Sea International (RNI). Many thanks also to our representative Victor Pelli.'

Thanks a lot Edwin and a pity you couldn't come and you now regret it. Nevertheless I hope to meet you once in the future, to have a long chat about the good old days. Yes, more than 4 decades ago! More mail from Switzerland came from Vick Pelli:

'Dear Hans. 'It was a pleasure meeting you at the RadioDay. For me it was the best RadioDay ever as I met again all our English RNI DJs. I had great talks with them and also with Nico, Ferry and many others. Unfortunately I had to rush back to the airport. A singalong book had to be delivered to the publisher. I would have loved to be able to stay for the dinner. Edwin knows now what he missed. Enclosed is an unpublished picture. I took it at the Mebo Office. I really tried my best to put Edwin and Erwin on a flight to Amsterdam. Thanks Martin and Hans for organising all this. Great job! Would be nice if some guys would continue the RadioDay tradition. I hope to see you all again in the near future and wishing you all the best and good health. Should you plan to come to Switzerland - please let me know in advance! Best regards Victor'.



Erwin Meister and Edwin Bollier 2014

Photo: Vic Pelli

Well Vic, good to see you've enjoyed the RadioDay again and have met all those guys who once worked for the station. A pity your stay couldn't be any longer. And who knows we see each other one day! Keep in touch.

In this issue of the International Radio Report we also have several links to newsflashes and documentaries regarding 50 years of Offshore Radio in Europe;

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-essex-26791536>

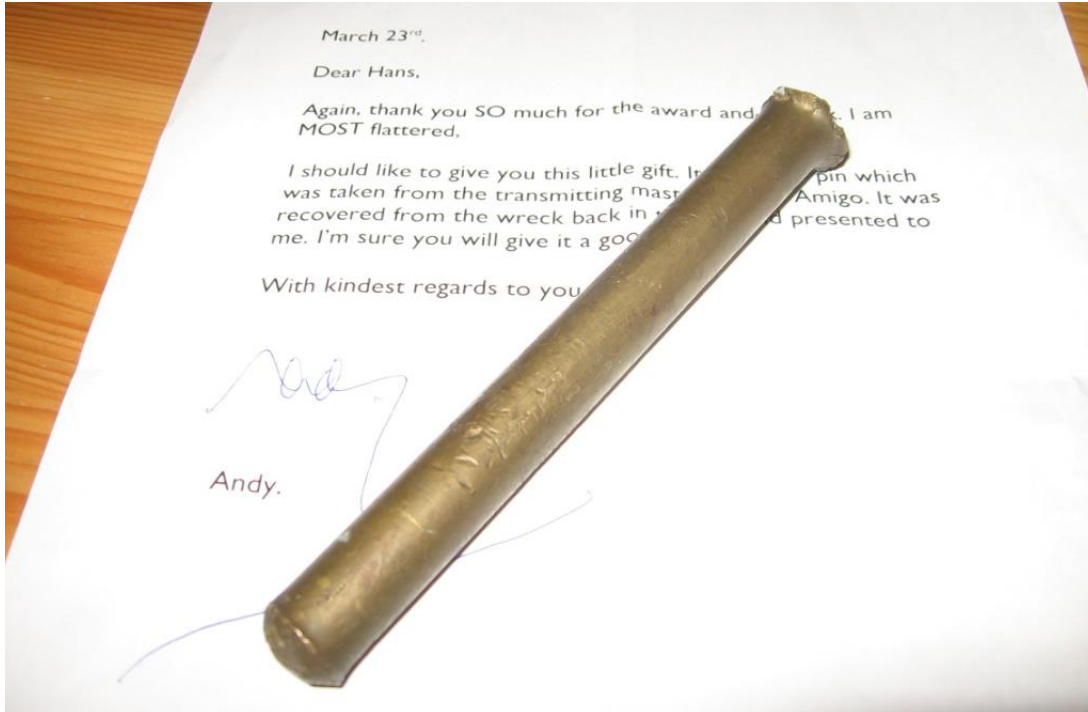
One of the former RNI deejays from the international service worked on the station, way back in 1970. It's Dave Gregory who sent the next e-mail: 'Hi Hans. Just a quick line to wish you and Martin all the best for the future, and congratulate you both on such a splendid event! I'm so glad I managed to make it for what turned out to be the last one under your auspices. So good to see so many old faces again under one roof! Thanks again for all your hard work & hospitality and please stay in touch. Warmest regards Dave Gregory.'

And also from a younger generation congratulations came in, as this one from Dublin in Ireland: 'Well done to Hans Knot and Dr. Martin van der Ven for bringing all us friends united in our Love of Real Radio together for one last time perhaps? at RadioDay.nl Thank You. Enda Caldwell.'

Thanks a lot Enda and it was a pleasure to have you on the dinner table on the evening before the RadioDay. And who knows we see each other next time - when we do visit Dublin.

What about a special gift I got from England on April 8th. Suddenly a hard noise was heard when the postman put something into the

front door of our house. I thought of the Caroline jingle 'Give us a bang when you're ready'. It was a parcel from Andy Archer. Well the photo tells it all:



A shear pin is a mechanical safety device that fails at a pre-set stress load to protect the rest of a system, as well as operators and technicians who may be in the vicinity. One of the most common uses for such devices is in drive trains, where uncontrolled pressure could damage the system if it wasn't stopped with the aid of a device like a shear pin. Such devices are intended to be part of a larger safety network with counter safes that can activate when other safety measures fail, to reduce the risk of damages, injuries, or loss of life.

The shear pin consists of a bolt or other fastener like a cotter pin, carefully engineered to break at the right stress level. Designers do not want the shear pin failing under normal operating conditions, but need it to snap in the event of a high stress situation. For example, such devices are commonly used in snow blowers to provide protection in the event that something gets caught in the blades, which would put stress on the drivetrain of the device. (with thanks to Paul de Haan).

Of course also a big thank you Andy and of course this special pin has got a fine place between other memories to Offshore Radio in our reading room. Most appreciated!

It's memory time again with a perfect photo. He was finally there, we tried it for years and yes we were happy he would join the Radioday. He worked on Radio Essex, Radio Scotland and RNI, as well on Radio Luxembourg for many years. Mark Wesley. But he sadly was not on the panels during the RadioDays. For those who missed him, here an exclusive photo from Mark on Radio Essex taken by Martin Stevens.



Someone not to miss in each report for many years in the one we loved to listen too on Radio Caroline and Radio Luxembourg. So here another comment from the Emperor Rosko in California:

'Hi Hans, I am glad all went well with the RadioDay. Sorry I could not make the quick hop from California to visit you and the others. I enjoyed the interview which Rob Jones did with me. It brought back many memories! I bet your now resting, I know how much work it takes to set up a production like that. Congratulations!' EMP

Thanks Rosko and of course a little memory from the massive photo collection. It was taken aboard the MV Cheetah II in 1966 when the ship was used temporary for Radio Caroline.



Photo: OEM Archive

Next we go to Germany to a guy I had regular contact with in the seventies, as well as with his brother Lothar, both then members of the Free Radio Campaign Germany as well as of the Pirate Radio News, which I was running together with Jacob Kokje.

'Hi Hans, Hi Martin, I'm still impressed and often think about the RadioDay last Saturday. It was simply unbelievable how many deejays from the past we saw and what a great atmosphere we had there. My brother and I also were on 'Zeezenders 20' in 1978 in Noordwijkerhout and that was the best offshore happening - until last Saturday! We only missed one thing: much more time. The whole event should have lasted 2 or 3 Days. Thanks a lot for a real great day! Greetings, Dietmar Flacke.'

Thanks Dietmar for reflecting and warm words. A pity we didn't personally speak to each other during the event. It was good to see also other former members of the FRC Germany like Peter and

Werner Hartwig and Frank Leonard. Brings friendship from 40 years back!

Next again a link to a video on you tube, featuring 50 years of Radio Caroline by Julian Wellings.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DPpLAbK6X2Q>

One person we missed during the RadioDay, getting one of the six Radio Day Awards this year, was former Caroline technician in the sixties, Carl Thomson. But we posted the Award on the Monday after to his home and a week later he reflected with: 'The fantastic Radioday Award arrived this afternoon, my wife Frances was Laughing, as I unpacked the award from so many layers, well done. Once again, many thanks to all who have organised the RadioDay. I shall e mail a photo of myself and the award later.'

And just a week later the next arrived: 'As promised a couple of photos attached of me holding the award. One is taken in our house and the second when I showed our local radio club.

see www.g0mwt.org.uk

Carl at the Chelmsford Amateur Radio Society



Next a link to photos of the Caroline North RSL in Liverpool, taken by Richie Walker:

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/thecrookedfoo/with/13588452684/>

More on the project: <http://carolinenorth.com/> john dwyer

http://conceptnews.org/caroline_north/photos.htm

Stephen Oliver, Stephen Ladd on RNI, talked to ABC Hobart, about offshore radio. He was on RNI from 13 August 1970 till 24 September 1970 so describes the attempted hijack.

<http://blogs.abc.net.au/tasmania/2014/04/whats-your-sort-of-music-these-days-it-doesnt-matter-if-its-metal-alternative-adult-pop-the-baroque-classics-punk-or-just.html>

Now time for Mary Payne who also got a RadioDay Award for the extensive work she and her husband Chris have done to keep the name of Wonderful Radio London very high during the past 15 years on internet! 'Some of the many features in the Radio London 15th Birthday mega-update are:

- Photo Galleries
- Our Amsterdam Radio Day
- A visit to the Norderney
- A joint birthday celebration on March 28th

Features:

- A page of congratulations on our Radio Day Award
- Kenny Everett tribute page updates
- 50th Anniversary merchandise - now on sale
- We have corrected Radio Times's big mistake
- Australian interview: Graham Webb's 60 wonderful years - he says Caroline was the greatest
- Report from Walton-on-the-Naze

All good wishes, Mary, Chris and Cousin Moosie

www.radiolondon.co.uk

As I promised also news on other events organised to celebrate that it is 50 years ago that the one and only Radio Caroline - the one from international waters - started: 'Hi Hans! Impeccable timing! Your latest radio report arrived right in the middle of our Pop Pirates 50th birthday event here in Walton-on-the-Naze, organized by my friend and neighbour Captain Campbell. And a wonderful day it's been so far, thankfully blessed by perfect weather! Photos attached, included one of the Birthday Cake!



ORDER OF CEREMONY

TIME	ACTIVITY
10.30	CELEBRATIONS COMMENCE AT RNLI LIFEBOAT HOUSE. 60'S MUSIC, CELEBRITY BOAT, PRESS BOAT, COMPRERE, SHIP TO SHORE LINK ETC.
11.00 TO 11.30	INTERVIEW DJs ON BOATS VIA RADIO LINK AND ON SHORE. ANY REMAINING DJs TO MAKE THEIR WAY TO END OF PIER PROMPTLY.
11.45	RNLI AND PRESS BOATS TO CAST OFF FROM PIER MOORING AND POSITION A FEW METRES OFF PIER. POSITION - BETWEEN THE PIER HEAD AND THE ALBION BREAKWATER.
12.00	CAROLINE BELL TO BE RUNG 12 TIMES ON RNLI BOAT. FIREWORKS FROM BREAKWATER, FOLLOWED BY BEATLES "CAN'T BUY ME LOVE" AND THE ROLLING STONES "NOT FADE AWAY" (1 ST RADIO CAROLINE RECORDS). AIR-SEA RESCUE HELICOPTER FLY-PAST. CHEERING PLEASE!
12.10	BOTH BOATS TO RETURN TO PIER RNLI DOCK.
12.20	ALL PRESENTERS & PRESS ETC. TO MAKE THEIR WAY BACK TO THE LIFEBOAT HOUSE NEAR PIER ENTRANCE.
12.30	AUCTION OF CAKE AND INTERVIEWS WITH MORE DJs AND MEDIA. PHOTO OPPORTUNITIES.
12.50	FURTHER INTERVIEWS AT BOAT HOUSE, AS REQUIRED.
13.15	ALL ATTENDEES TO ROYAL MARINE AND / OR ROYAL ALBION PUBLIC HOUSES FOR REFRESHMENT. LIVE MUSIC COMMENCES AT BOTH VENUES AT 15.00HRS AT THE ROYAL MARINE INN AND 18.00HRS POSSIBLY EARLIER) AT THE ROYAL ALBION INN.



Thanks to the organisers for sharing the photos. Good to see you've enjoyed the day.

Next from the USA one who would love to come to Amsterdam but didn't succeed: 'Hans, I just finished reading your excellent Radio

Day edition of the Hans Knot International Radio Report. I surely was looking forward to being there this year, but some important matters came up and I had to postpone my trip to Europe. Thank you and Martin for your dedication to Pirate radio and your perseverance and hard work in producing an Amsterdam Radio Day year after year. All the best, Ron O'Quinn.' Well thanks a lot for the warm words Ron and who know we will catch up one day again.'

Interesting to read is an article about Radio Free America, a station in international waters for a very short periode off the American east coast in the early seventies of last century. It's a report from a newspaperreporter in New Yersey, who succeeded in getting a lot of information, which was unknown till now. jingleweb.nl

Another e mail from the UK: 'Another fascinating and informative newsletter (great stuff from Rosko and the Virtual Museum!) keep up the good work. Excellent photos on the Radioday website. I'm still awaiting the video report - Coming Soon?' Well the question from John Hogg about the video is answered already at the start of this International Radio Report.

But John had more interesting info: 'I came across a letter I received from our DTI Minister in 1985 (passed to me via my MP) responding to my request for the 'Official' justification for Eurosiege. You probably have similar examples in your archive but use it as you wish. Unfortunately, I didn't keep a copy of my letter. Best wishes to you all. John Hogg.'

Well thanks a lot John for sharing the documents with the readers of the Hans Knot International Report. Everyone else who wants to share personal things, please use my e mail address HKnot@home.nl



from the Parliamentary Under Secretary
for State for Industry

DEPARTMENT OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY
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JOHN BUTCHER MP

Neville Trotter Esq FCA JP MP
House of Commons
LONDON SW1A 0AA

14 October 1985

Dear Sir,

As you know, your letter of 18 September to the Home Office on behalf of Mr J R Hogg of 10 St Pauls Gardens, Whitley Bay about the unlicensed marine broadcasting stations, Radio Caroline and Laser 558 has been passed to my Department for reply.

The Government have an obligation to legitimate radio users in the United Kingdom and to the international community to take all the steps available to prevent unauthorised broadcasting on the high seas. The United Kingdom is a member of the International Telecommunication Union. At the World Administrative Radio Conference 1959, renewed in the World Administrative Radio Conference 1979, regulations and recommendations were agreed prohibiting the establishment and use of broadcasting stations (sound broadcasting and television broadcasting stations) on board ships, aircraft or any other floating or airborne objects outside national territories; and asking Governments to study possible means direct or indirect to prevent or suspend such operations and, where appropriate, take the necessary action.

The Government are also a signatory to the 1965 European Agreement for the Prevention of Broadcasts transmitted from stations outside national territories. This was incorporated into UK legislation by the Marine Etc Broadcasting (Offences) Act 1967 ("Mebo Act"). Section 3 of the Act makes it an offence for any British national to be involved in making a broadcast from a ship or marine structure on the high seas. Section 4 of the Act makes it an offence for a British national to supply a ship involved in broadcasting at sea or for the ship to be supplied from the United Kingdom.

The operations of Laser 558 and Radio Caroline have resulted in interference to safety-of-life radio services which could have had disastrous consequences. The stations have interfered with both marine and aeronautical radio navigational beacons. Aeronautical beacons in the Southern North Sea used by helicopter pilots servicing oil installations have been rendered non-operational. An international calling and distress frequency at North Foreland Radio was on one occasion blocked out. Radio waves obey the laws

J21AKL



of physics and national and international regulation of the use of radio reflects the limits which the laws of physics impose if all users are to avoid causing or receiving harmful interference. The use of radio at sea requires further restrictions because radio waves travel further over water than over land.

These stations also interfere with the reception of authorised broadcasting stations in West Germany and Eire. Furthermore, as a result of their operations, the planned frequency for the ILR Medway Station had to be changed and the planned frequency for BBC Radio Essex is not at present viable. It is not sufficient for people to listen on a frequency and if nothing is heard, use it and claim they cause no interference. Frequency assignment is a far more complicated process than that.

I hope Mr Hogg will now understand why it is essential that this Department take action against Laser 558 and Radio Caroline. The Department's Radio Investigation Service staff on board the Dioptric Surveyor observe and report to the police any vessel seen supplying the stations. This applies to all vessels and not only those who may have sailed from a British port. We have good international co-operation on this problem since other Western European Administrations are equally concerned to put a stop to this nuisance. In the case of vessels which have sailed from British ports, it will be for the Director of Public Prosecutions to decide after police investigation whether to institute proceedings under the Mebo Act.

As I have said, we are dealing with a real threat to safety of life and pollution of the radio spectrum. As the regulatory authority the Department has a responsibility to ensure that the authorised radio users do not suffer such pollution. The newspaper reports of the cost are much exaggerated. However, I should point out that our radio regulatory activity is self-supporting. All our work on frequency allocation, assignment and policing the use of the spectrum to ensure it is not polluted is met out of revenues provided by holders of radio transmitting licences and other authorised users.

When you're a regular reader to the International Radio Report you know that sometimes readers want to share their personal experiences in the field of radio. This time we have a long story from the USA from a guy who uses, next to his personal name, Tony West as a stand-in name. He was born in Baltimore in 1949 as Phillip Colaianni. Let's follow his story: '1959, I had several radio 'repairs' behind me (starting at the age of 6) with no prior formal training in electronics.

My grandmother had a broke 'Dewalt' table radio and I got curious. I was a hero after fixing it and was called 'another Edison'. It felt like an exciting compliment for a 6 year old. From 1960, electronics, for me, became a full-fledged hobby, career and pastime for life.

Now, the interesting part: if you shorten my name, it spells PhilCo (capitals intended). Before I was born, there was Philco Radio Corp. After I was born, my family's first TV was a black and white one from 1953, a Philco. My grandmother had a 1938 Philco console radio I was enamoured with. My uncle had a Philco console radio and record player console in his basement which I was fond of and liked to fool around with. I was 7 at that time. This was in Baltimore, Maryland by the way, where I was born and raised till the age of 10. My parents moved us to St.Pete, in Florida in 1959.



Philco console 1938

In 1964, my school started an on-job training program. I was 15. The school counsellor came into the classroom one day and asked what each student wanted to do for a living, when they got out of school; I picked electronic technician. That year, they got me a apprentice job at a television-shop. Guess what? My first real job and, I swear, it was a Philco dealer.

In 1966, I went to work for another tv-repair shop in Pinellas Park Florida, where I lived then and it was another Philco dealer. I did not choose that job. It 'chose' me! In 1968 I worked at yet another shop in Pinellas Park. I bought my parents our first colour TV there that year; a 21" 1954 Philco! I didn't choose it for any other reason than it was just the only used colour television which was available one that particular day. I paid \$50 for it from my first check.

1954 Philco (USA)
17" Model 18B3002



TVhistory.TV

*Photo from Sams Photofact © #231, dated Feb 1954
Reprinted with permission of Sams Technical Publishing*

In 1971, I worked for a TV and Electronic Center on St. Pete Beach, a Zenith as well as a Philco dealer! In 1972, I went to work at another shop in Seminole, Florida, yes another Philco dealer! Later, I took a job at Charlie's TV in Seminole for more money. Do I need to

say what brand they retailed? In 1977, I worked for yet another shop (still in Seminole, more money). They didn't sell or specialize in Philco but they had me; Phil Co! (Phil Colaianni, remember?) At that stage I was 27 years of age.

In 1980 I worked for another Philco dealer in Kenneth City, Florida. In 1981, I moved here to Columbia Heights, Minnesota, and the first job I got here was for a I swear it! Philco/Admiral dealer! Not by choice but by job opening. In 1982, I went to work in nearby Brooklyn Park, Minnesota for yet another Philco (Philco-Ford) dealer with a much better salary.

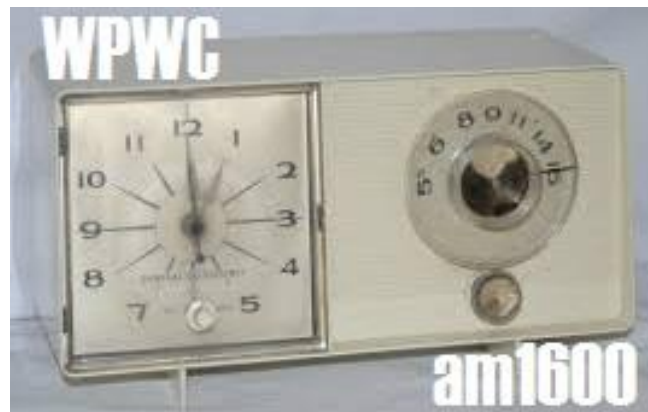
In 1996, I worked for the next six years as the sole operator of the TV department at Dougs TV in Spring Lake Park, Minnesota. They specialized in Hitachi, Zenith and wait for it.....just go ahead and guess! Now I will certify right here and now, that my involvement with all these 'Philco' people was never by choice! Every single time, it just happened! As if destined to!

Now do you see why I believe in 'universal intent'? I was born with this name for a reason and it was many years before it 'hit me out of the blue' one day in 2008! I was sitting on my couch and bam, it popped into my head! The reason I believe my destiny was pre-arranged for electronics is because of so many of these 'strange coincidences' directly relating to my name. It's weird having the brand name being continually-linked with me personally from early childhood to now because my shortened name is Phil Co and loving electronics. I think the name I was given, was a clue to what my place in the world would be: electronics, radio, TV, etc. It had to be! Why else was I thrust into the lifelong vocation that would be my career and hobby? Not an accident, I think!

How did I get the name? My mother was seen by two doctors during her hospital stay having me; Dr. Phillips and Dr. Walters. I wound up being named Phillip Walter Colaianni because she

didn't have any preference at the time for what my name would be. So she adopted the two doctors names! So my destiny was set: Phil Colaianni. Now you know what's so special about my name relation to Philco Radio Corp!

Interesting story Phil but how did you get infected to the other side of radio? 'As for radio, I don't know when **you** got the bug but I got mine around 1955. I was drawn to radio when I was 6 and I never got away from it. I built my first 'pirate radio station' in 1968 from a 1963 GE clock radio after reading articles about Radio Caroline and Michigan's 'Master Control'.



I was WPWC 1600AM in Pinellas Park, Florida. The letters meant: **Wonderful Phillip Walter Colaianni**, so me. It ranged about 1 block radius and used a long wire antenna (about 30 feet) tied to a 15 foot flagpole in the front yard and it was operated from our garage. Fun. I lived in St.Pete, Florida then. I fed the speaker output from a record player, modified with a preamp to accommodate a mike, into the loop antenna circuit (antenna removed, of course) of the clock radio (oo-oo-h, AC/DC; danger abounded!) and, through a .01uf capacitor, hooked the long wire antenna to the plate of the 12BE6 tube. Whee ee ee on the air! Tuning was as usual with the original tuning knob/capacitor. It put me anywhere on the AM dial I wanted to be!

In later years, I'd build a 200mw FM transmitter, eventually adding

a 1 watt Ramsey wideband RF amplifier. Now I have a 500mw station here in Minneapolis that covers about a mile. It's just a hobby thing. I got it from <http://tinyurl.com/mvddt7p> and I built a homemade RF amp for it (about ten watts) into a TM100 Ramsey J-pole, about 5 feet above my already 20 foot roof, but I keep it attenuated so it won't reach the FCC offices about 5 miles from here. For all intents and purposes, I want to keep it that way! WCHR FM88.



I built it into a 1985 Marantz cassette deck. I removed the mechanism and replaced it with the transmitter, using the original deck electronics for the audio! I replaced one meter with a SWR meter, re-engineered into the deck and use the remaining meter for level adjustments. I use one of the former function buttons to switch the meter from left channel audio to right, so I can use one meter for both audio channels. Genius, right?



from stereo cassette to complete stereo fm tabletop radio station

I had a British mate named John Anthony. He called himself John Agony; self-deprecation, I guess). Before he died in 2005, he

envisioned an online radio station with me, in honour of the great Admiral Robbie Dale, a friend of his. It would be called Sunshine Internet Radio, after Robbie's Sunshine Radio Dublin. John passed away in June, 2005 and in tribute, I opened Sunshine in his honour and ran it until 2011 when listenership dwindled due to people's lifestyle changes. I missed it after that and reopened as The Phoenix for a while until last year.



Other life-obligations made it a bit taxing on me to continue. I want to go 'back on' in the future, so don't count The Phoenix out yet! It's why I chose the name I did! Because like the Phoenix of lore, it 'rises from the ashes' at will (sign-on) and returns (sign-off) at end of broadcast period. Greetings from America, Phil (a.k.a. Tony West)'.

March 13th there was a meeting in a pub in Hammersmith, London, were Don Stevens (Caroline and VOP and many more), Tommy Rivers 'what a guy' Laser, Christopher Edwards (OEM) Jon Myer (Pirate Hall of Fame) Hans Fjellestad and Mike Plumley both working on a documentary on Caroline, former attorney of Ronan O'Rahilly and a certain Hans Knot got together for talking about memories in radio and a good beer. It was a pleasure to meet you all again, although it was far too short. Here some links about Hans Fjellestad and the Documentary

<https://www.facebook.com/radiocarolinedocumentary>

<http://9rpm.wordpress.com/2013/12/29/12-29-13-radio-caroline-a-film-by-hans-fjellestad/>

<http://www.imdb.com/title/tt3260452/>

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hans_Fjellestad



Jon Myer and Hans Felljestad Photo: Hans Knot

An International Radio Report without someone else reflecting on the Emperor Rosko is not a complete report. Therefore is here Sherri Lynn: 'I received this picture from our friend Rosko of a rather angelic looking EMP and 3 other persons. Mike Pasternak said that they were 'praying for a good show' during one of their daily live afternoon shows in France, while he was broadcasting for RTL there.

With him are Eve Gabrieli, Sam Bernet and unfortunately he does not recall the name of the young lady in the photo. Hopefully she will read this and identify herself and/or somebody else will recognize her and perhaps notify you, Hans It's always good to know who's who for the archives! Until next time here's wishing you and all your readers everything of the best! Sherri.' Well thanks for sharing this Sherri and keep in touch.



Photo: Rosko Archive

I promised you earlier that we have also photos from other reunions or parties happening in March to celebrate 50 years of Radio Caroline. Here are photos taken by Steve Szmidt in Rochester

<https://picasaweb.google.com/111970769090597657527/RadioCaroline50thAnniversary?authkey=Gv1sRgCKyy0qyOnMfwZg&feat=email>

Here a link which has been sent to us by AJ Janitschek:

Just came across this article from the UK about Radio Caroline and thought you both would find it interesting. Best wishes from the USA. Ciao. AJ.

<http://www.liverpoolecho.co.uk/news/liverpool-news/radio-caroline-take-airwaves-liverpool-6795423>

And what about the next one:

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/offshoreradio/sets/72157642311466034/> Christian Bergmann was visiting Rochester and Ross Revenge in March 2014

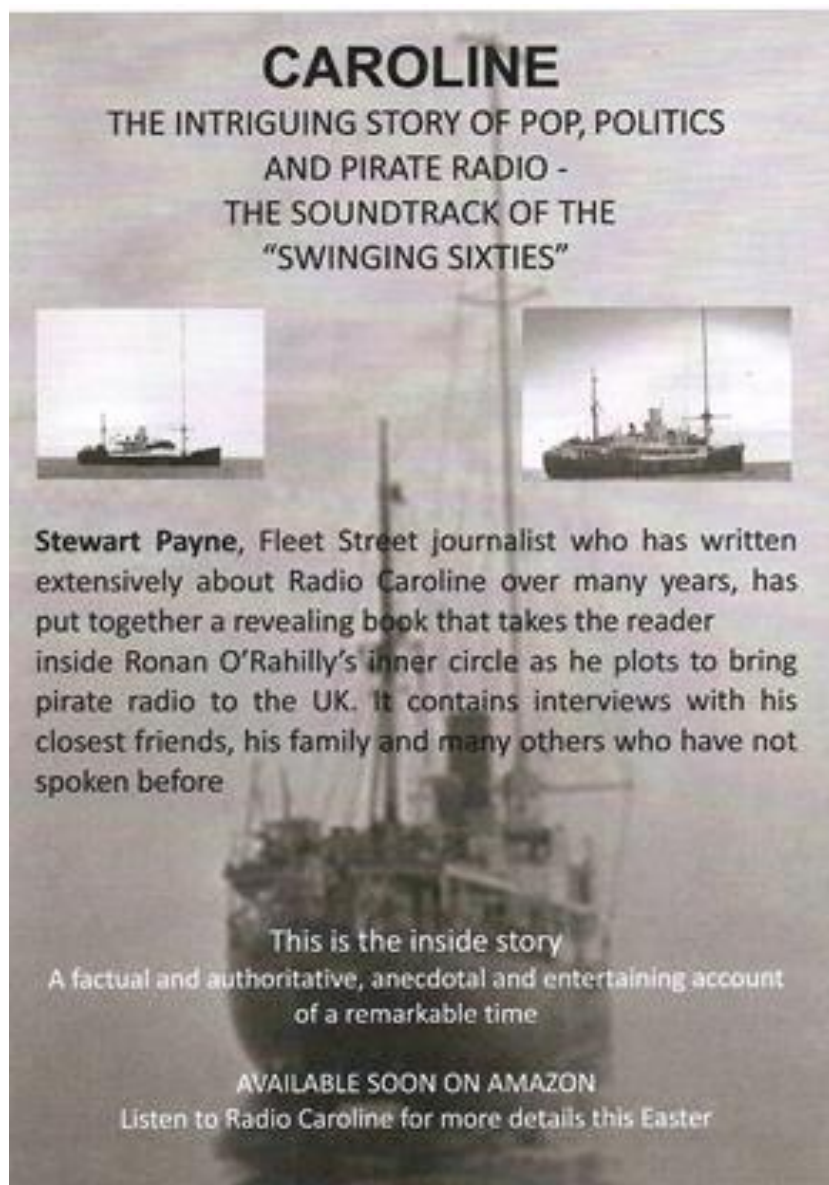
Peter van den Berg, still in love with his all-time favourite radiostation Radio London sent us the next photograph showing a small part of his house:



Good to see Peter that you pay attention to Radio London as there's so much available around 50 years Radio Caroline:

<http://www.flashesandflames.com/2014/03/how-a-radio-ship-and-7-men-shook-up-britain-50-years-ago>

During the RadioDay it was also good seeing Stewart Payne again. When reading regularly British Newspapers in the seventies and eighties, his name was regularly appearing as writer of excellent articles about offshore radio. Stewart has decided to dive into the intriguing story of pop, politics and pirate radio and so writing a book, which will be out later this year. We will inform you in time!



On the web we found also some wonderful photos taken by Bart Steenman, who was presenter on the Dutch service on the Ross Revenge in the eighties of last century:

<http://www.bartsteenman.blogspot.nl/>

I already told you about the excellent publication from Ray Clark. Recently he got two pages in the Daily Express:

<http://www.express.co.uk/news/uk/466222/Pirate-that-ruled-the-airwaves-Radio-Caroline-was-the-boat-that-rocked-the-music-business>

Recently Paul de Haan found a photo which was taken late spring 1972 when the MV Fredericia was sold and towed to her last 'anchorage' before scrapped at the Van Marel shipyard at Ouwerkerk aan de IJssel.



Radioday also brought an unexpected bottle brought in by Hans Warmenhoven, working for the RNI internet radiostation. The bottle was found by a fisherman and given to friend of him, who was on a diving vacation in the Bay of Bombo. It was found near Tamini and the skipper told him that he found the bottle where once a radio-ship was anchored. It must have been the MEBO II of the coast of Libya. Hans: This are the coordinates following the story told to me: 32.361403,23.147964 in google maps.

I don't know how serious the story is, but Arthur the guy who gave it

to me, has not saved this bottle for nothing during so many years.



One of the sessions on the Radioday 2014 saw deejays, newsreaders and captain from Radio Noordzee Dutch service were in a panel for sharing the memories of more than 40 years ago. Ben Meijering, our chief video operator for many years, put the opening of the session on you tube. When the station theme, Man of action by Les Reed, started, they all stood up. Do you remember the names with the faces?

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=a-E_XnUaNN0&feature=youtu.be

By the way, captain Hartevelde gave his captain clothes recently to Jaap Schut, owner of the excellent Rock Art Museum in Hoek van Holland.

News coverage about 50 years Radio Caroline

<http://www.itv.com/news/anglia/2014-03-28/radio-carolines-50th-anniversary/>

<http://www.itv.com/news/anglia/2014-03-28/the-ross-revenge/>

<http://www.lincolnshireecho.co.uk/Radio-Caroline-s-50th-anniversary-Memories-flood/story-20860436-detail/story.html#ixzz2xFBIAIqD>

http://voiceofrussia.com/2014_03_28/This-is-Radio-Caroline-on-199-your-all-day-music-station-50-years-later-8242/

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-essex-26769631>

<http://www.itv.com/news/meridian/search/?q=Radio+Caroline>

Next we go to Great Britain again. Graham Foy from the SAS Radio Group sent the next communique: sasradiogroup communique - Over 50 years ago Radio Caroline signed on for the first time at midday on the 28th March 1964. Listeners heard Simon Dee make the opening announcement and The Rolling Stones 'Not fade away'. In the background there was an immense sense of achievement and relief. The transmissions from the MV Caroline (ex Fredericia) on 199 metres 1520 kHz were more than just a buccaneering sword cutting into the BBC's monopoly. They represented a substantial commercial risk.

There were other factors which created additional risks for this unusual venture. Technical - Would the hi-powered broadcasts work and be reliable? Marine - could the ship remain safely at sea throughout the year? Political - Would the ship be boarded and closed? Would the new Labour government introduce legislation similar to that of the Scandinavian countries to quickly close them down?

Commercial - Radio Caroline actually had a lot of establishment money as investors. Whilst efforts were taken to minimise the risks, the business was at the mercy of nature and the politicians. Had disaster or the government struck early on then the backers would have had major loses. In Caroline's case the situation was made worse by the lack of commercial acumen. The secrecy behind the project

meant there were no adverts sold before the station opened. It would be until 1st May 1964 that the first commercial was transmitted. Radio Caroline was not initially a pop station. It was 'Your all day music station' and carried more than just mainstream Top 40 music. For Ronan O'Rahilly and his team important questions would soon be answered.



Messroom Fredericia. Photo: Carl Thomson

Would the format appeal? Would listeners tune in, in any great numbers? Would advertisers buy time and then make repeat buys? If you look at the history of any Offshore radio project from the late 50s into the 80s then the commercial risk must be seen as high. That word again Risk. If you compare say Radio Caroline's launch to the newest UK radio group Communicorp you must ask where is it? Earlier this year Communicorp bought eight regional stations off Global. They could have set up their own branded stations with a new format. It would have been a credible operation and a threat to the

other groups. Instead they are running a franchise operation under the Smooth and Capital banners owned by Global. Like the other major groups one wonders if they are simply risk averse.

When is the last time commercial radio actually stuck its neck out? Over twenty years ago GWR put Classic FM on the map and created a whole new market in UK radio. Or possibly the late lamented, Melody Radio in London. Aimed at the older, more sophisticated listener, yet succeeding in acquiring many younger listeners. You might argue about Radio 5 Live but that surely was to put a spoke in the wheel of a new national commercial competitor. Today the dial is dominated by a few networks, in the hands of three major groups playing very restricted playlists. This is why BBC Radio 2 has nearly 17% of listeners. Yet its daytime output (and now into the evenings) increasingly sounds like a commercial network (albeit one with a large playlist) but without the adverts.



Bilboard in London: Photo Hans Knot

If you wonder why the UK airwaves sound so crowded yet so bland remember the word RISK or rather the lack of it.

We should give thanks to Caroline and the stations that followed. Their pioneering spirit bought many competitors, created a loyalty between listener and the pirates rarely replicated in the commercial

radio world of today. She changed the face of broadcasting in the UK and influenced radio on the continent. In the 70's and 80's having two comebacks from the dead, changing format to bring in a new generation of listeners. She has survived much legislation, running aground, losing masts, illegal raids and even loss of the ship. Since 1991 Caroline does not exist offshore anymore. Currently the station is surviving on the internet, like a great battleship lurking in a fjord - a safe harbour. I'd like to think she is 'a fleet in being'. Ready to sortie once more to take on the world. Caroline will have to look into the past and take risks to survive the next 50 years and bring her cause to a new audience. **LONG LIVE CAROLINE!**

Thanks a lot Graham for your communique and ideas of Caroline in past, present and future.

In Harwich there was another get together on March 29th with a few former Caroline and RNI deejays including Bryan Vaughn, Roger Day and Dave Rogers **Photo Paul Graham**



Steve Conway next about 50 years Radio Caroline:

<http://steveconway.wordpress.com/2014/03/28/157-signs-that-radio-caroline-made-a-difference-28mar2014/>

Then former offshore deejay Roger Gale, now a famous politician on ITV:

<http://www.itv.com/news/meridian/update/2014-03-28/from-pirate-to-politician/>

ham operators in Essex had their special celebrations too:

<http://www.essexham.co.uk/news/offshore-radio-50th-anniversary-event.html>

Next Sky news about Radio Caroline's birthday:

<http://news.sky.com/story/1233212/radio-caroline-celebrates-50th-anniversary>

Interesting e mail from Doug Wood: 'Hi Hans Thanks for the report. Great as always. The Radio Ship has been on test for three weeks now, with just three weeks to go to launch on Easter Saturday April 19th 12-00 UK. It's available right now on RECIVA supported WiFi radio in the UK location at 199, right next to the VOP as it happens, The TuneIn App search: The Radio Ship. and online at www.theradioship.net Ferry Maat is to be the Dutch voice of the stations own jingles, he can be heard on the test transmissions right now.

Currently streaming at 64 kbps (mono) that will revert to 128 kbps (stereo) ASAP after launch, within 4 weeks I hope. For those who think this is a farce, spoof, and God knows how many other names it's been called, those people are about to 'Eat Cake'. This has been very hard work over the last 9 months, and it will grow for many years to come as we come across more and more material. I still have a very big file of audio to still get through here. When all the current excitement of Caroline's 50th anniversary has long gone, the Radio Ship will still be here, and growing into a 'love' offshore radio sound museum. I have worked hard at this, but only time will tell. Talk soon Hans. Doug'

Sad news comes from Alan Bailey: 'John Barter passed away peacefully this morning, Easter Sunday. Thankfully he was 'with it' right until the end, but had been very tired over the past few days and slipped peacefully away in his sleep. He would have been 79 years of age tomorrow (Monday 21st). Please let anyone know you feel appropriate. John was the station Manager's English Service at Radio Luxembourg's Villa Louvigny in the 60's. He then went to Nottingham's Radio Trent in 1975. He worked with some of the best known Luxy DJ's including Noel Edmonds, Mark Wesley, Kid Jensen, Bob Stewart, Paul Burnett and of course Tony Prince.

www.208itwasgreatradioluxembourg.co.uk

An update as always from Jon Myer:

'I have just updated The Pirate Radio Hall of Fame. It is a photo-packed update this month reflecting the various recent events which have been held to celebrate Radio Caroline's 50th birthday.

We have pictures from:

Radio Caroline's birthday party in Rochester; the 2014 Radio Day in Amsterdam; from Ray Clark's BBC Essex show; and Roger Day's gathering in Harwich on Caroline's birthday; we also have more great photos from the archive of the late Rob Olthof; and there is news of various radio tributes and documentaries being aired during April to mark the anniversary - including the return to the airwaves of Caroline North's Jerry Leighton for the first time since 1967.

Thanks to everyone who has helped by contributing photos.

Best wishes, Jon'

www.offshoreradio.co.uk

And don't forget to tune into www.radiolondon.co.uk

Soon a reunion will take place in Copenhagen, Denmark:

Scandinavian Offshore Radio History has a new meeting with the Radio Mercur veterans and friends. It will take place May 22nd.

2014, location in Copenhagen will be announced later. Everyone pay

for the food and drinks. You can write here if you attend, or reply a mail we will send everyone we know as soon as possible.

Velkommen

contact@scandinavianoffshoreradio.com

Here's another interesting link:

<http://www.radiocaroline50.blogspot.co.uk/>

I'm wondering what this link will bring us:

<http://thedaythemusicdied.nl/>

And finally a link to New Zealand

<http://radiopiratesthebook.com/>

That's all for this edition of the Hans Knot International Report. I hope you've enjoyed reading it and for sharing your memories, photos and more: HKnot@home.nl



I'm looking for more memories

Photo: Jana Knot