

## Hans Knot International Radio Report February 2015

Welcome to another edition from the International Radio Report with thanks to the countless Christmas and New Year's wishes which came in from all around the world after last issue was published. It brought us a very warm feeling and above that we once again realised that Radio's history and specially the Offshore Radio Scene still has a bright club of followers. Let's first dive in that part of the history where money had to be made.

What about some nostalgic commercials from Telefunken for Radio Tubes and Valves from around 60 years ago?

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QadYBF\\_Dmlg](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QadYBF_Dmlg)

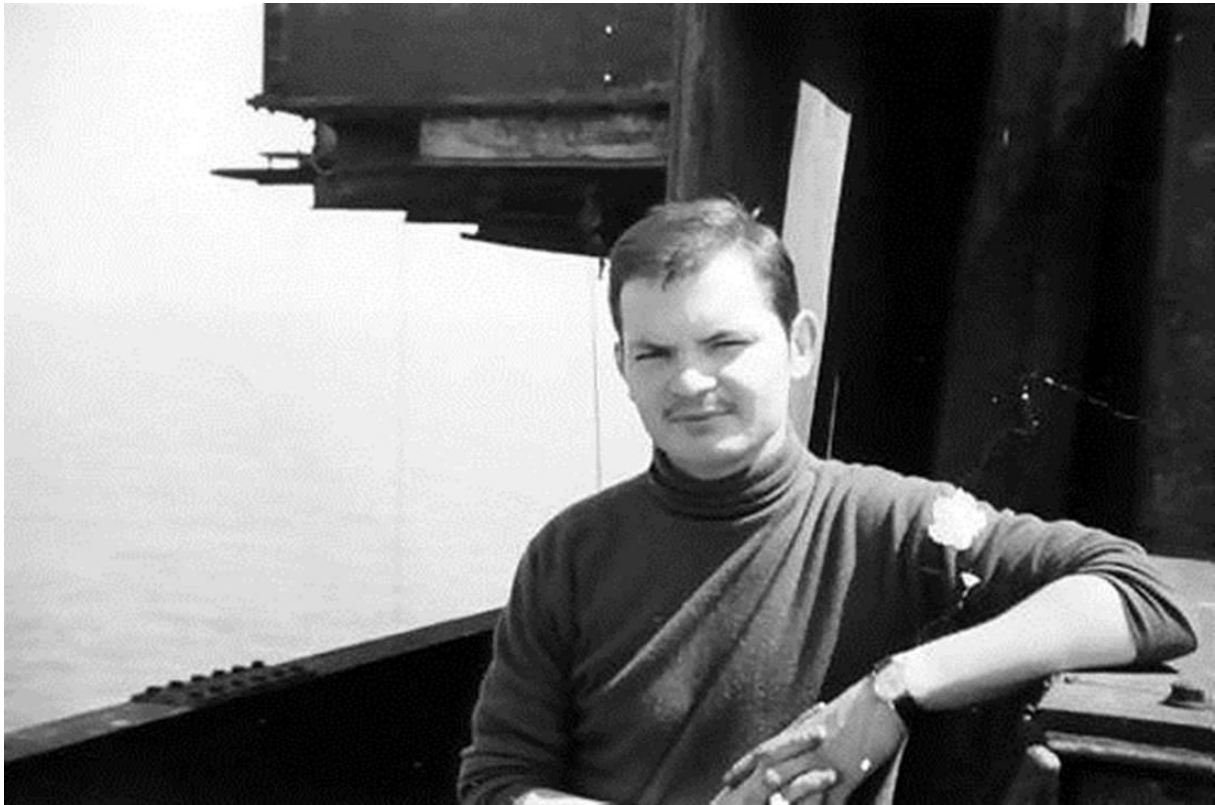
First let's go to the other side of the Atlantic Ocean and see what a former offshore deejay - who never forgets to write in - has to say: 'Hi Hans, A good coverage as usual, but no more till next year please :) Tony Prince's plug was well deserved and I can't wait for the next one! He has spent all of his second life producing these documentaries and they are spot on for the peeps in to radio and DJ's! Thank you also for adding my disclaimer! Have a terrific 2015 and we will all keep pilfering the attic's dark corners for more pictures and treasures. Happy New Year to all, Emperor Rosko.



Rosko in car-broadcast Collection: Rosko

But Rosko wasn't alone within the first ten minutes after the report went out: 'Another excellent report Hans - many thanks! I particularly enjoyed the link to that video from World in Action on Ronan O'Rahilly. All best wishes, David Sinclair.'

Here's what Jon Myer has on David Sinclair on the Pirate Hall of Fame: <http://www.offshoreradio.co.uk/djssa.htm#sinclair>



David Sinclair on Radio Essex. Collection: David Sinclair

Now we go to Germany: 'Dear Hans, first of all many thanks for your kind Christmas wishes and the bumper issue of International Radio Report. It's all greatly appreciated. You did again a great job during the last 12 months to supply us with lots of news and information about Offshore Radio! Thank you so much for all. I wish you and family a Merry Christmas and a peaceful, healthy New Year 2015! Yours truly, Jörg-Clemens Hoffmann.' Well Jörg-Clemens may I also wish you and yours and all my other German readers a very good 2015

and hopefully I can make you all happy with a lot of international radio reports this year.

From Germany to another country, starting with a 'G', which is Great Britain. Mike Terry was so friendly to link me to a topic which was big news in December. One of the newspapers was The Journal Ireland which published the next report:

'Pirate radio stations caused quite the stir in 1984, creating a headache for both the RTÉ and the Government. Unlicensed, pirate radio stations flourished in Ireland in the early 1980s — providing younger listeners an alternative to the state broadcaster. Amongst them, were the Dublin stations of Sunshine Radio and Radio Nova — which employed a full roster of presenters.

Due to pirate radio stations setting up shop on frequencies with no licence, the Government moved to impose further regulations on them. Meanwhile, RTÉ also attempted to put a stop to stations using illegal frequencies by putting out jamming signals. There was cause for concern as the frequencies being used and the jamming signals impacted on phone lines, as well as frequencies used by hospitals and airports.

In state files released under the 30 year rule, a letter from Dublin City Council to the Government said they "deplored" the situation with pirate radio stations and was becoming a public safety matter as people could not reach doctors when the phones were out of use. The Taoiseach at the time, the late Garret Fitzgerald, received a number of letters from members of the public, particularly young people, asking for the Government to intervene and begin granting more broadcasting licences.

One letter came from an 8-year-old girl, who said that "RTÉ were being mean", while a 19-year-old from Dublin said the new Bill before Government was "designed to kill pirate broadcasting". She asked the Taoiseach why they refused to grant them licences. She said that

she was unemployed and spent her days listening to music while she sent out numerous of job applications to companies she saw in the Golden pages.

Replying to the letter, Taoiseach Garret Fitzgerald wrote that the Government were not trying to be "spoil-sports" and explained his reasoning. The sender had requested that the Taoiseach write back in his own hand-writing, however, a note from Fitzgerald at the end of the letter apologises to her for not doing so, while also throwing her a compliment about her own hand-writing being very nice, and saying he is a little ashamed of his own.

Pirate radio stations, such as Sunshine FM, were also fighting back and getting in touch with the Taoiseach asking him to intervene. The public made the point that jobs were being lost with the radio station closures and there were petitions from those that worked at the likes of Sunshine FM being handed in to the Government.



It got to a point where the Government felt they had no choice but

to get involved, with an internal briefing note stating that the Minister for Communications at the time would take up the matter with RTÉ. In a politely worded letter to the Chairman of RTÉ, Fred O'Donovan, the Taoiseach Garret Fitzgerald said that the Government would be taking action against them if they continued to cause disruption with the jamming signals.

The RTÉ Chairman replied and said that situation with pirate radio stations had become "extremely serious" and he urged the legislation to be moved up the timetable.

<http://www.thejournal.ie/pirate-radio-rte-taoiseach-state-papers-1823552-Dec2014/>

After reading this information I decided to write to Robbie Robinson, who for many of the readers is known as Robbie Dale from Caroline and Veronica days. Robbie reflected back with the next answers, memories and more:

'For me Hans! Reading this fascinating material from 1984 was a real treat. Under the 30 year rule, lots of official Irish government documents relating to radio issues during the 1980s will now be released into the public domain annually.

A mountain of "expose", the powerful wheeler's and dealers who currently control Irish Independent radio will no doubt change place of residence, cell phone numbers or simply run for cover. Regrettably the original concept of locally owned and controlled "Independent Radio" has fallen into the hands of ruthless businessmen motivated solely by profit.

The real radio people now lament the fact that only a handful of dedicated station managers and programmers have survived the ravages of big business, alas many of these survivors will soon be lost to the curse of the American style greed machine that has taken control of almost all media in the UK and Ireland.



Hans, Having recently read these Irish government papers, I feel sure that you will now have a better understanding of how deeply flawed the Irish government's appointment in 1988 of Fred O'Donovan to the (IRTC) Independent Radio and Television Commission was. It's now clear that the appointment of O'Donovan was a political choice, assuring that the only person with any broadcast knowledge became a member of this influential commission charged with creating an alternative radio system to the National RTE stations was in the pocket of a powerful business group.

However it is now becoming clear to many Irish citizens, O'Donovan's appointment was obviously the wrong choice; he should never have been considered a fit person to hold such an influential post at that time, due to his long history with National broadcaster RTE. Yes, I do take into account that the original (1988) commission (IRTC) was chaired by a retired High Court Judge, alas Irish law was not in question at the time. The learned Judge Shamus Hinchey knew very little about Irish radio thus the 1988 commission fell under the controlling influence of Fred O'Donovan.



Sunshine Radio team 2 years birthday party with standing left Robbie Robinson. Photo: Sunshine Radio Archive

In 1984 as Chairman at RTE (The Irish National Broadcaster) Fred O'Donovan consistently ignored direct instructions from the Minister for Communication to stop RTE illegally jamming Sunshine Radio and Radio Nova.

As we can now see from these, newly released, papers it finally took a direct instruction from the highest office in Irish Government to stop Fred O'Donovan's use of RTE resources for illegal jamming. I have always said that O'Donovan's considerable influence within the IRTC commission was solely to benefit a couple of well-connected big business applicants, thus totally unjust for most other applicants including Dublin & County Broadcasting Ltd representing the management and staff at Sunshine Radio Productions Ltd.

Fred O'Donovan's disapproval of former pirate radio applicants can now be clearly seen. O'Donovan had a deeply rooted hatred for Sunshine Radio, because he dreaded the thought of a new business in Irish Radio where he would not be a major participant in one or more of the future radio stations.

Alas, under the 30 year rule, judgment day will come only to those who are still living. However we shall hopefully see the full corruption story come to light before many more guilty parties depart this life. Names will be named in future document releases. Corrupt payments to various officials will be published.

Several examples of corruption within Irish government during the 1980 period will come to light in 2018 and 2019 when the 30 year rule is applied to the corrupt activities of Minister Ray Burke, his close friends and colleagues who became his paymasters.

In 1988 The Department of Communication controlled by Minister Ray Burke appointed all of the members to the Independent Radio and Television Commission. In 1989 the IRTC the independent commission awarded many licences to operate Independent radio in Ireland. I ask you how could this commission be described as 'Independent' when it's membership included Fred O'Donovan a man

who had ignored and defied the office of the Irish Prime Minister's just 4 years earlier.



Minister Ray Burke finally got his comeuppance. Burke's judgement day came along rather late in the day; Burke had manoeuvred his political career to new heights in Irish Government. In the 1990s the then Irish Prime Minister Bertie Ahern appointed Burke to the post of Minister for Foreign Affairs, considered to be the highest of awards in government.

Alas Burke's political life littered with corrupt payments for favours granted came to an end when a Government tribunal finally exposed Minister Burke's corruption and sentenced the former Minister for Communications to a jail term in Dublin's notorious Mountjoy Prison. The presiding Judge instructed the Government's Criminal Assets Bureau to seize all of Ray Burke's property and the money he had secretly stored away in several bank accounts across Ireland, England and the Isle of Man.

You will now understand why the release of these Irish Government papers is such a big treat for me. For several years following 1989 I found myself dwelling on the injustice dished out by the IRTC, the commission effectively put an end to my radio career in Ireland. In 1989 the IRTC wrote a letter requiring that I publicly apologise to Fred' O Donavan. I declined to apologise. The IRTC then refused to approve my appointment to a management positions with a new franchise licence holder. I foolishly considered taking this matter to the courts again, however after suffering crippling financial loses, a second demand for security of court costs was beyond our resources at that time. Keep an eye on this space because a lot more



interesting material will be published under the Irish Government's 30 year rule. Be patient. 'Remember the second mouse ends up with the cheese'. Greetings Robbie Robinson (Dale).

Thanks a lot Robbie for shining your lights and writing this in depth response on the recent published papers and comments in the Irish Press. Of course when more is coming I will be back to you. I think our readership see your comments as most appreciated. Greetings to you and Stella and take care.

Alex Hoek did some wonderful work in January and put his production work on You Tube. He did send the next text around to promote the video: 'These are digitalized Super 8 films about the last days of the Dutch service of Radio Northsea International in August 1974. From the 28th of August party at Naarden, to the return in Scheveningen harbour of the deejays on Sunday September 1st and the closing tour with the Mini Sevenclub to finish it all. Many well known Dutch deejays, technicians, English and German MEBO II crew members are in this video. The films are not of the best quality, but certainly very, very unique. A big thank you goes to Harry de Winter, Peter Damave, Martin van der Ven and Hans Knot.

<http://youtu.be/IyMFrVSUPX4>

Earlier in the report there was an email from Canada from David Sinclair and three weeks later he came back to me with: 'Hello Hans; Just to let you know that I have finally completed and published my e-book - a memoir of my time on Radio Essex, Radio 270 and Radio 390. It is called, 'Making Waves' by David Sinclair and is published by Lulu.com. I'd be grateful if you would pass it on to those who might be interested. All the best! David.

<http://translate.google.nl/translate?hl=nl&sl=en&u=http://www.lulu.com/&prev=search>

In next issue of the report I will review the E book. For those who cannot wait please go to the above link to order your own copy.

I like people who are standing most of the time in the shadow and turn into the spotlights for only seconds. I got an e mail from Oscar de Pater from the Netherlands who wrote: 'For you and your wife all the best for 2015 and as always keep up the good work. I was watching a video from 1985 showing the Ross Revenge and Radio Caroline and would like to ask you if you know who was responsible for the dark-brown voice concerning some station identification jingles in that era, and later in the south of France at The Rock of the Riviera?' Well I presume only one answer is possible: Oscar de Pater.

Some more reflections here on last report, which came out just before Christmas. First we go to Germany: 'Thank you very much Hans, and a Merry Christmas from Berlin back to you! We remember the last Radioday very, very frequently! It was outstanding and fantastic! Thank you so much for all efforts having set up the radio days year after year! We will never forget it! As we also will never forget the radiostations from the high seas. tears .....

And we think of Rob in the radio heaven! Thanks, thanks, thanks! Christiane and Wolf Brundtke.'

Thank you both for this warm response and to all others who didn't make it into the report. I just had to make a selection. Therefore now over to England: 'Great, Hans. Many thanks for not only this wonderful Christmas Report but all the others received during the year too. Hans, you are an absolute wonder of the world! Many blessings to you, Jana and all other members of your family. God Bless and hope you all have an absolutely brilliant Christmas and a wonderfully Blessed New Year! Sherri Lynn.'

Thanks Sherri reading the lines I started to glow a bit!

Next comes from the radio heart of the Netherlands, Hilversum. It was Erik Kappetijn who was a bit of reminiscing by writing: 'It's already 41 years ago Veronica had to leave the air and 26 years ago

that the last offshore radio stations in Europe were taken of the air. We're getting old, isn't?'



It was Jeffrey Parker from England who wrote: 'Do you remember that on Radio Caroline for a certain period in the sixties were called 'The good guys'? I also heard recently some recordings from Radio Hauraki and also on Hauraki they used to name their deejays the 'Good Guys'. I did some searching and came to the story of the 'Good Guys' from WMCA.

The unofficial demise of the WMCA Good Guys started on Wednesday, September 18<sup>th</sup> 1968, though underlining rumblings were already there with the change in management. In early August 1968, Terrell Methrney Jr. was named program director, replacing Ruth Ann Meyer who had programmed WMCA since 1961. When after 3,5 years, Gary Stevens left WMCA to go to Europe. Gary had been a WMCA Good Guy since August 1965, which made him the longest nighttime personality since the WMCA Good Guys began. On the surface, that may have not have been so bad, because B. Mitchell Reed, who was an evening Good Guy for two years prior to Gary Stevens arrival from Detroit. He left at the end of March 1965 and the Good Guys survived.

Music industry executives and recording artists got together for a going away party for Gary Stevens at the Americana Hotel. Tickets were \$20 and were available through Joe Bogart or Frank Costa at WMCA. All proceeds from the luncheon went to the Westchester County youth organization.



Only three days later, on September 21<sup>st</sup> 1968, Harry Harrison left WMCA only to start at, of all places, rival WABC. Harry had perceived a change happening at WMCA months before with the new management. So, even though he had a year left on his contract, he asked WMCA management if he could be released from his contract, and they reluctantly obliged. At this point, it seemed like things were changing every week. The very next survey to come out on 25<sup>th</sup> of September, no longer had the 'Sure-Shot' or the 'Long-Shot'. 'Sure-Shot's' were now classified as 'Pick Hits'. Then the week after that the phrase "Heard first on WMCA" was no longer being used, and the survey title was changed from the 'Fabulous 57' to the 'Famous 57'.

By the end of November 1968, the survey was reduced from 57 to 25 songs, with an additional 'Five More Heavies', and a pick hit called the WMCace. The sweatshirts were gone at this point too. WMCA program director Terrell Metheny Jr. made changes to the sound of WMCA. No longer did 'Benny' appear with Joe O'Brien and the WMCA disc jockeys no longer voted on new records added to the playlist. In fact, the weekly WMCA music meetings disappeared altogether. Metheny picked the music with Bogart and Costa.



Metheny also dumped the 'Good Guys' phrase and moved out all the sweat shirts left-over from years of promotion.

Interestingly, Metheny also dumped the 'Good Guys' while PD at another station - WKLO in Louisville.

**WKLO ... Louisville's No. 1 Station**  
**Tunedex**  
 FEBRUARY 6, 1960

Position	Title	Artist	Position	Title	Artist
1.	Tracy's Theme	Spencer Ross	21.	Country Boy	Fats Domino
2.	Handy Man	Jimmie Jones	22.	O Dio Mio	Annette
3.	Theme from "A Summer Place"	Percy Faith	23.	Pretty Blue Eyes	Steve Lawrence
4.	Let It Be Me	Everly Bros.	24.	New Lovers	Pat Boone
5.	You've Got What It Takes	Marv Johnson	25.	Woo Hoo	Rock-A-Teens
6.	Lonely Blue Boy	Conway Twitty	26.	If I Had A Girl	Rod Lauren
7.	Way Down Yonder in New Orleans	Freddie Cannon	27.	Shimmy, Shimmy, Ko Ko Bop	Little Anthony
8.	What Did I Do Wrong	Fireflies	28.	He'll Have To Go	Jim Reeves
9.	Baby (You've Got What It Takes)	Brook Benton & D. Washington	29.	Bad Boy	Marily Wilde
10.	Down By The Station	Four Preps	30.	Wild One	Bobby Rydell
11.	Let Them Talk	Little Willie John	31.	Time and The River	Nat "King" Cole
12.	Beyond The Sea	Bobby Darin	32.	Paradise	Sammy Turner
13.	Rockin' Little Angel	Ray Smith	33.	Just Come Home	Hugo & Luigi
14.	Harbor Lights	Platters	34.	Crazy Arms	Bob Beckham
15.	Teen Angel	Mark Dinning	35.	Where or When	Dion & The Belmonts
16.	Love Me, My Love	Dean Martin	36.	What Do You Want	Bobby Vee
17.	Shake a Hand	LaVern Baker	37.	Time to Cry	Paul Anka
18.	Forever	Little Dippers	38.	Bonnie Came Back	Duane Eddy
19.	Beatnik Fly	Johnny & Hurricanes	39.	Time After Time	Frankie Ford
20.	Go, Jimmie, Go	Jimmie Clanton	40.	Sixteen Reasons	Connie Stevens

**PICK TO CLICK**

Title	Artist	Label
HOW WILL IT END	BOBBY DARVELL	COLT 45

About the music, Metheny said the deejays were to have more freedom in pacing records through their shows. In the past, Bogart and Costa would program each show. Metheny stated- "We're playing the same music, more or less, except that we're trying to make the station a little faster in reflecting the popularity of individual records. WMCA was late going on some records and late going off others. We're going to try to be more immediate."



WMCA's playlist was shortened considerably. The station also brought in Murray the K in November 1968 to do 6PM-11PM on Saturday and 2PM-7PM Sunday. To make matters worse, Joe O'Brien left WMCA sometime late that November also. Dean Anthony (who did 1-6 AM)'s contract was not renewed. His last show was 12/31/68. So, by the beginning of January 1969, four of your seven core Good Guys (Gary Stevens, Harry Harrison, Joe O'Brien and Dean Anthony) were gone. The station no longer called them the 'Good Guys'.

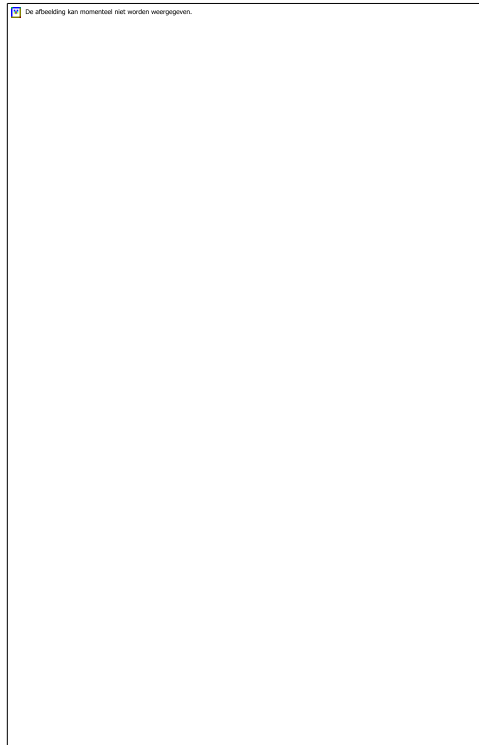
Dean Anthony was replaced by Ed Baer and Ed Baer was replaced by the assistant program director, Buzz Bennett. As for Joe O'Brien, he started with WNBC at the beginning of the new year in 1969. He stayed doing the 5-9AM morning show from that time until November of 1971 when Imus was brought in to replace him. He remained with the station for several months thereafter doing weekends. The revised line up was as follows: Dandy Dan did 6-10 AM, Chuck (the Chucker) Browning did 10AM-1PM, Jack Spector did 1PM-4PM, Lee Gray 4PM-7PM and Frankie Crocker did 7PM-11PM. There were so many things happening at the station that fall it was hard to keep track.'

Well a very interesting story Jeffrey, thanks a lot and I can add to it that two of the WMCA Good Guys, Jack Spector and Gary Stevens both made it into offshore radio, although their shows were taped in the USA.

In the two last issues we had a question and answer about the Caroline Roadshow in the late seventies, early eighties. One of the guys who were playing on the road was Harvey the Rabbit. After last issue was published it was Martin Samuel giving further information:

'Hello Hans, regarding 'Harvey the Rabbit', the original was a six-foot three-and-a-half-inch tall invisible rabbit in a 1950 film, based on Mary Chase's play 'Harvey', starring James Stewart as Elwood P. Dowd. The story is about Elwood, his best friend Harvey and his

sister, Veta (actress Josephine Hull), who tries to have Elwood committed to an asylum.



A Harvey trailer can be found here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VvfXvW2wsuQ>

All the best, **Martin Samuel.**'

Next from England is Doug Wood: Please don't forget [www.theradioship.net](http://www.theradioship.net) We are now using Fibre Optic broadband for streaming, so the stream is now pretty solid. Every week I work through the archives and I add new material. The Radio Ship is a big project, and it will take some years to come to complete the task as so much material is available. The Radio Ship is a living museum of Radio from The High Seas, I could do with some support to grow it Hann's. Any advise, or suggestions would always be most welcome from you my friend. Looking back at the listening figures we average anything between 5, 000 to 18, 000 hits a day, a couple of Thursday's ago we hit over 14,000 listeners in the States alone, so we must be doing something right. Thank You and God Bless. Doug Wood.' On [www.theradioship.net](http://www.theradioship.net) a lot of archive radio shows are

'transmitted' and since a couple of weeks Doug is adding interesting programs from my archive too.

Another one responding on Harvey the Rabbit is Paul Bailey: 'Hello Hans, vave you seen

<http://www.ipernity.com/doc/bestforichard/album/160880>

Caroline Roadshow 3 photos including said Rabbit. Paul Bailey.'

Thanks Paul and from him we go to our regular contributor Ian Godfrey in England: 'Hi Hans, many thanks for the report. I tuned in quite excitedly to Veronica 192 at midday, for their Big L Dec 65 show but lost interest after about an hour. I usually have a similar initial reaction about archive charts but find I'm only really interested in the lower positions and DJ climbers, etc. The presentation was pretty good, with a lot of information about the records and artists.

I feel that Veronica 192 is the true representation of the original. It's still listed as such on my radios and I don't fully accept the name-change to 192 Radio. I have never listened to Veronica 103, also I think having a different current name, but now that Erik de Zwart's at the helm I may give it a listen.



I listen a lot to Radio 192, particularly when I visited my parents in Southend. The 2 kW signal on 1332 was consistently fairly good, with the radio in the right position, to avoid Premier on the same channel. In West London it was almost completely swamped out after dark, apart from one evening when Premier had a technical problem. I

remember listening to a couple of top 100s from the 60s, quite momentous 11 years ago, as far as I'm aware, almost non-existent at that time. When I started using a computer, five years later, I discovered it was listed as Web Radio 192, implying there was another station with a similar name. It disappeared after a few months; probably not surprising due to stations like Veronica 192 with almost exactly the same formats. Was this the same station which broadcast from the Minerva? (Yes it was HK).

My interest in radio is predominantly offshore related but, similar to many of us, I've always been interested in other aspects of radio so can identify with the person intending to write a book about Radio 4, about as far removed as its possible to be to offshore radio!

With every issue of Radio Review it never takes me long to flick through to the Internet section. I usually find at least one to add to my list. I recently discovered a station in my list, which I was completely unaware of - Deep Oldies Radio, from Phoenix Arizona, a volunteer-run Internet-only station, relying apparently on donations from listeners. One plus for me is that most if not all of the shows are presented by people who sound really enthusiastic about everything they play. A good example is Charmi O'Connor who's on from 19-23.00 GMT on weekdays. They also have a rock sister station called Radio Free Phoenix. Some evenings I listen for two or three hours. I highly recommend them both.

I've still yet to find a station, presumably Internet only, with a format similar to Arrow Classic Rock in its first five years. I haven't heard album tracks from bands such as Kayak, Golden Earring or Earth and Fire for probably about 10 years. Regards, Ian Godfrey.'

Thanks a lot to you Ian and as always your news and topics are most interesting, so let them come in. Now again we have some Christmas e mails. First we go to Germany and two brothers with whom I was

already in contact in the early seventies of last century and even made a few trips with them into international waters.

'The year 2014 really was very eventful for us, along with some very sad occasions there were, for example, 6 holiday travels. But the absolute highlight was Amsterdam in March. When my brother and I visited the annual RadioDay we recognised one deejay after another, which was really great. When Tony Prince then was introduced, I was reminded of many shows at 208 from the seventies. When Johnnie Walker also was still in the flesh I had to pinch myself just - unbelievable! Thanks for Amsterdam, your sites and reports. Beautiful Christmas and a Happy 2015! Dietmar and Lothar Flacke.'

Thanks guys good to see you made it to the last RadioDay, organized by Martin van der Ven and me. Maybe one day we will meet again.



**Ron O'Quinn in his studio. Collection: Ron O'Quinn**

On January 20<sup>th</sup> news came in from former Swinging Radio England program director Ron O'Quinn: 'I am stopping my weekly Rock 'N Roll Rewind Podomatic Podcast effective the last week of January. I will continue to produce the show each week, but it will be by subscription only and delivered directly to your email mailbox. The



price will be \$50.00 per year. Less than one U.S. dollar per two hour weekly show, If you are interested please email me at [rewindron@gmail.com](mailto:rewindron@gmail.com) Thank you for listening each week and making 'Rewind' the most listened to oldies podcast! I have a lot of money invested in buying my music. I have thousands of songs and I bought them all. I also have many, many dollars in equipment cost. So for those who want a subscription, simply write to the above mentioned e mail.

For those who want to know more about Ron his career just go to <http://dublinlaurenscountygeorgia.blogspot.nl/2015/01/ron-oquinn.html?spref=fb>

On January 20<sup>th</sup> Steve Conway wrote at his Facebook pages a memory: 'A little known fact that came to mind when someone was chatting to me about Caroline last week. While no action was taken against the crew or the broadcast equipment of the Ross Revenge when it arrived in UK jurisdiction after running aground on the Goodwins, there was indeed a substantial amount of material confiscated from the ship's video library by customs, mainly VHS tapes of cultural and social interest that has been supplied by our Dutch crew members over the years.' When reading his memories I was wondering if this was video material which was normally for sale in certain shops in the Netherlands, but partly forbidden in certain shops in England. Steve came back to me with: 'It was actually anything that did not have a BBFC rating (British Board of Film Classification). That included any home recordings, so all our anorak videos were removed along with many episodes of Dr. Who taped off air.'

By the way, the second edition of Steve Conway his book 'Shiprocked' was recently released and presented in Dublin. He wrote: 'We had the Irish launch party on Thursday 15th Jan, and I was delighted to have Gareth O'Callaghan there as a special guest to launch the book. Apart from talking about the book itself, Gareth shared some memories of his time on board the Ross Revenge in 1983, and told us

how much he enjoyed the excitement and comradeship of those days. Among the 70-strong crowd attending the event we also had Stuart Clarke (Caroline newsreader 86/87) and Michael Wright (engineer on Caroline North in the 60s, including the period after the MOA). As well as the usual speeches, readings of key extracts from the book were supplemented with TV news footage and off-air audio of the events being described.

The new edition of Shiprocked contains an extra 10,000 words, in the form of extra epilogues to bring my story up to date, as well as a new introduction, which describes to regulatory and legal background of the 80s - 'a world where music was rationed'. This was written as a result of many questions I had from younger readers over the last five years who enjoyed the book, but wondered why it had been necessary for us to be on a ship at sea just in order to have a music radio station.

One of the big surprises for me has been the age range of people buying the book - even at the launch event, a good 50% of those attending were in their twenties or early thirties. The new edition is also physically larger in dimension - making for larger, more readable typeface, and better presentation of the photos.'

<https://steveconway.wordpress.com/2015/01/16/shiprocked-new-edition-launched-in-dublin/>



Gareth O'Callaghan, Steve Conway and Sean O'Keefe (MD of  
Liberties Press)

[www.radiolondon.co.uk](http://www.radiolondon.co.uk) is the next internet site to take a visit. A beautiful update was there on December 23<sup>rd</sup>, the day Radio London officially started after a series of test transmissions in 1964. Among many other things Mary and Chris Payne have updated the site with the first part of the Roman Archive, aka Mark Roman who got many Christmas cards from artists during his working period on Radio London. Also the sad news, that Ben Toney was taken to hospital in Texas late December.

There was a small gathering on the Tattershall Castle, an ex-passenger ferry now a floating pub moored on Victoria Embankment opposite the London Eye, on that day to celebrate Radio London's 50<sup>th</sup>. For all updates simply take some time to see for yourself at [www.radiolondon.co.uk](http://www.radiolondon.co.uk) And yes, on December 23<sup>rd</sup> I specially decided to wear a Big L T shirt to celebrate it in my way.

From London and Chris and Mary we go to Christian in Germany: 'Dear Hans, dear Jana, I hope you are doing well. An eventful year for me came to the end - 50th Anniversary party of Caroline in Rochester, visit of the Ross Revenge, Radioday in Amsterdam, move of the Ross Revenge, visit to the Jenni Baynton, visit of the concert 'The Day The Music Died' in Rotterdam and finally I had the opportunity to spend some hours in the studios of Radio Hauraki (on picture 5801 DJ Alex Behan & <http://pic.twitter.com/HXAKODGIke> - he was a friend of John Peel).

Once again many thanks for sending me all the interesting information concerning Offshore Radio in 2014 and for organising a great and unforgettable Radioday in Amsterdam in March!

You and Jana were right - New Zealand is a very beautiful country. I can ensure you; we had a wonderful vacation in New Zealand. I still have to digest a whole heap of impressions - I saw beautiful landscapes, nature and met always very kind people too.

After staying two days in Auckland, I went on to the Bay of Islands, the Coromandel peninsular, Rotorua, Napier, Wellington, Picton, Nelson, Abel Tasman National Park, Punakaiki, Greymouth, Franz Josef, Arrowtown, Queenstown, Milford Sound, Te Anau, Dunedin, Oamaru, Lake Ohau, Lake Tekapo and finally Christchurch. Also the weather conditions were better than our expectations. All in all it was a great time for me and my girlfriend Martina.

In November 2014 I went to New Zealand for the very first time. Before I started my official journey through that beautiful country, I decided to visit - the former and New Zealand's one and only offshore station - Radio Hauraki in Auckland. Radio Hauraki, which was broadcasting off the coast of New Zealand's northern isle for 1.111 days, between 1966 and 1970, became legal in 1970. It was always very popular in New Zealand. Despite of the fact that I wasn't able to listen live to the station until they started broadcasting via the internet, I've been in contact with the station since 1990. Radio Hauraki's main office and studios are located in Auckland's Cook Street - in the center of New Zealand's "City of Sails".

Further on there's a link to the pictures I took during my visit to station and here is next what you'll see on the photographs: picture 01 Hauraki shares the building with some other stations belonging to the network NZME. (New Zealand Media and Entertainment).

picture 02 Brand Engagement Manager Nathan Hart welcomed and showed me around the building and Hauraki's studios. Later on I had the opportunity to join DJ Alex Behan during his show.

pictures 04, 05 and 06 Talking about offshore radio, Alex told me that everyone involved in the station is very proud of Radio Hauraki's history. He also told me about his friendship with the legendary John Peel. In the office I discovered a number of rare items recalling the history of Radio Hauraki. For instance: the first warrant of the operation of a broadcasting station of June 30th 1970, when the

station became legal; a letter of the Minister of Marine condemning the TIRI unseaworthy in 1966 etc.  
pictures 07 and 08 Also the old lifebelt of the TIRI is still in the office.



Christian and the TIRI life belt: Collection C. Bergmann

pictures 11 and 13 Another remarkable evidence of the connection between the nowadays Radio Hauraki and the ship based station are the registration numbers of their cars.

pictures 14 and 15 Alex and Nathan as well as the whole crew in the office were delighted, when I showed them my old Hauraki t-shirt of the 1980's.

picture 12 It's really an amazing thing that the spirit of offshore radio is still alive in New Zealand in 2014 too. This is also underlined by the fact the movie '3 Mile Limit', which tells the story of Radio Hauraki's early years, is a very successful one in New Zealand.

Not so long ago New Zealand TV released a TV Movie called 'Pirates Of The Airwaves'.

Radio Hauraki will celebrate its 50th anniversary in December 2016. According to Nathan and Alex there are thoughts about a reunion that year. Over the last decades Hauraki changed its formats.



Nowadays Radio Hauraki is New Zealand's iconic rock and alternative radio station. The signal of Radio Hauraki can be heard all over New Zealand via 16 FM-transmitters.

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/offshoreradio/sets/72157649591067198/>

Cheers! Christian and Martina. '

Well I can see both of you had a wonderful time and good to see our advice that New Zealand is a wonderful country to explore hasn't been for nothing. Hopefully 2015 will give some other surprises for the both of you. Next an e mail from Asia and former Caroline deejay from the eighties, Richard Jackson. 'Thank you again for your international radio report, which is always an entertaining read. Also to say how much I enjoyed meeting you and everyone at your final RadioDay in Amsterdam. I see BBC WS feature a short piece on Radio Caroline. <http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p02f8lfn> All the best for 2015, Richard Jackson in Bangkok.'

Thanks a lot Richard and a pity we had so less time to share during the Radioday. It reminded me that the last time before we saw each other was near Russel Square in London during Driftback 20 in 1987. Hopefully the next gap will be a bit smaller.

On Christmas day it was Chris Edwards who brought me the sad news of the passing away from **Gerry (Gerard) Wells 1929 - 2014**

'We regret to inform you that after a short stay in hospital, Gerry Wells died late on the 22nd December 2014. As usual at this time of year, the Museum is closed to visitors (although manned daily) over the Christmas period. Further arrangements will be communicated as they become known. Thank you for all of your support. Eileen and the British Vintage Wireless and Television Museum team.'

Gerard Wells was the main man behind this wonderful museum I visited several times and which is at the Rose Garden Road in Dulwich City. The property housing the museum has had a rich heritage of

radio and electricity. Alfred Rickard-Taylor (an early wireless enthusiast) lived here from 1908 to 1914. In 1914 Mr. Frank Wells (Gerald's father) purchased the property.



Hans Knot in one of the many rooms at the museum. Photo: Rob Olthof

Gerald was born here in 1929 and from the age of four expressed an interest and fascination for anything electrical. This led to a passion for wireless and this became his ultimate obsession. The sense of miracle and wonder has stayed with Gerald.

At the end of the Sixties drastic and dramatic changes occurred in his life. He was not able to continue the life of an electrical contractor. However, he could see wireless and television sets being discarded and felt there was a need for a 'Vintage Wireless Museum'.

This Country was a major contributor for wireless development; even Marconi came to the UK to further his ambition for communication without wires. There was a need to preserve early wireless sets and their history. The Museum for vintage wireless has been in existence since 1974 and now includes televisions.



**Gerald Wells on the cover of one of his books**

The British Vintage Wireless and Television Museum has inspired the start of many wireless museums. It is, however, now the only viable and working wireless museum in the UK. Many radio and television programmes have been produced about the Museum which have encouraged the history being preserved for the nation whilst gaining worldwide recognition.

The Museum has an ever-expanding range of radios, televisions, speakers and radiograms from the dawn of radio up to the last valve model ever made. Items of interest to academics, historians, manufacturers and collectors are on exhibition. The Museum consists of two buildings making thirteen rooms with 1300 wireless receivers on show, along with many display cabinets of components and wireless associated artefacts, also a period shop. There is a valve laboratory enabling the manufacture of early Triode valves (the three electrode

valve) plus workshops to demonstrate the manufacture of chassis, cabinets and associated parts for wireless construction.

Several examples of BBC equipment are on display and in numerous cases are working, for example the 625 to 405 line standards converter. High-definition television started on the 405 line standard in 1936. The 405 line television service was phased out by 1985. Those with memories of the black and white era are still able to see these fine sets on 405 line working.

At the moment the museum is closed but normally the museum is not open to the general public, but guided tours are available by appointment. Admission is free but donations are greatly welcomed.  
<http://www.bvwtm.org.uk/> and <http://bvws.org.uk/>

I was very surprised to get the news that Graham Gill was sitting in on the Charlie Dee program on Radio 19 on Saturday January 24<sup>th</sup>. Graham did a one hour program assisted by panel operator Dick de Graaf, both former colleagues on Radio Northsea International. I must say, although Graham will be 79 in April, he did a very good relaxed show, which reminded me on his days on Radio 390! Well done Graham!

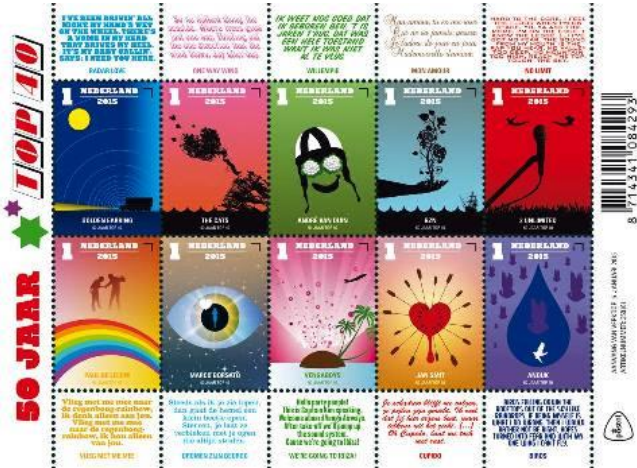


Graham in the days at Radio Netherlands.

Photo: Collection Hans Knot

Next an e mail from England again: 'I still look forward to the Radio Report coming, it's nice to know people can still find things to talk about and show their photos of their time on board those marvelous radio stations from all that time ago when I was in my teens and was listening to my favourite- Radio Caroline. With all best wishes to you both, Yours, Roger Kemp. Horsham, Sussex'. Thanks a lot Roger and keep enjoying the report in the future!

Dutch Top 40 celebrates the fact that it is 50 years of age this year. Post NL responsible for the new stamps in the Netherlands has released some matching stamps, including those of Golden Earring who was in the Top 40 with Radar Love thirteen weeks, and The Cats who had many Top 40 hits, including One Way Wind for fourteen weeks. Also André van Duin (Willempie) BZN (Mon Amour), Two Unlimited (No Limit), Paul de Leeuw (Fly with me), Marco Borsato (Dromen zijn bedrog) Vengaboys (We're Going To Ibiza), Jan Smit (Cupid) and Annette (Birds) adorn the stamp sheetlet. Annette ended last month in the ranking of the ten most successful Top 40 artists of all time as she added her new single 'Places to Go' in her oeuvre. Madonna is the best performing artist ever in these statistics of the Top 40, but the queen of pop can still be overtaken by Rihanna. High in the ranking are also The Rolling Stones, Marco Borsato, Michael Jackson, The Beatles, Golden Earring and U2.





In this issue a longer story was planned about the MV Nannell, the radioship which was planned to come on air in the late eighties. Memories from Martin van der Ven as well as Nicholas Harvey will now be in next issue. This due to the fact too much news has to be told in this issue. So something to wait for in the March edition of the Hans Knot International Radio Report.



**Nannell in Santander Photo Collection: Nicholas Harvey**

December 28<sup>th</sup> we had some very fine weather and so Jana and I decided to take our bikes. Temperature was around zero but no wind and blue sky. We cycled around some parts of the city Groningen and took several photos, As it was this last Tuesday 50 years ago that Wonderful Radio London took the airwaves I was wondering if the painting on a shed was still there at the Gorechtkade. It was painted there around 1965/1966 and yes like all our good memories to this station, which really brought Top 40 radio into Europe, the shed is also still there.



January 5<sup>th</sup> I was watching tonight an historic movie about Radio Free Europe and Radio Liberty and after that visited their nowadays informative internet sites. I found out that their offices in Azjebarijan have been raided at Christmas. Their full story can be found here: <http://www.rferl.org/content/azerbaijan-rferl-baku-bureau-raided/26763449.html>

On our last issues one of the topics was how reception of several offshore stations in the sixties was in the Netherlands. The question was asked by Luc from Belgium. Some people did respond and now Luc comes back on a question from Frank in Haarlem:

'Dear Frank thank you here for an answer to my question. But I have not experienced myself during this period as I was a kid at the time. My first introduction to the offshore stations was in 1970. As a teenager I listened to Veronica and later RNI. The reception of the two channels was quite good. In the evening I also tuned to the English-language broadcasts of the commercial station Radio Luxembourg on 208 metres. Later I also listened, as a Fleming, to Atlantis, Mi Amigo and Caroline. Also I remember 558 Laser and Laser Hot Hits and Radio Caroline from the Ross Revenge during the

eighties of last century. But the period 1964-1968 continues to fascinate me tremendously in the monthly radio report.  
Greetings from Belgium; Luc Deleu.'

But we have also another response on the same topic from Andrew in England: 'I was interested in reading in your article in your International Radio Report about the relatively good reception of Radio Veronica on its low-frequency transmissions on 538 metres when compared to 192 metres. The same comparison could actually be made with Capital Radio in 1974 when it changed its allocation from its temporary low-power transmitter on 539m (557 kHz) to the more permanent and much higher power ones on 194m (1546 kHz). On the lower frequency reception during the daytime was possible across a lot of the South of the UK, but when the transmissions moved to the higher frequency, lots of people away from London lost this luxury. This was despite the significantly higher power output of the 194 transmissions. Where I lived in SW London, 194 was actually stronger but it never got that far out in comparison.



I have the impression that this extended reception effect is largely lost to the teams who allocate broadcasting frequencies. The MW channels appear to be dished out as items of equal worth whereas

the lower ones should be reserved for those channels that could benefit from a wider audience. I hope that this snippet is of interest. Thank you for such an interesting feature. Andrew.'

Of course also thanks to you Andrew for taking part in this interesting topic and anyone who want to ad his or her opinion feel free to write to me at [HKnot@home.nl](mailto:HKnot@home.nl)

Next is Jon and he has an update from his site Pirate Hall of Fame

New this month:

Radio London began regular transmissions two days before Christmas in 1964. On 23rd December 2014 some of the DJs and staff got together to mark the fiftieth anniversary. We have photos; plus the tenth page of the ever-growing 'Eighties Supplement' - remembering DJs from that decade with name beginning with M; There's more from the scrapbook kept by former Radio Caroline chief engineer, Manfred Sommer; and, for chart-lovers, we have Radio Scotland's final Top 50 and the Radio 270 Top 40s from this month 48 years ago.

More than 250,000 people visited The Pirate Radio Hall of Fame during 2014. My grateful thanks goes out to everyone who has contributed or supported the site. I hope you all have a very happy new year. Best wishes, Jon [www.offshoreradio.co.uk](http://www.offshoreradio.co.uk)

January 2 it was 50 years ago that the very first Top 40 was broadcast by Radio Veronica. The idea was brought by Willem van Kooten, who was working under his deejay name 'Joost den Draayer' on Veronica. He also presented the Top 40 for some years. On this photo you see mr. Anonymous from company Basart, Aretha Franklin as well as Joost den Draayer. Maybe Willem can fill in the name of the other person.





Finally another interesting video from Alex van der Hoek: 'On Saturday August 10th 2002, there was a 35th Anniversary Offshore Reunion for sixties offshore personnel ('The Wet Club') to commemorate August 14th 1967. Mary and Chris Payne from the Radio London website, along with some dedicated offshore radio friends, had organised a phantastic event. See and hear Ronan himself explain about the station name. Hear Keepers tell about the sixties on board and on shore. Also you will see and hear the speeches from that afternoon in the summer of 2002.

Many former offshore personalities attended the reunion in The Doggett's Coat and Badge, Blackfriars' Bridge, London:  
 With: Mike Ahern (Caroline North, South), Paul Alexander [Rusling] (Caroline '73), John Stewart = Chris Stewart = John Aston (KING, 390, Caroline North, South, 270, 355), Nick Bailey (Caroline South, North), Bud Ballou [Howie Castle] (Caroline South), Woolf Byrne (City), Gordon Cruse (Caroline South North), Robbie Dale [Robinson] (Caroline South), Johnny Flux = John Edward (City, London), Graham Gill (London, Britain, England, 390, Caroline, RNI), Mark Hammerton



= Mark Sloane (KING, Caroline South, 355, Caroline North), Keith Hampshire (Caroline South), Dave Hawkins (technician on London), Ronan O'Rahilly, Phil Jay (City), Duncan Johnson (London, RNI), Mick Luvzit (Caroline South, North), Roger Scott = Arnold Layne [Greg Bance] (Essex, 270, 390, Caroline North, RNI), Keith Skues (Caroline South, London), Ed Stewart (London), Dave Lee Travis (Caroline South, North), Tommy Vance (Caroline South, London), Johnnie Walker (England, Caroline South), Willy Walker (London), Graham Webb (Caroline South), David Williams (Caroline South, North). And Hans Knot, Ben Meijering and Martin van der Ven.

Original film made by Rob Olthof. Many thanks to Martin and Hans. Alex van der Hoek

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7vSMHE-KGTY>

Well another 34 pages to start up this year's series of Hans Knot International Radio Reports. I hope to hear from you with your memories, photos and more at [HKnot@home.nl](mailto:HKnot@home.nl)  
Till next month with many greetings from Groningen in the Netherlands.