

Hans Knot International Radio Report March 2016

Welcome to another brand new edition of the International Radio Report. February has gone very fast, although we have one day more this year due to the fact 2016 is a leap year. A lot of e mails came in and the most interesting ones will be highlighted in the report.

Due to a recent conversation with some people, sharing radio tunes, a list with special programs on Radio Monique was shared. A special weekend program was about Dutch musicians presented by Dutch musicians. These artists only presented one program, but some new names can be added to the list with female deejays which ones presented a show on offshore radio: Ladies from Babe, Sandy, Imca Marina and Coby Mol. For the complete list so far you've to go to www.hansknot.com

On January 19th, 2016 it was 50 years ago since Radio Syd closed down. On the same date a new book about Radio Syd is released: Piraterna på Öresund. Vi minns Radio Syd - Skånes egen radio. (The pirates in Öresund. We remember Radio Syd - the station of Skåne (the southern part of Sweden)).

<http://15613.shop.textalk.se/piraterna-pa-oresund-vi-minns-radio-syd-skanes-egen-radio>

With thanks to Per Alarud in Sweden.

Piraterna på Öresund

VI MINNS RADIO SYD - SKÅNES EGEN RADIO

Ulf Clarén och Staffan Olander



Sally Mens from the Netherlands send us the following message:

'Sad silent days are coming. If any, what can Europe and Canada do to save the American musical heritage? How can this happen? The origin is that streaming audio has emerged from point zero since the last copyright rates were set, in 2007. Since then the public turned from listening to AM and FM radio to online radio. At first podcasts and jukebox, like internet radio stations, got popular, but Pandora, Deezer, iTunes and Spotify and the likes - which are streaming - soon took over. So the copyright owners saw their revenues shrinking at a fast rate, meanwhile witnessing piracy and cheap streaming. So the rise of copyright rates was expected and indeed will now happen.

As the European Union and the BAFTA are about to join forces on investment legislations a dark period for freedom of information lies ahead for us all. We have a right but it seems mainly the right to pay copyrights. In Europe copyrights are part of granted heritage rights till 75 years after the holder died. This is an absurd legislation, as it stifles cultural developments.

Let's make this not another 'Day The Music Died'. Please, don't let it pass as just another day.

NB1: Watch (and listen) the homepage of the Retro Attic of Oldies station as well. Gilbert Matthews was the one alarming me. NB2: Read also this column: <http://rainnews.com/mid-size-and-small-webcaster-reaction-to-new-crb-rates/>

Sally Mens, Utrecht Netherlands.'

Thanks Sally for this information and to everyone who thinks what this information has to do in the report I can simply clarify that the report is an open forum for everyone to write about any subject concerning our beloved radio. More radio information comes from the new organisers since last year for the annual Radioday.

Radi**o**DAY.nl

Several questions have arisen about the next Dutch RadioDay 2016. Last year's day was the first one which wasn't organised by the experienced team of Hans Knot, Martin van der Ven and the late Rob Olthof. At the moment the continuation of the days isn't certain, but we try to continue on a lower scale with 'a meet and greet section' plus some interviews. Further information is not available right now, but will be given on our website www.radioday.nl. You might send any questions and/ or suggestions to:

info@mediacommunicatie.nl

(Please bear in mind that the former organisers have ceased their involvement, so they can't answer to your questions.)

Let's go back in a memory to the eighties when a lot of us loved to listen to Laser 558. Well one of the former Laser 558 people was on search for one former crewmember, as Michael Dean was writing to me:

'I'm want to get I touch with Tim Levensaler, one time captain of the Communicator, and/or Holly Michaels. I was in touch with them when I first moved back to States - but lost touch. Tim's younger brother, Mike, worked on the Communicator and once pulled me out of the North Sea after a fun drunken get together on the Ross Revenge from Caroline. It was Halloween of 1984 I suppose.

Anyway, I heard that after Mike left the Communicator and went back to the States (Maine I believe). He fell off a roof of a house and was paralyzed. I hope he eventually pulled through that paralysis. But I don't know. I'm not sure who would know this - though maybe Charlie Wolfe or Tommy Rivers or Rick Harris or Jessie Brandon would. Have you heard anything of Tim Levensaler or Holly Michaels since their Laser period? They married back in the States after Laser you know. Michael Dean.'



Mighty Joe Young, Mike Levensaler and one of the former captains from the Communicator. Photo: Michael Dean

Of course I sent the questions to people involved more than three decades ago within the Laser project and also to Leen Vingerling, the former tender king. He was the first to reflect and told me that he lost contact with the two many, many years ago. Jessie Brandon was the second: 'Last I knew, Tim was captaining some sort of gambling cruise out of Florida, I even think it was his business, maybe multiple ships. I last spoke to Holly and Paul Dean when they conference-called me on the request line at WJZW in Washington. On a whim, as I recall. Paul was working for some import-export UK company and had wound up with Holly on the line, I think. They were a riot.

I Googled Mike and as I'd heard, he remains a quadriplegic. <http://www.levensalerdesign.com/about.html> All the best, Jessie.'

Lucky that Mike Levensaler made a wonderful career as you could read clicking the above link. When Michael Dean got the e mail he

was surprised that it went totally different with Mike than expected: 'Oh no. Mike had his whole future ahead of him. I miss Jessie much. I've been visiting with Tim Levensaler and prior was in contact with his brother Mike on the phone. Tim was so happy to hear from me - laughed a lot. He asked of Jessie and said also that he was sorry to hear about David Lee Stone's sad demise, which I didn't tell him. He already knew. It was so good hearing his voice again.'

Well how many people got together again due to the consisting of the International Radio Reports through the years? Always interesting to know, although the world is very big and the distance to one and another point is very far away from each other, it seems that the radio world is a very small one by reuniting people.

Next twice readers from Scotland: 'Hi Hans - Happy New Year from Bonnie Scotland. I thought you might be interested in this local Press Story. It looks like David Bowie's first UK television appearance could have been right here in Scotland on tiny Grampian Television. Grampian also had some of the first TV appearance by the Beatles when they were playing the north of Scotland in their early years. I will get you more on the trip from Dunbar later. All the best Jack McLaughlin.'

My memories of early Bowie

I just read your fascinating piece about David Bowie nearly appearing in a panto in Musselburgh and there may well be some truth in your story!

Let me explain... I was one of the original pirate DJs on Radio Scotland launched locally from Dunbar. During a trip to London, I interviewed Bowie at the Marquee Club, where he was doing one of his regular Sunday lunchtime shows. The audience consisted mostly of German and French students. David had already begun to make his mark in Europe.

I interviewed him in his dressing room after the show and after the chat his then-manager, a guy called Ken Pitt, collared me.

He said that he was desperate to get 'his boy' onto television and asked him if I could help in Scotland.

After the pirates closed down in August 1967, I moved to Grampian Television, where I became host of a pop series called 'Pop-Scotch'. We featured some good names such as The Move, Marmalade, Moody Blues etc. I thought of Bowie and gave Ken Pitt's card to the Grampian executives to see if they could give him a slot on the show. To my horror, they did give him a slot on Grampian but it was on a 'teuchter' show called 'Cairngorm Ski Night'.

This was set in a fake ski lodge and featured a bizarre mixture of Scottish and folk music with a dash of comedy thrown in. The show was hosted by Grampian legend Jimmy Spankie.

I can still see a very nervous-looking David with a bright red ski jersey singing a very quiet folk song which

was totally out of character with the rest of the show.

Fast forward now to a Grampian reunion show in 1984.

I was interviewed by now Tory Minister Anna Soubry, who was then a Grampian reporter (you can see this on YouTube).

I mentioned to the Grampian press guys about Bowie's appearance on Ski Night and they knew nothing about it.

However, they confirmed it when they dug into their TV Times files.

Unfortunately, no recording was ever kept of this show - too expensive in those days.

So David could well have been approached to appear in Musselburgh during his visit to Aberdeen.

Incidentally, one of the other characters in the

dressing room at the marquee was Lindsay Kemp, whom you mention in your article.

In fact, Kemp was part of Bowie's lunchtime show, which was a very strange combination of mime and drag.

You can read all about my Bowie interview in my book 'Pirate Jock', which was heavily reviewed by the *Courier* on its release (Amazon.co.uk).

This is the 50th anniversary of the launch of Radio Scotland and we are planning to take a pirate ship from Dunbar to Troon in the west coast of Scotland, which will replicate the journey we made in May 1966.

Early days yet, but plans are in hand.

Jack McLaughlin
Haddington

Thanks a lot Jack and always nice to hear from you. Now a short article from the Daily Telegraph from January 4th 2016 sent in by Graeme Stevenson from Scotland. As you can see there are plans to re-use Red Sands. Well the brochure has been made, let's hope further steps will follow, but I have my doubts on this information. Anyone agreeing or has other ideas about this plan please e mail at HKnot@home.nl

Sea forts may become resort

◆ A set of abandoned Second World War sea forts could be transformed into a £400 million spa hotel.

Creative firm Next Big Thing has produced a brochure to attract an investor to the Red Sands forts, built in the Thames

Estuary in 1943. It foresees a luxury resort, with a Michelin Star restaurant, spa and elite retail complex, all accessed via helipad.

David Cooper, project manager, compared the idea to billionaire Sir Richard Branson's Necker Island.

Nickname time again which brings us to July 4th 1972 and the MEBO II. In RNI Dutch service program it was Leo van der Goot who talked about the colleague Gerard Smit as Gerard 'Smijt', which is 'smashes' in English. This info with thanks to Jan Fré Vos, who sent me the nickname. The long list with nicknames also is on www.hansknot.com

Next to Germany and Jan Sundermann: Hello Hans, is there anybody reading the report in or next to Istanbul? If so then read on please! Being always interested in the ships themselves, I wanted to look what had happened with former 'De Hoop' after the film production 'RadioRock' was finished. My starting point was

www.rossrevenge.co.uk, where the story of Radio Caroline involvement in the movie production is described. Final fact was that the vessel was sold on later under its new name 'Timor Challenger'. Under www.shipspotting.com is shown a nice large picture, and there is given its new registration.

It's under Panamanian flag HO4822 with MMSI: number 372174000. The vessel is described as a standby safety vessel. That sounds like similar work as the vessels of Rederij Groen do: checking offshore oil and gas drillings and pipelines, new and old, for safety.



Photo: source unknown

The ship was spotted in August 2010 nearby Grangemoth. To follow a ship, the internet gives many opportunities. The first was www.vesseltracker.com There is a log without date giving a position south of Sweden, with the remark 'scrapped'. Could that be: this vessel is also already scraped? I next went on with my favourite page www.shipfinder.com

Typing in the above given MMSI number a result very quickly responded September 17th, 2015 at position Latitude 40-51.296N Longitude : 29-17.053E. On the map you can see that this is in Istanbul! Although it is written 'at anchor', the marked position is on land, nearby a railway station named Güzelyali, south of the D100 road. As normally the shipfinder.com gives you for free a position older than 24 hours, this could really be the last point where the ship had its navigational equipment under operation? And after that date did they started to scrap the ship there? This probably could only be verified if somebody interested walks around that area and has a look! Greetings, Jan Sundermann.'

Well Jan thanks a lot for this very informative e mail. I can tell you there is no reader in that area getting the report by e mail. Croatië wouldn't be a problem and also in Hungary we have a readership. But who knows there's one of the readers going for a holiday to Turkey. So maybe this will be continued.

Two issues ago I published another part about the Radio Syd/Cheeta story by Phil Champion with the radio ship from Britt Wadner 'sitting in' for Radio Caroline off the British coast and plans to use the ship or the transmitters for Radio 390, which had plans to start a second station off the Wales coast. In this issue the very last part of this excellent series with thanks of course to Phil.

Britt sailed it in May 1967 to Spain where it encountered rough weather in the Bay of Biscay before calling in at La Coruna in northern Spain. Five days later it was off to Safi in Morocco where it arrived five days later. On the 21st it moved to Teneriffe in the Canary Islands, In November 1968 it upped anchor and arrived in the Gambia in West Africa in 1968. There she set up another Radio Syd and opened the Wadner Beach hotel. Eventually the ship sank in Banjul (Bathurst) harbour.

A report and photos on

<http://home.swipnet.se/offshoreradio/radiosyd/gambia/index.html>

In 1969 she got a license to broadcast from land; the station opening on May 7th 1970 on 909 kHz 329 metres, Gambia's first private radio station. It seems that 'Cheeta II' was used as a base for the new Radio Syd until land-based facilities became available. Radio Syd was now located two miles outside the capital Banjul on the road to the main commercial centre of Serekunda.



Photo: Freewave Archive

It used a former Radio Sweden Tx from Hörby which was capable of 2.5 kW while a Marconi Tx was standby. The antenna mast has been described variously as 57, 80 or 85 metres or 257 feet high. A report from 1976 in the Swedish magazine 'Se' showed it to be something of a family affair. The station broadcast in local languages Mandinka and Wolof but did programmes in English, French and Swedish for foreign tourists. English is also the official language of Gambia while French is understood in Senegal.



Studio Radio Syd Gambia Photo: Freewave Archive

The Swedish shows ran during the October - May tourist season. It was heard in Gambia and neighbouring Senegal. Later the French was dropped in favour of a third local language Fula. It had a (potential?) audience of 800,000 people. Ingvar Hjulström was the Managing Director. Daughter Connie was an accomplished presenter and news-gatherer. Britt's son (and Connie's half-brother) who is described as being Donald and Kalle (believed to be K-G Alfe) had several jobs. If there was a Tx problem he would fix it. He used to record the news on shortwave from Radio Sweden, listen to it through the whistles then write an edited copy which was aired at noon and midnight. He presented the 30 minute show for Swedish tourists with tips, music and news from home; it went out nightly at 8 pm and was repeated next morning at 8 o'clock. It was sponsored by a Danish beer company.

In 1976 he was 35 and had been interested in radio since being a child. By this time Britt was not involved in the radio station but concentrated on the hotel. Some of the records must have been from the offshore days as the record library stops abruptly in 1965 then jumps forward to 1970. There were some 1970s Swedish artistes on record like ABBA which were obtained when Wadner family members went back to Sweden on holiday.



Look at some of the equipment which was earlier used on the Cheeta
2. Photo: Collection Wadner Family

Radio Syd was on air 6 am to 2 am. Kalle found it best not to switch off the old Tx at night. There was a team of 10 freelance Gambian male and female presenters. Engineer Klas Wik had gone to Gambia with the Wadner family. Another engineer, Åke Olsson, had joined in June 1962 and stayed with the station until it left the Öresund giving over three and a half years of service. In fact he had once been interviewed by Jimmy Kronsäter in "Nattvakten" (Nightwatch) in the offshore days.

By 1999 daughter Connie was running the station. She did programmes for Swedish expats living in Gambia as well as tourists. She was helped by her husband Benny Holgerson in running the station. Coastal erosion meant that the studio was now just metres away from the sea. Stays for the mast had already had to be moved. Already Radio Syd's buildings had been flooded several times. Over 30 years the sea had advanced about 100 metres, according to the Swedish radio ham magazine "QTC" which visited in 2000. Now Radio Syd's premises were on a peninsula.

At first the "Cheeta II" was used as a floating disco, shop and restaurant in Banjul harbour for Swedish tourists. One report seems to indicate that by this time the vessel had been sold to a Gambian. Access was from a pier at the Maurel & Prom wharf. A photo is at [!](#) Later a tropical storm sent it to a sandbank in the Gambia estuary at Banjul opposite Britt's hotel and where the vessel became a wreck in the 1970s.



Photo: Soundscapes on line Journal

She was persuaded after a week by the visiting Swedish 'Kvällsposten' reporters to go out and visit the wreck. She said it was like losing a dear old friend. She wondered if any other ship would have such a tale to tell as this one. It was still recognisable as a ship. In the mid-1970s Britt moved to Florida, USA but returned to Sweden in 1985 to her old home town of Lund where she had kept a house. Britt died in 1987. In the 1999 photos the wreck seemed like featureless metal just above the surface of the water.

Only the ship's bell remained. Britt herself had gone out to the wreck to take this but to her great disappointment found it had already been taken by a Gambian. Sometime later her daughter Connie was on holiday in America and visited a former American ambassador to Gambia whom she knew. One the wall in his living was a clock with 'Cheeta' engraved. He had bought the ship's bell to take home but duly gave it to Connie who returned it to her mother.



An idea by the Swedish Radio Club led to the MW broadcasts being relayed on shortwave for a short while in 1984. Radio Syd ceased

broadcasting when the mast came crashing down in a storm on September 11th 2002. However, a group of southern Californian radio amateurs revived transmissions from the site as a special event in 2003. They used the fallen antenna as a support for their own antenna on the beach and seemed to use the former Radio Syd studios for their transmissions on 10, 15, 20, 40 and 75 metres. Photos are at <http://www.contesting.com/articles/480/>

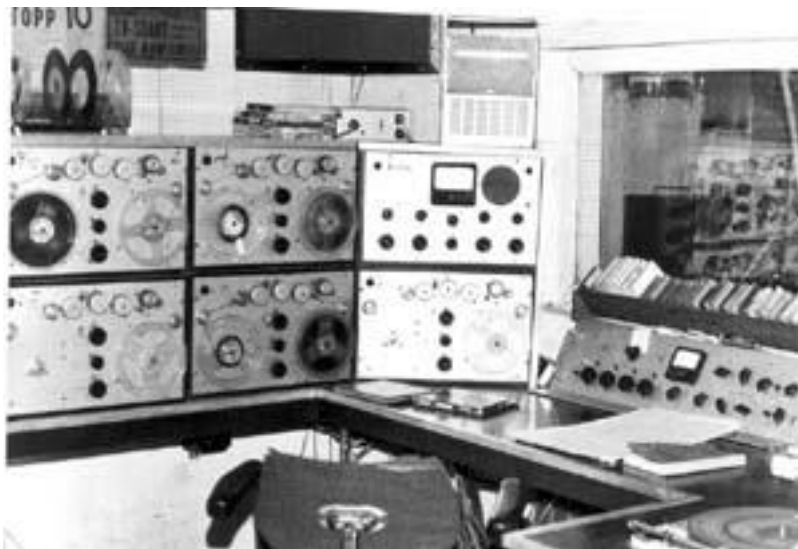
Interestingly a placard they held up of Radio Syd 329 metres shows that the Gambian station had still used the old Radio Syd logo of a stylised ship and musical notes from its offshore days. It seems that a group of Slovaks and Czechs have done a similar thing from the Radio Syd site in 2009, 2010 and 2011.

What of the other personnel from the station? Ingvar Hjulström died in 1990. He was partly responsible for the start of Radio Syd in Gambia and was running this station from 1968 to 1985. In 1985 K-G Alfe/Kalle moved back to Sweden where he again became a well known and popular presenter when he started as a DJ in Radio Malmöhus, one of Radio Sweden's local radio stations. He was 54 years old when he died in 1995.



Studio building Radio Syd Gambia. Photo: Gerd Klawitter

Announcers Ivo Grenz and Lennart Atterling went on to Radio Nord. Lennart later became a freelance producer in advertising production. Ivo later was a journalist and news anchor on Sveriges TV in the 1970s and 1980s. Engineer Kenneth Andersson worked for almost 40 years as an audio technician in advertising production, and later became the first technician when community radio started in Stockholm. He has been involved in retirement in the Radio Nord Revival broadcasts in the last few years. Engineer Christer Swede's name can be seen on the local SverigesTV news credits as editor.



Studio Radio Syd Gambia. Photo: Gerd Klawitter

Rolli Frölsch became a journalist with Sveriges Radio in 1971 in Malmö where for the next two years he presented or edited a youth programme. He also opened a record store in that city which was the first to import records directly into Sweden and claims to be the first shop in the world to sell The Beatles 'Sergeant Pepper' LP! After Radio Syd had ceased operations in the Öresund engineer Hasse Hansson was offered a job in Rolli Fölsch's record store where he dealt with the direct import of records. He continued using his technical and musical skills when he later found employment with the Skandinavisk Press, a publisher of gramophone records and newspapers. However, his life was shortened by disease and he died

only 57 year old in 2004.



More equipment Photo: Gerd Klawitter

In the UK -and the Low Countries- we hold in regard those who continued with offshore radio despite legislation and other hazards: Ronan O' Rahilly and others who brought back Radio Caroline twice, Edwin Bollier and Erwin Meister who brought back RNI and Sylvain Tack and others who kept Radio Mi Amigo going. Yet before all of these Britt Wadner persisted in trying to keep Radio Syd going despite court appearances and jail for her.



Britt Wadner. Photo: Freewave Archive

If her tribulations had happened round our part of the North Sea

and been a decade or two later I am sure many more offshore radio enthusiasts and others would hold her in high regard and remember her well.'

From Gent in Belgium we got two items to mention. First of all there is a mentioning of a recording from an Emperor Rosko Show on Caroline in 1967. In this a telephone call and the question was how it was possible this was in an offshore program in those days.

https://www.spreaker.com/user/nostalgia-store-radio/radio_caroline_1967_emperor_rosko_show

I think a simply answer can be given as in the Caroline House at Chesterfield Garden were also small studios for production work like recording sponsored programmes and commercials and I think this Rosko show was recorded there and taken out to the Mi Amigo for transmission. Talking about Rosko I may not forget to include a photograph from the Emperor as he would probably his pride will be lowered.



From the Rosko archive

And Herman Content also wrote: 'A few days ago I was listening to an old program from 1977 in which a Caroline deejay gave the listeners a round tour on the MV Mi Amigo. This was in the period they were also on the air during day time. As I was addicted listening to Radio Mi Amigo in those days I didn't hear too much Radio Caroline four decades ago. In this program, when doing a link from the galley, it was mentioned that they were cooking with the use of gas cylinders (probably with propane) and also with electrical equipment, which took of course more energy from the generators. In those days the Microwave Oven was not popular in use yet, as it's nowadays and I thought they were also not in use on radio ships in the seventies. But the truth was that on the Mi Amigo, so I learnt, they had already one.

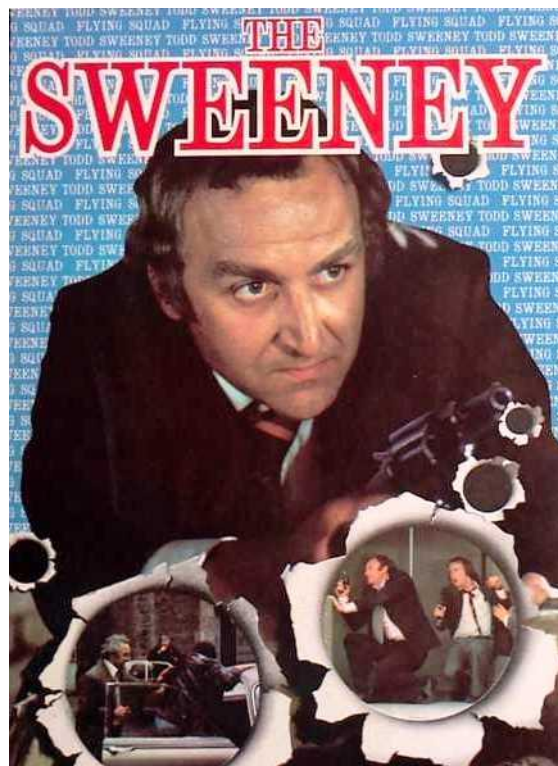
In one of the video-clips on internet which were shot aboard the MV MEBO II you can see a huge flame coming from under a big casserole and so the stove on this radio ship must have been a gas-one too. I do remember that, probably on one of the forts, cooking brought the transmission power to a lower level. I hope some of the readers who worked in offshore radio have more galley related stories to tell. I'm getting a bit hungry now as my stomach is crying 'I want to eat'.

Your memories about the galley and cooking are welcome at HKnot@home.nl



Above photo was send to me by Robbie Owen. He saw this on Sunday January the 10th at London Heathrow Airport on an HSBC advert. Well wondering what Shivering Sands has to do with a boutique hotel? Thanks Robbie and I hope you had a good time in Israel.

Well let's go, as promised in last report, to something totally different. It is Bob Noakes, well known from his days on *Caroline*, RNI and the *Voice of Peace*, reminiscing about a television series. But in the end he returns to the subject radio with a question:



'Hands up all of you who can remember the television series *The Sweeney*!

The Sweeney made its first appearance on British television in 1975. The title made reference in rhyming slang to London's world-famous "Flying Squad" where the series - albeit fictional - was presumed to take place. Other police series made around that time spent a good while getting off the ground: notably the *American Hill Street Blues* was a very slow burner so it was little less than a wonder that more than one series was ever made.

Not *The Sweeney*: one day it burst onto screens with a shower of sparks, immediately got top ratings and to many it was as if it had always been there, the standard by which other police programmes were judged. The popularity and quality of the series were astounding: everyone wanted to see it and every actor worth his onions wanted to be *in* it.

For it was a cops-and-robbers programme with a difference. The two major roles were Detective Inspector Regan, played by the hardened and technically perfect late John Thaw; and his number two, Detective Sergeant Carter, played by relative newcomer Dennis Waterman. The *Sweeney* were what John Thaw once described in an interview as a "new breed of men" - they drank a lot, spent much of their time pursuing women of dubious fidelity, cussed like navvies, fought like wild dogs and generally lived for the moment. In short, just the sort of man you would take home to meet Mother. Yet they had their foibles and deeper though rarely-displayed emotional warmth, a conviction of right and wrong as clear as crystal glass, and knuckled down to serious hard work when called for. As a rule, they got their man, too.

The Sweeney was made at a time when the horror of modern management was beginning to manifest itself in Britain, so Ian Kennedy-Martin, who created the series, rueful of the way that management had, as he put it, "destroyed" a lot of organisations including the BBC and the National Health Service, felt that the incursion of management into the police might add an interesting angle to the series. So, although the two detectives had a chief from whom they might expect leadership and support - Detective Chief Inspector Haskins, played convincingly by Garfield Morgan - half the time he was away for an obscure management-training course so that they had to make do with an incompetent substitute who would probably pick up a truncheon by the wrong end yet genuinely believed that apprehending a group of heavily-armed and violent criminals would best be accomplished by observing the applicable protocols,

creeping up on them with a pistol in one hand and a book of directives in the other.



Naturally, this frustrated the two detectives and the anarchistic Regan in particular, who held that rules could be broken when occasion demanded it: it was the result that counted.

The programmes were made by Euston Films which was set up by Thames Television to provide serious drama productions and series. They nestled at Euston Towers, Euston Road, London, where Thames Television had offices and a small studio. Upstairs, on the second floor, their neighbour was one of London's then-new commercial radio stations, Capital Radio. Euston Films was made up almost entirely of film people rather than television men, which narrowed the rift between film and television production, and since *The Sweeney* was made entirely on location, it might be said that it was Britain's first successful venture into the field of what we would now refer to as the "tv-film".

The Sweeney ran to four series, a total of 53 episodes first broadcast between January 1975 and December 1978. Both Euston

Films and Thames Television wanted to film a fifth series, but, perhaps wisely, the main actors, Thaw and Waterman, decided that four were enough. The programme also sold abroad, notably to Germany, and I can remember often watching repeats, dubbed in German and retitled *Der Fuchs* on WDR on Sunday afternoons in the 'eighties. And some of the episodes provided me with a twang of nostalgia with scenes that had been shot on locations I knew and hotels I had often stayed at, such as the Heathrow Airport, London Tara and Cunard.



All Sweeney photos are promotional material

Having purchased the DVD-box *The Sweeney - The Definitive Collection* (which I warmly recommend) I recently watched again an episode from the third series entitled *Tomorrow Man*. It deals with what we would nowadays refer to as a *cyber-crime*: the story of a computer systems-designer who, as he feels, unjustly dismissed, breaks in and shuts down his former employer's computer system, effectively ruining him, at the same time excising some highly valuable secret information which he sells to a criminal organisation. It is one of the episodes with an unhappy end for the Sweeney, who arrive at Heathrow airport just in time to see the receding tail-lights of an aeroplane with the criminal on board, a tasty young lady

in one hand and a bag of crisp bank notes in the other. What caught my eye at the end of the episode were the closing titles where, amongst other minor parts, the character *Massey* was accredited to a *Keith Ashton*.

In 1975 I worked with Keith Ashton in the Middle East. Regular readers may remember an article which I wrote about our adventures there together, published in 2002. But was he the same person who appeared in *The Sweeney*?



Keith Ashton and Frans de Wolff. Photo± Don Stevens

Playing back the episode several times, not once could I find any reference to a character called *Massey*. Nor does the name appear on screen at any point other than the closing titles. Was the character scrapped in the cutting room to save the programme from over-running? (Euston Films were often careless when it came to the credits: on at least one occasion Garfield Morgan was billed in the opening titles of an episode in which he never made an appearance).

I cannot say with certainty that I even recognized Keith in the episode, although towards the end there is a scene in which a number of criminals are ambushed and arrested after a hefty punch-up.

Unfortunately the criminals are all disguised as security men, even to the extent of wearing helmets. I have an idea that Keith might have been their driver, more from his gait and stocky build as he turns and walks away from camera, than what little one can see of his face.

Tomorrow Man was first broadcast in September 1976, though the screen credits give the copyright date as 1975. So the programme must have lain on the shelf for about a year before broadcast. And Keith Ashton was in London in the first half of 1975, working at Capital Radio, in the same building as Thames Television and Euston Films. Did he get so chummy with his ground-floor neighbours that they offered him a day's work for a few pounds, the way things often went in those days?



Euston building Photo: Hans Knot

The writer of the episode was Andrew Wilson, who had previously written the episode *Country Boy*. Is anyone in contact with him?

By now one will have realised that whilst this article began with facts it is closing with a string of questions. Sadly, Keith is no longer here to provide the answers himself, so now it's up to you, dear reader. After forty years, who can shed some light on this curious matter?

Greetings to all, Bob Noakes.'

Anyone who wants to reflect on this story please feel welcome to do so at HKnot@home.nl

We lost a true radio friend on February 8th. For those visiting regularly the Radio Days between 1984 and 2014 must have met him as he was always there. Either selling books and cd's at my selling point or controlling if people had a stamp on their hand and where thereby allowed entering the conference room. Meindert Dikboom passed away suddenly at the age of 70. His biggest interest was AFN/AFRTS as well as American Radio. We were friends since 1971. He will stay forever in our memories.



Sad news from the Caroline front is the sad passing of former Caroline deejay Keith King who was on the station in the mid-eighties. He died in the early hours of Friday 12th February, having unfortunately suffered from poor health for a number of years. He also presented on satellite station EKR and ran an entertainments agency in the Essex area.



Keith King on Caroline. Photo: Leen Vingerling

Next some interesting links regarding Radio Syd:

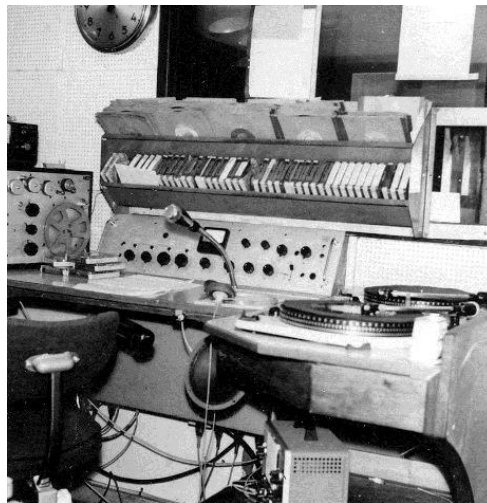
<http://blogg.sydsvenskan.se/forsvunnamalmo/2016/01/19/radio-syd-nu-i-bokform/>

<http://www.svt.se/nyheter/regionalt/skane/radiopiraterna-harjade-pa-oresund?cmpid=del%3Apd%3Any%3A20160120%3Aradiopiraterna-harjade-pa-oresund%3Anyh>

With thanks to Martin van der Ven

More than 50 years ago, on January 19th 1966, it was the last day for Radio Syd. The station transmitted on that day from the Cheeta II and came in problems between Malmö and Copenhagen due to big ice problems. The ship sailed later to international waters off the British coast and backed up Radio Caroline South. Their ship, the MV Mi Amigo, stranded on January 19th 1966 off the Frinton on Sea coast. As the Mi Amigo went to Zaandam for repairs Britt Wadner, the director of Radio Syd, offered the Cheeta II to be used. These

photos from 50 years ago are copyright Carl Thomson. Those standing on the strand before the Mi Amigo are Tom Lodge, Dave Lee Travis, Graham Webb and Thijs Spijker the Dutch Steward. Other photos are showing the Cheeta arriving as well as the studio from Radio Syd.



I posted this memory earlier on my Facebook pages and it was Stephen Muir-field who wrote: 'I Remember working on that desk it had a lot of 12ax7's that wear on a modular rack below the table top you could remove the channel strips to work on them without breaking transmission. This was very clever for its day, a custom built desk. After Radio Caroline had finished broadcasting from the Cheeta Radio 390 was mentioned to use the Cheeta for their service

from the cost of Wales but there were problems with the main engine. It blew gasket's when it was started and then the Cheeta II had to be towed in to Harwich and then it had a amatory writ fixed to the mast. As a result of a selvage claim there came an end to that adventure.'

Thanks a lot Stephan and anyone who has more memories from those days please welcome to share them at HKnot@home.nl

Next news from Mary Payne: www.Radiolondon.co.uk website updated: David Robert Jones David Bowie January 8, 1947 - 10th January 2016. It is not widely known that Radio London was very much instrumental in promoting David Bowie's early career. This tribute concentrates on 1966 and 67 and the station plugging his recordings when they were generally ignored elsewhere; it recalls the numerous appearances he made at Big L-sponsored events. **Radio London - David Bowie Tribute Page**. Of course there's much more to find at www.radiolondon.co.uk

Next an e mail from Keith Lewis: 'Hello Hans I was reading your site when I came across the piece about me, imagine the shock after all these years of radio inactivity. Anyway it was really nice to know that some in radio still remember me after all this time. Well I'm still alive and living in the UK Midlands leading a quiet normal life out of radio. When I listen to today's radio I think I made the right decision.

The past year I've had a few health problems which hopefully I'm now over. Please give my regards to Mark Stafford and I hope he is also in good health and thank you to everyone that still remembers me. I listen regularly to oldies paradise and it does make me want to get up and do it again. Keith Lewis'

Of course I've answered Keith and he came back with: 'Hi Hans. It was great to receive your e mail last night; you're the first person in radio I've spoken to in 16 years. I do miss the scene and regret losing touch with all the great people I've encountered over the years but it's nice to be back. Anyway the reason I'm e mailing you is to enquire

whether there will be a radio day this year in Amsterdam Regards
Keith Lewis.'

Well the answer to your question is given elsewhere in the report and
welcome back to the wonderful world of radio.



Keith Lewis during his Voice of Peace days. Photo: Freewave Archive

Page 16 of last report I mentioned that there were two more pages
of the Diary from the late David Lee Travis. Of course this is a
mistake as it should have read David Lee Stone. Anyway making
mistakes is for everyone so also for me. I presume DLT is more in my
mind than DLS. Sorry DLT!

In some issues ago I've published a personal e mail from Graham
Webb in which he talked about his eyes problems. Even sadder news
comes now from Kenny Tosh: Hello Hans. Just keeping you up to date
as I was speaking to Graham Webb on Monday; he said he's been in
hospital since 23rd December. In his words "We nearly lost him". He
had massive internal bleeding and lost quite a lot of blood, so apart
from his failing eyesight, he tells me he's on the road to recovery
now, I'm sure we all would like to wish Graham get well soon. Regards,
Kenny.' Indeed sad news and hopefully Graham has got the strength
to fight back again.

Another update from Alan, the Pole with the Soul: 'Hi Hans.
Another month coming to a close and I'm 3/4 of the way through my
four months stay in the Philippines. That's sad but month end is
always good because it's another radio report! Your caption 'the late

Dave Lee Travis' gave me quite a jolt, I thought the great DLT had passed away! A relief to find he's alive! Of course, you never know these days, with 'names' from yesteryear falling like flies. Sad to hear about Glenn Frey of the Eagles, a band I heard much of on RNI and Caroline in the 70s.

Good to hear from Ingmar about 'Sweden Calling DX-'ers' - that was a regular diary date for me for many a year. In the days of the BBC Light Programme I used to listen to Radio Sweden on medium wave as they were only a few channels up the dial from the Beeb. They were somewhat easier to listen to until Caroline South moved next door!

I was also a listener to their Saturday Show with Roger Wallis (I'd always thought his name was spelt Wallace). Roger's shows were always such fun - a great surprise to find that he's been a University professor in his time!



Roger Wallis Photo: Sveriges Radio

I notice Wikipedia says the show ran from 1967 - don't know if they're right or wrong but I remember Roger announcing on his show for anyone wanting Swedish pen friends to write to him. Well, this was the autumn of 1964 and for the next 6 years I corresponded

with a lovely young Swedish girl called Margaretha from Sollentuna on the outskirts of Stockholm, until I decided in early 71 to stop as I was getting married first time around! In those years we swapped music tapes and I recall in the spring of 1965 hearing records by the Hep Stars (Farmer John, Cadillac and later Sunny Girl) and the Hootenanny Singers) - only much later did I realise that among the band members were two Swedes who became oh so famous in the 70s and 80s, notably Benny and Bjorn from ABBA!

Of course, Radio Sweden weren't the only ones doing a DX programme at the time - my other two favorites in the 60s were Radio Nederland Wereldomroep (I much prefer that name to Radio Netherlands World Broadcasting System!) and the Swiss Broadcasting Corporation.

I used to spend a lot of my spare time in SW- listening in those days (especially prior to the advent of offshore radio in the UK) and it was always a joy to hear some far off station. I didn't get any spectacular 'catches'. We only had a domestic mains powered Philips valve radio and my antenna was only a 30 foot long wire down the yard but it opened up the world to me, as it must have done for many others.

I find it sad that radio isn't the force it was when we were young. When I scan the radio these days (MW or SW) there's nothing like the volume of stations we were able to listen to 50 years back. I feel very old, lol! Take care Hans, all the best to you and Jana, Alan Milewczyk.'

Thanks Alan and I hope the last days over there will be happy ones too and have a good flight back to England. Thanks for your wonderful radio reflections from the past.

Keith Chanter tagged me on Facebook with the following message 'Wow, this is a totally riveting documentary about Radio 1 from 45

years ago! Anybody with the slightest interest in the history of radio must watch this. It's 50 minutes long and features Tony Blackburn, Jimmy Young, Rosko, Kenny Everett and John Peel. You get to see a good look at the 'old technology' and because of its age, this documentary serves as a fascinating slice of social history as well.' Well you can watch this video at:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=L6tBzY8EHgk>

In this documentary an important role was there for Tony Blackburn. Readers have asked me in the past year several times why I don't write anything about all the abuse cases in England. Well I don't think this needs a platform in our nostalgic platform. It gets far too much exploring in the newspapers. Feel sorry for Tony and other people who're getting in severe problems by all false information and even more the very unwise acting by the BBC managing board.

January 31st aged 77 Terry Wogan died after a short illness of cancer. A very interesting obituary can be found here:

<http://www.bbc.com/news/entertainment-arts-26957941>

Now it's time for Jon at the Pirate Hall of Fame:

New this month:

- Former Radio Caroline executive Terry Bate has been a regular correspondent and I am delighted that he has found two more great photos from his time with the station;
- on the fiftieth anniversary of Radio Caroline South borrowing the mv Cheeta II, Paul Graham contributes a colour photo of the ship;
- correspondent Patrick Vienne has provided some press cuttings, mainly from the sixties;
- and, since the last monthly update, I have added a Tribute To Ed Stewart, who sadly died on 9th January.

Best wishes, Jon www.offshoreradio.co.uk

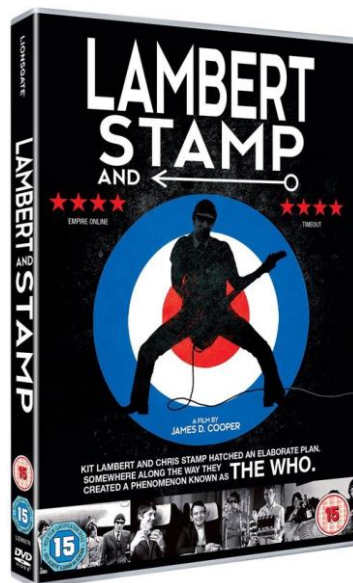
Recently I got a copy of the DVD Lambert Stamp and The Who. The best thing to get an impression about the film is to read what the BBC Art Department wrote about it:

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/articles/2Ss51MfRT3lF4fRY2jxWCvg/lambert-stamp-the-men-who-made-the-who>

A must for everyone who followed the sixties offshore pop music radiostations and the career of the Who. Follow also their Facebook pages: <https://www.facebook.com/lambertstampmovie/>

It's available from Amazon: <http://www.amazon.com/Lambert-Stamp-Chris/dp/B00YO11CRG>

As well as from Bol Com: <https://www.bol.com/nl/p/lambert-stamp/9200000051890799/>



It's a long time we had an update from Bob LeRoi so welcome Bob: 'At last an Update: Apologies pressures of life have pushed the site to the back burner. However, here's a mammoth update with many new pages, lots of revisions & I hope something of interest for everyone 'ScrapBook' continues the Sealand story with all the W's and Michael Bates book 'Holding The Fort'.

There are two Red Sands features, and a contribution on Muzak. In the 'Personal Pages' more contributions with Steamers and the voyages of the Kenilworth Castle. Out and about if you're feeling energetic there's a walk around Stony Stratford.

'One Subject One Link' picks up with a contribution on BBC TV continuity. The Revisions: Fort Fax: Sutch and City Roll Call: Essex 222: Tower Radio 1 2 3 and 4: Tongue Tower: MV Fredericia: Caroline Roll Call: SS Richard Montgomery: Essex 2003: Dave the Fish. Thanks for your patience and contributions, as always enjoy your visits. www.bobleroi.co.uk



Bob LeRoi. Photo: Collection Bob LeRoi

Sad news for RNI Fans. February 11th Axel Borsdorf died in his hometown Lörrach-Haagen at the age of 67 after a year's long battle with cancer. As 'Axel' he worked in 1970 for some months as deejay on the radioship MEBO II, which had Radio Nordsee International as base from February 1970 up till the end of August 1974.

After the German language programs started early 1970, with deejay Horst Reiner from Austria, Hannibal from Mönchengladbach, as well as some presentation from Swiss lady Elke, it was Axel who replaced in spring of that year Horst Reiner - who didn't fit into the

swinging presentation of the station. This was just after the MEBO II headed for an anchorage near the British coast.

Axel did present live programs like the 'Morning'- and 'Evening Show' and was also responsible presenting the Top 40 on Sunday evenings. After the MEBO II returned to international waters off the Dutch coast, Axel's last period on RNI started. He worked together with several English deejays on the MEBO II like: Andy Archer, Carl Mitchell, Alan West, Michael Lindsey, Mark Wesley and Roger 'Twiggy' Day.

After a search for many years to find Axel back, it was succeeded in getting contact with him again in late autumn 2015 on Facebook. Here he was active under his new name 'Lung Sen'. Axel Bosdorf was born on September 14th in Dresden and grew up in Lörrach, near the German-Swiss border. Here he studied at the Hans-Thoma-Gymnasium. After that he visited the Hotel School in Luzern to become a cook. During that period he also worked freelance as a deejay in several discotheques and for radiostations after which he went to RNI.



Axel in RNI studio Photo: Bruno Brandenburg

When leaving the station he went to work for the Swiss Travel organisation 'Hotelplan' as animator and in later years for the Touristorganisation 'TUI', where he was tour leader (in Thailand, Spain, Tunisia and Italy.) Since 1978 he visited on a regular base Pattaya in Thailand where he lived from 1989 for longer periods and accompanied travelling people. Here he took a new name: 'Lung Sen' and got a very close contact to a Thai family which he helped with building a farm. For many years he wrote for a news portal in Thailand 'Farang'. People in Pattaya were very proud of Axel Bosdorf. All those years he kept also his house in Lörrach-Haagen, where he went back after his retirement and passed away on February 11th 2016.

Message from RNI Zurich/Switzerland 'Sad to hear that Axel passed. He was with us at a very early stage of our RNI project. He also performed many times as DJ in our Highlife Night Club in Zurich. We will remember him as an important and kind personality. R.I.P. **Radio Nordsee International** HQ Zurich / Switzerland Mebo Ltd. Edwin Bollier and Victor Pelli.'

It was Andy Archer who asked me to publish this little piece about Axel: "I was so sorry to learn of the death of Axel who was one of the great characters from the early days of R.N.I. in 1970. Unlike the other German disc jockeys on board who could be quite reserved at times, Axel always joined in with the fun and games and practical joking which we Brits perpetrated. We all enjoyed his company and he was well liked by the disc jockeys and crew alike.

I remember when he was trying to think of a suitable surname to use on air; someone was playing a Crosby, Stills and Nash record. We said "What about Crosby?", he said "no", we then suggested Stills and again he said "no", finally, I think it might have been Michael Lindsay said "well it has to be Nash then" and Axel said, "that's fine by me!"

The last time I saw Axel was when he left the ship for the final time forty six years ago and lost contact with him, but my memories of him will always be happy ones.

Next an e mail from Jonathan Walker in England: 'I worked a few times for Radio Sutch. Not much of a DJ but I did know Brian Paul, Lord Sutch's road manager. The transmitter output of the station could not have been more than 100 watts or so in those days. However in the various letters we received was one from India. Addressed to 'The Officer in Charge', it gave a reception report. I believe it must have been genuine because the Indian must have thought we were a military station as he heard we were broadcasting from Gun Towers. How 100 watts on 197 metres got to India I shall never know. 'A little bit of heaven on 197' as we would say! Thanks for all the hard work Hans, Jonathan Walker.'

Well thanks a lot for sharing this very interesting e mail. Reception reports are always interesting when they come from far away. After Jacob Kokje and I released the double LP about The History of RNI a commercial was played on the station how people could order the set. Well it was my PO Box which was used for ordering in 1973 and I still do remember how we got orders from all over the world for this double LP, including the USA and Japan. Of course in the days of internet this is quite normal but not 43 years ago!

Well that ends up this edition from the Hans Knot International Radio Report. Of course there was much more to tell but I want to restrict the report to around 35 pages each month and so already a lot has been replaced to the forthcoming April edition so we haven't forgotten your contribution. Anyone interested in sharing memories, photos and more please send it to HKnot@home.nl Till another edition best wishes, Hans.