

Hans Knot International Radio Report October/November 20018

Welcome to another combined edition of the international radio report. I had again severe computer problems during the past 4 months. The computer, which was bought last December, suddenly was dead one Saturday evening. Of course there was guarantee and it was sent back to the company. But after 6 weeks we heard that nothing could be repaired and that they would deliver a brand new computer. But in the small letters it was mentioned that no hard disk would be given back and they would destroy all the contents. Next came the new one and our man, who always installs our computer with programmes, took contact the 3rd day after deliverance. Also that brand new one failed to do anything after just one attempt. So another computer was sent and installed and next there was work to do for me.

So once again I had to put all the internet addresses into Outlook again, one by one, as it is not compatible with the address system on the university where all the addresses are also stored on a computer. So I added all I had and it can be so that you get the report as a non-radio enthusiast. If so, just e mail me and I will delete you from the list at once. For all the others, please enjoy another report with a lot of memories, news and more. The last two reports, like all the others from the past, can be downloaded on www.hansknot.com

Thanks a lot for all the e mails and messages. Of course also nice reflections which are coming in on Marine Broadcasting on fb, where I publish on a daily scale memories, will be in the report for those who are a non-member of this Facebook group, where no new members will be accepted.



The above photo from the Radio Syd vessel is on the opening page of the FB Marine Broadcasting, hosted by Paul de Haan.

Sunday September 16th the sad news came in that in the afternoon Robin Adcroft passed away after a hard fought battle with cancer. It was around three months ago Robin wrote me that he had moved some time ago from Kent to Cheltenham in Gloucestershire and that he needed a little operation and would come back after that with some memories. However the situation around Robin was more worse than expected. Some days before his passing I was informed by some of the former RNI colleagues about the bad situation. Another star of the RNI family has gone.



Robin Banks on the MEBO II Photo: Theo Dencker

Some more about his career here from the archive of Jon Myer at the Pirate Hall of Fame. 'Robin was born in Cheltenham, Gloucestershire (birthday 23rd May), Robin was a fan of the sixties offshore stations and was lucky enough to visit Radio 390's Red Sands Fort in 1967. Robin was fascinated by the place and in 1968, whilst working at Twickenham Films Studios, he encouraged director Dick Lester to film some of his movie The Bedsitting Room (which starred Spike Milligan) on the fort. Unfortunately lack of finance prevented this.



Robin Adcroft on Red Sands Photo: Martin Stevens

There were also unsuccessful plans to use the fort as a discotheque or hotel. Robin followed his interest in radio by becoming involved with various landbased pirates and, in January 1973, joining Radio Caroline, soon after the ship had returned to the Northsea. He was originally employed as an engineer but soon found himself presenting programmes too.

In August 1973 he moved to Radio Northsea International where he changed his name to Robin Banks (Robino Banco). He stayed with RNI until its closedown the following year and then worked aboard its ship, the MEBO II, preparing her for a planned future as Radio Nova International. When these plans were foiled, he worked with Spangles Muldoon in his electronics firm, with Robb Eden in Dutch

clubs and as an engineer for Rank Xerox. He then moved to the Voice of Peace, the offshore station anchored off the coast of Israel, before returning to the MEBO II, which by this time had been sold to the Libyan government.



Robin Banks on the Voice of Peace Photo: Freewave Archive

In the eighties he worked as a transmitter engineer in Ireland and was involved briefly in the early days of (eighties offshore station) Laser 558. Robin has installed dozens of TV and radio stations in Central America, North and West Africa and in the Middle East. He was also one of the leading lights of the campaign to preserve Red Sands fort, Project Redsand. He was not the same 'Robin Banks' who has been heard on Virgin, Xfm, Kiss, etc..'

Thanks to Jon for the information and now an Obituary written on the afternoon of Robin's passing by Andrew Dawson, aka Andy Archer:

'My old friend Robin Adcroft passed away at the Leckhampton Court Hospice near Cheltenham on Sunday September 16th. I went to see him with Robb and Nickki Eden a fortnight before he died and we spent most of the day reminiscing about the adventures, narrow escapes and countless laughs we had together over the past 51 years. Despite being very weak and struggling with his breathing, he was the perfect host as ever.'

During the last few days of Robin's life, our small group of his oldest friends were in regular contact with each other and sending messages of support to keep his spirits up, Robb and Nickki, Brian McKenzie, Roger Kent (who also visited him two days before he died), Johnny Jason, A.J. Beirens, Michael Lindsay, Victor Pelli and Edwin Bollier. But above all, the frequent visits and the love and support Robb and Nickki Eden gave to Robin and his partner Zac goes way beyond words.

I first met Robin in 1967 when we were both volunteering and anoraking at the Free Radio Association in Rayleigh, Essex. He was the Photographic Officer and had just returned from taking photographs aboard all of the remaining pirate radio ships. He was a wonderful character and we hit it off straight away. Aside from his talent as a photographer, he was a great mimic too and would keep me in fits of laughter with tales of what went on in the committee meetings. One of his party pieces was imitating a rather eccentric and slightly deaf member of the committee. If she hadn't heard a particular point which was being discussed she would exclaim rather loudly "I didn't quite hear you eeeuggghh"!! It became one of his catch-phrases and I'm sure many of his friends reading this will recall the countless occasions they heard those words flowing from his mouth in a high pitched scream.

As will those crazy days at 14 Addison Gardens which became the most disreputable flat in Shepherd's Bush in the late 60s. It will bring a smile to the faces of all who shared that particular period of madness in Robin's life. I'll never forget it.



Robb Eden, Johnny Jason, Elija van den Berg, Andy Archer and Robin Banks. Photo: Collection Elija van den Berg.

He began his offshore "pirate" radio career on the Mi Amigo in 1972/73 but is best known for his work on Radio Northsea International where he presented programmes using the name Robin Banks. Banks was the surname of his beloved grandmother, who like Robin, was a great character too. After R.N.I. closed, Robin continued to work for the MEBO organization, which took him to all parts of the world. It's such a pity he never recorded the stories of his adventures in Libya which were every bit as exciting as his days on the "pirate" ships.

Robin will be greatly missed by the many people he crossed paths with. He was loving, gentle, witty, down to earth and above all one of the nicest people you could ever wish to meet.

My thoughts are with Zac, Robb and Nickki and the wonderful memories of a dear friend.

Andy Archer, September 16th 2018.

Here a reflection from Kate Carry: 'My dear friend Robin, remembering those days in Addison Gardens 1968 when you used to go to bed fully clothed so that you would get up and out the flat within a couple of minutes to get the tube to work ! Electricity was free the Phone in the hallway was rigged for free calls we ate at the Wimpey on Shepherds Bush most evenings, all making a quick escape when Mr. Younghusband came for the rent which was about £7 a week ! Then Chris invented The Caroline Club and the rest is history. We will all be in that place soon Robin, save a place for me and look after my Chris. xxxxxxxx RIP I am so sad.'

A.J. Beirens writes:

'It was in the early 70's that I first made Robin's acquaintance. At the time he was an avid listener of North Sea Goes DX on RNI and paid me a visit in Belgium. Robin dearly wanted to be part of the offshore scene and was more than qualified. Soon afterwards I embarked on a return visit, which meant negotiating the precarious hill that led up to Yooahoo cottage in Dover. There, I vividly remember, in an upstairs room on an antique chair sat an intriguing short wave transmitter connected to a long antenna wire which was attached to the back of one of the white cliffs. Some years later the device would come in handy for the Sunday broadcasts of Channel Radio.

Soon however Robin's landlubbering days were over and he took to the salty airwaves, first on Caroline and then on RNI, where many good times we had, and where he soon acquired a large following. When he went on shore leave he often spent a few days at my apartment in Ostend. There, in between meals and storytelling (and after a visit to Tandy = Radio Shack) Robin found the time to conjure up a small FM transmitter. It only covered part of the town, but we had great fun walking through the seaside resort listening to our own radio station. It didn't even have a name. Boys and their toys. Those were the days.



AJ in studio MEBO II Photo: Freewave Archive

As we were both on board the MEBO to enjoy a wonderful X-mas 1973, the following year, after the demise of RNI, Robin invited me to spend X-mas with his family in Cheltenham. That was a first for me, a genuine English X-mas. On Boxing Day Robin took me to the house of Granny Banks, where I was presented with yet another festive meal. Robin's granny was an exceptionally good cook!

When later Robin was working on the Voice of Peace he still continued to stop over at my place on his way back to Britain. It always was a time for storytelling, and Robin recounted many. It is a pity he never wrote them down. For instance how they made their own Arabian songs, because the ones they had available on the ship all lasted for 15 minutes or more, which would have driven away most non-Arab listeners.



NOVA studio Italy Photo: Theo Dencker

Then there also was the Libyan adventure. According to Robin the high power of the transmitter on the renamed MEBO caused the washing on the clothes lines around the port of anchorage to be singed. As a result (instead of moving the ship or removing the clothes lines) the transmitter output had to be reduced until the clothes were no longer burnt. The MEBO's high power also interfered with wheat in the hold of a cargo ship at the port, so much so that the dockers believed evil spirits were at work, and ran off refusing to unload the vessel. Around that time we were setting up Radio Nova in Italy. In the evening Robin used to switch on the MEBO's short wave transmitter and play music, RNI jingles and

peculiar Dutch shout-outs while we were having the evening meal on our Monte Fontane, the hill in Camporosso we were broadcasting from. Libya was just across the Med from where we were situated.

Over the next few decades we kept in touch and visited whenever possible. At those occasions Robin liked to talk about the projects in Latin America and later his pet subject the restoration of Red Sands Fort in the Thames Estuary. As I write this it is just a day since Robin's passing, and already he is sorely missed; Goodbye Robino Banko (y su cajetilla musical -as one of his Latin jingles went).'

May I thank you AJ for the wonderful memories? Here's Tom Hardy who worked with Robin of the coast of Israel: 'Tom Hardy: RIP Robin... Worked with him briefly on the VOP in '76... Will always remember him recording promos with multiple blankets over his head to drown out the generator noise! Great voice, totally genuine fella!'

Lindsay Reid: 'Very sad news. Had known each other for 50 years. Great broadcaster in both the presentation and engineering fields.'

Paul Graham: 'Yes very sad saw him about 2/3 years ago we were to work on a West African Am broadcast site near Cameroon which never happened but we had meetings regarding this project although I did export the TX to the area....known Robin since the late 70's and worked with him in Ireland at one time I will miss him.'



Robin working in studio ERI Cork. Photo: Paul Graham

Edwin Bollier: 'Goodbye Robin, sad to hear the bad news, through your response from yesterday we see that we have given you Robin, a little joy in the last few hours. We keep you in good memories Edwin Bollier, Erwin Meister and Victor Pelli RNI & MEBO Group.'

Andy Cadier: 'Very sad to hear this news, I first met Robin Adcroft (as he was then) in the early 1970s when he helped Eddie Austin run a landbased MW pirate "Channel Radio" at Dover. He became Robin Banks when he joined RNI. Life seems far too short for so many free radio pioneers.'

Ian Biggar: 'When Robin was installing the 5kw transmitter at ERI in Cork, I volunteered to help him as we were off the air at the time. I am sure that my "help" was more of a hindrance, but Robin being the lovely man that he was graciously put up with my incompetence! We were back in touch in more recent years and it is with a real sadness that I learned of his passing. RIP Robin.'

Paul Rusling: 'Devastating news, even though expected. Robin continued working offshore into the 80s, and was involved in the Laser balloon tests and the fun we had on 729 transmitting 'sans antenna', as well as a couple of other projects. He loved the exotic trips and recently got very involved with the fun on Red Sands once again. I really wish he had written a book - he had the most amazing life. Very sorely missed.'



Paul and Robin 1973

Another former colleague is Bob Noakes who wrote: 'Hans...

I was very shocked to hear about the death of Robin Adcroft (Banks). I did not even know that he was sick! He was one of the few remaining Mi Amigo stalwarts, not afraid to cook a dinner, mend a diesel engine or build a mast when we had to. An accomplished engineer, a great and natural broadcaster, a wholly likeable fellow and one of a small number of people whom I regarded as a genuine friend. I shall miss him.'

Then an avid listener to his programs was Liz Poole: 'Hi, Hans, I just wanted to contact you by way of a tribute to Robin Banks (Adcroft). As a teenaged girl hooked on RNI, I kind of hero-worshipped the DJs, but did not have to do so from afar in the case of Robin Banks. I was lucky to live near Dover - good reception on the radio, and one of the routes from Europe to England - and when Robin read out one of my requests on RNI and said he would have to come and see the face behind the postcards, I was so excited! So, one shore-leave, we met in a café in Dover and I came face to face with one of my heroes. Wow!

Another time we watched 'Top of the Pops' together. I felt very honoured. He also came to my house, the 'famous address' on the frequent postcards, and I thought it was lovely that he took the trouble to get to know any of the people who wrote to the station. RNI was such a big part of my life that it was only when it closed that I realised how unhappy I was at home and the close-down made me reassess my life and leave home. Robin came to visit me in my bedsit, bringing a bottle of vodka, and we reminisced about what RNI meant to us, I got absolutely sozzled and he tucked me up in bed before he left!

One of my friends got involved in the Red Sands project and said he had met Robin, so I said it would be fun to all meet up, and a couple of years ago it happened, Robin and Zac coming to a pub near where I live. He had had such an interesting life during the more than forty years since I had last seen him, there wasn't time for all the catching up, but it was so lovely to see him again, and I'm really glad

to have had that opportunity. Like you, Hans, he still remembered my postcards with 'frog' drawings on them, after all that time!



My friend said Robin was ill some time ago and I was so hoping he would pull through. He was a charming gentleman, who did a lot for a lot of people and died too young. Rest in peace, Robin. Liz Poole.'

Next memories from Peter Murpha aka Peter Chicago: 'Hallo Hans, I have been sorry and shocked to hear about the death of Robin Adcroft. I hadn't known that Robin was ill, so his death has come as a complete surprise.

About a week ago, maybe slightly longer, I returned home to find that Robin had left a brief message on my answerphone. In the message he sounded his usual self, and his message was just that he wanted to have a chat, and catch up on News and Gossip. The sort of casual call that had happened from time to time over the years.

He said he would try later, but that call never came, and because there had seemed no particular urgency, I didn't make any effort to return his call. It was quite usual for Robin to talk about a "get together", but somehow the plans never worked out.

I first met Robin in the late nineteen sixties, probably late in 1968.

At the time he was living in West London, and was a member of the "Free Radio Association", a group of radio enthusiasts who were collectively campaigning to introduce commercial radio into the United Kingdom. Inevitably, within the group there were those that hoped to bring back Radio Caroline from the High Seas, and perhaps others that wished to create their own radio stations offshore. I met Robin through a mutual friend, Michael (Mike) Bass, who also had connections to the Free Radio Association, or FRA.



Mike Bass in the transistor room Mi Amigo Photo: Freewave Archive number 1670

An inner circle of friends used to meet at another West London flat, one that later became quite famous in radio circles, in Addison Gardens. It was from that flat that a landbased pirate radio station was launched, initially as a one day "spectacular", but later it became a station that used to broadcast at weekends, from different locations, mainly in in west London. That radio station was Radio Free London.

The programmes for the weekend broadcasts were recorded at Robin's Flat, where a small studio had been set up. At the time Robin was working as a technician at Twickenham Film Studios and I remember that the studio microphone, an impressive RCA Microphone, nicknamed a "Bomb" Microphone because of its shape,

had come from the studios. The DJs were former Radio Caroline Disk Jockeys, and we had Jason Wolf, and Bud Ballou recording programmes during that time. Jason was from Caroline North, and Bud had been on Caroline South. Chris Cary also made some programmes at that time.

Robin had a fascination for the Red Sands Forts in the Thames Estuary, and he never gave up hope of seeing them restored. Over the years Robin campaigned tirelessly for money to restore the forts to their former glory, and he did manage to keep interest in the forts alive.

One of his big achievements was persuading an offshore construction company to donate and install a completely new access tower, heavily constructed in steel, to give safe access to one of the towers. He wanted to create new bridges to link the separate towers, and I believe he saw the first such bridge, using steel ropes, and a wooden walkway, constructed.



Robin on Red Sands Photo: Project Red Sands

About ten years ago Robin took advantage of the special licensing system available in the UK, and obtained a one month Medium Wave license to broadcast from the fort. That broadcast was very

successful, and one that Robin must have been very proud to have made possible. Although the power was quite low, because of the location of the forts, the reception covered a very wide area, and many people got to hear Red Sands Radio live from the Thames Estuary.

I know that Robin was thrilled to see the forts furnished, and occupied by a team of broadcasters for the whole one month period of the broadcast. For that month, the tower that we used came alive, with carpeting on the floors, plenty of food and supplies in the galley, and two diesel generators to supply the power.

Although I knew Robin over the course of many years, our paths only crossed occasionally. Often we met up when we both visited our mutual friend Mike Bass, but after Mike's death in 2002, we rarely saw each other. I think the last time I saw Robin was when we're bringing equipment back from the Red Sands Fort, and that would have been about ten years ago.

I know this background information is not quite what you wanted, but during the period of both Caroline and Northsea our paths never crossed. Robin joined Radio Northsea after I had already left and gone to Caroline. Then later, Robin continued to work for Meister and Bollier, and we would only meet up very occasionally.

Best Regards, Peter Chicago.'

Thanks a lot for your input Peter and yes a totally other memories than those above and much appreciated. Take care of yourself.'

From Chris Edwards we heard that OEM has now a tribute on line: A www.offshoreechos.com

Robin's funeral will take place on Friday 12th October at 11.15. The Cheltenham Crematorium, Bouncer's Hill, Prestbury, Cheltenham GL52 5LT. Zack, Robin's partner, asked that instead of flowers, to send a donation to Sue Ryder Leckhampton Hospice in Cheltenham.

Next is Pez Anderson: 'Hi Hans hope you are keeping well. Thanks for posting the EAP/ Laser letter. I used to work at EAP, in fact I started when it was based at Rays bungalow and was just dealing with the LP's. I was coming to the end of 6th Form and Ray asked if I wanted to work with him full time as he was about to move to the new EAP premises. We spent some time converting the house/shop to studios and offices and there was also a DJ shop downstairs. I worked in the Office and dubbing studio and also with Ray in the main studio. I also put together news reports/info for Radio Mi Amigo.

When we recorded the 100 comedy DJ inserts, my band was also involved supplying backing tracks etc. (my favorite was the batman sketch) we had great fun making the sound fx as well as recording it with Billy Howard, we were laughing all the time, fun times. I met so many pirate DJ's at the studio. Also went to Flashback 67, what an experience.



The recording studio was then expanded to 24 track but by then I had left, call of the sea and eventually joined HM Coastguard based at Walton then posted to Swansea. Maritime career done and dusted and I own my own 24 track recording (analogue) studio and rehearsal facility. Still have a major interest in the pirate stations and in fact

have a copy of the Samantha Dubois recording you sent Bill Rollins (stop touching my tits) absolute classic. I'm still in touch with Bill and Ray which is nice. Anyway all the best for now. Regards. Pez Anderson Abertawe road studio.'

Thanks a lot Perez for these memories and good that you still using your own studio. Bill and Ray are both also readers of the report and surely will enjoy that you brought this back in memory.

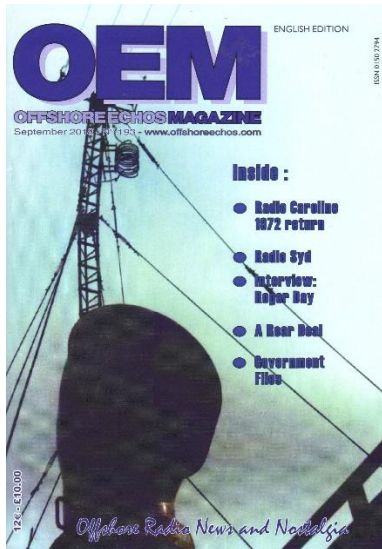
The MV Ross Revenge, Home to Radio Caroline from 1983 to 1990 Restoration work on Ross Revenge has been ongoing. In August 2004, the vessel was used for (legitimate) Radio Caroline broadcasts on 1278 kHz, while berthed on the River Thames at Tilbury. This was funded by the UK National Lottery organisation. As is usual with Restricted Service Licence broadcasts, transmission power was restricted to one watt. Following broadcasts, she remained berthed at Tilbury, and restoration work continued on the studio, which was completely reconstructed. General restoration and refitting of the ship took place during 2004-2006, including the fitting of a new central heating boiler, improvements to the electrical system, repainting of the ship, and refurbishment of the Mess Room and Crew Quarters.

This video was taken on 21st July 2018 during its Radio Caroline North Live Broadcast from the ship Filmed By: Mike Taylor 4K Footage using the DJI Mavic Pro Editing in Adobe Premiere Pro CC

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ISN2SHruX6Q&feature=youtu.be>

OFFSHORE ECHOS MAGAZINE

The new issue of Offshore Echos Magazine is now available.



Issue no. 193 for September 2018 includes:

Ben Toney tribute

Radio Caroline 1972 return part 2

Interview - Roger Day part 1

Radio Syd Story Part 7

Government files

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OFFSHORE ECHOS MAGAZINE (OEM): De Laatste, De Beste

Jenni Baynton Offshore 2018 was again a success from the Waddenzee. Click here for 181 pictures and 12 videos:

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/offshoreradio/albums/72157672817032658>

In Belgium in August was a short RSL called Offshore FM and the photos are also on our Flickr pages:

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/offshoreradio/albums/72157695635331200>

July 26th, it was already 16 years ago that Howard George Leslie Rose his funeral took place at the Holy Trinity Church in Rothwell. Many of you know him as Jay Jackson, others prefer Chrispian St. John. I remember him first as a very young guy who became member of Pirate Radio News in 1969 but there are more memories as I wrote in an article way back in the day after he died.

http://www.icce.rug.nl/~soundscapes/VOLUME05/IM_Howard_Rose_UK.shtml

The Sun 22-7-1966

Offshore Echos

Pirate radio ship adrift

The pop radio ship **Cheetah II** was towed into Harwich, Essex, by a tug last night after she dragged her anchor in heavy seas and threatened to collide with Radio Caroline.

It is believed the **Cheetah** is due to leave Harwich at the weekend for a refit before starting broadcasting off another part of the English coast.

Above newspaper article I published in Marine Broadcasting fb group and brought a reflection from Stephen Muir-field: 'I was on board the **Cheetah II** at the time and was to be fitted out and was to be become Radio 390 North off the Welsh coast. The anchor was

dragging in the stormy weather and the vessel was in danger of drifting into the Caroline vessel. The engines needed a cartage start and hadn't been used for a considerable time when the attempt to start them the engine's blew the head gasket's. We were in a bit of bother and had to radio for assistance and emergency tow. Next we were towed into Harwich and a writ was nailed to the mast and so that was the end of the 390 North project.'

Thanks a lot Stephen for giving the additional information to the newspaper cut.



**wmca turns people on.
Just ask Mr. Pants,
Suzuki Motorcycles
and 262 other sponsors
who advertise on the
Gary Stevens Show.**

Gary Stevens turns on teen-agers. That's his job. And it's one he's uniquely qualified for. It hasn't been so long since Gary was a teen-ager himself. (He's only 25.) He talks teen-agers' language. About dating and music and fads. And they listen to what he says. About motorcycles and clothes and almost anything else that teen-agers dig. Which is nice to know if you want them to dig your product before they dig someone else's.



Do you remember the Gary Stevens show as transmitted by Swinging Radio England as well as Radio City. On his then almost daily shows in the USA he had a lot of advertisers. In May 1966, so before he was on mentioned offshore stations, this above advertisement could be read in Broadcasting.

His post-WMCA career was fascinating and fabulously successful. A good resume up to 1982: <http://www.mcrfb.com/?p=26666>

And subsequently:

<https://www.allaccess.com/power.../archive/6243/gary-stevens>

Paul Bailey is next: 'Hello Hans, in the October 2010 newsletter states that the PP7 battery pack for transistor radios is no longer available. They are still made. Regards, Paul.'

[PP7, 266, Energizer 266, Eveready PP7, NEDA 1605 Battery](#)

It's really amazing old issues are still read and thanks for updating me Paul. Old issues of the Hans Knot International Radio Report can all be read again up till early 2004 on www.hansknot.com

Mike Dixon is next: 'Hi Hans, I hope you are well and enjoying the summer. It's Miles Nixon here, formerly of the Voice Of Peace, you may remember my account of life aboard the Peace Ship from several years ago. I writing to inform you of my internet station, Libertino Radio.

Libertino Radio is a blend of Alternative and World Music, 24/7 and ad-free. It's music only currently but I hope to begin presenting again soon, once I have a website and various tech aspects dealt with. Of course Libertino Radio is fully legal, paying royalties etc. Libertino Radio is available through many sources such as TuneIn, Dirble etc, Some links below.

<https://www.liveradio.ie/stations/libertino-radio>

<http://libertino.radio.net/>

<https://tunein.com/radio/Libertino-Radio-s302840/>

<https://dirble.com/station/libertino-radio>

<http://radio.garden/live/toronto/libertino-radio/>

<http://www.streamitter.com/libertino-radio-11505.php>

<https://laradiofm.com/Station-152>

<http://radio.nadaje.com/pl/stations/radio-stations/station/2152/>

<http://dir.xiph.org/search?search=Libertino>

I would be very grateful if you could give Libertino Radio a mention in your radio report, without an advertising budget it is very difficult to get the station "out there". Many thanks for any help mentioning the station, best regards, Miles Nixon.'

Thanks for informing Miles and hopefully readers can make a choice which link to click for listening to your station. I was wondering if you visited one of the radio museums during the family holiday in the Netherlands.

Next an advice from Martin van der Ven: 'Our eyes are the first ones to see this collection of very rare clips:

<http://www.offshore-radio.de/links/reuters.htm>

Make sure to click on the "full screen" button when watching.

If you've a question, memory or special photo which you want to share with the other readers please don't hesitate to send it to me at HKnot@home.nl



Photo Freewave Nostalgia Archive.

When asking you which was the tender for Radio Veronica most of you will mention the 'Ger Anne'. But in the very early days some other ships were used too. This above photo shows the tendering in 1960 to the Borkum Riff, the first radio ship for Radio Veronica.

Ian MacRae newsletter is out: **"The Radio Wave" Keeping Media People in Touch**

11th.August 2018

Issue #145

Ian MacRae, Editor, radiowave@allaboutradio.net

In this issue of The Radio Wave...

- Masked man enters radio station studio and shoots DJ
- Radio legend quits in middle of his show
- China: professor missing after radio interview is interrupted
- Radio host Art Bell died of accidental drug overdose: coroner
- Radio announcer shot dead in the Philippines
- Adolf Hitler speech transmitted on police radios across Chicago

You want to read the full contents, just subscribe free of charge at:
radiowave@allaboutradio.net

In 1973 a group of German radio friends made a visit to The Hague. Some months ago I asked in the facebook group Marine Broadcasting who did remember the Van Hoogendorpstreet there. And Harald Hummel thought back to the summer of 1973 and asked one of his companions, Walter Lotz if he still had the photos, which were made during a visit to the Van Hoogendorpstreet and so the Caroline Office. We're proud in getting permission to bring some of the photos into the radio report.



THE ELECTION CAMPAIGN OF 1970 by Pam J. Bird Gaines

Hans, - you ask for memories of the FRA campaign leaflet against the jamming of RNI - well, where do I start? I found my 1968, 1969 and 1970 diaries, handwritten as a teenager, which recounted all the happenings at 239. At the age of 65, I need a magnifying glass to read them!

First, some background, I should explain that I had been involved with the work of the FRA since I joined on Friday 9th August 1968 - the second week of the school holidays. I lived locally, (Benfleet is about four miles from Rayleigh). I was fifteen, and one of my first jobs at the FRA (or 239, as we came to call it) was sending an information pack and FRA joining forms, to all the members of the Radio London Club, which had closed down the previous August. Radio London had sent all their membership forms to us. I will never forget being ushered into a room by June Pearl to be greeted by stacks of blue A4 sheets which had been sorted loosely into alphabetical order around the walls.

Some of the stacks were waist high. I averaged three days a week during the school holidays, and met many people my own age and a few years older, many of whom were to become lifelong friends. Spangles Muldoon dropped by during those weeks, and we also leafletted at a football match in Leytonstone, London. We finished the Radio London job by the time I went back to school the second week of September. After that, we started sending packs to the Broadside membership, and I settled into a pattern of working at the FRA weekends, except for half terms when I was there at least three times during the week as well! At the end of the year I was given a receipt book, and could enroll members myself.



The FRA Committee, left to right: June and Geoffrey Pearl, Lynn Strang, Alan Chapman, Gill and Reg, unknown, John Wright, Robin Adcroft (Banks) standing with cup, unknown sitting on floor. Photo: Lynn Strang.

I was introduced to Buster Pearson - on the 30th October 1968 my diary states - and started doing tapes for Radio Recovery, the Hospital Radio Service he ran, and also for Radio Kaleidoscope, a land-based venture started by Tony Mendoza and Steve Taylor in 1967 (not to be confused with its later incarnation - when we packed up in 1972, Pat Edison restarted it in London). Buster ran an excellent studio, and became the hub for radio activities. All of this is archived at www.bookamook.com/kaleidoscope and on our site there is a link to Pat Edison's separate archive for the later Kaleidoscope. The first Radio Kaleidoscope also has a Facebook page. Radio Kaleidoscope was on all over Christmas 1968.

By early 1969 I was working on Town Analysis at the FRA to analyse the geographical spread of members, so I added statistics to my skill set. It is a wonder I ever got any qualifications from school, I was at 239 so much - but in a way it was good work experience, before the

concept was invented. I attended an independent business college, Clarks College in Southend, and my working life was destined to be office based. The FRA committee meetings were quite a daunting thing for a youngster like me. I was allowed to sit in on some of them. I remember meeting Sir Ian Mactaggart at the January 1969 one, and being paralysed with fear when I raised my hand to leave the room for a 'comfort trip' much to the amusement of my peers.



Sir Ian Mactaggart talking at a free radio demonstration. Photo: Archive Soundscapes

Most of the Committee were in their twenties and thirties, while I was fifteen! There was Geoffrey Pearl, who was 32, and ran the FRA with his wife June, (Administrative Secretary) who was also late twenties/early thirties in 1968. Most of the crowd at 239 averaged some six or seven years older than me.

The Committee were: Mike Tickner, (General Secretary), Margaret Stock, (Treasurer), Martin Baird, (Sound Advertising). Bob Craig was the Branch Coordinator, and a couple of years down the track I was to cross Europe on a fortnight's 'radio tour' in his red Ford Transit van with other committee members - but that is another story. Then there was Tim Davies (Research Officer), Alex McKenna (Publicity Officer), Roy Brooker (Literature Services), Alan Purnell (Graphic Designer), Tony Young (Features Editor, Sound Magazine). Last but not least, there was Lynn Strang (Membership Secretary) who worked like a Trojan, and who I saw for lunch only last week. A very dear friend. Within a year, I was to be on the Clerical Sub-

Committee together with Jackie Fright, Tony Barber, Colin Walker and Ken Bennett.

The icing on the cake was when the DJs dropped in, Andy Archer and Stevi Merike among them. The late Paul Harris, the author was a frequent visitor. Throughout 1969, I fell into the pattern of working at the FRA two or three nights week and at the weekends, because I was studying for my 'O' Levels, RSAs, LCCs and Pitmans. It was a sociable way of life, and they were fun times. The visitors were legion at the weekends, and I met some lovely people. I know there were acrimonious splits and politicking around the FRA, but I can only speak as I find. Geoff and June were very good to me. June, in particular, often looked absolutely exhausted. They lived a very frugal lifestyle, and for dear June, it must have been like running a cross between a Press Office, a Drop-in Centre and a Madhouse at times!



239 Clerical girls on bench on corner of The Chase, near 239. Left to

right: Pam Bird, Gill, Vanessa, Linda van Schagen, Jackie Fright, Choc Hockley, Lynn Strang laying across our laps. Photo: Lynn Strang.

The Clerical Team worked on writing to the Broadside membership in the early months of 1969. I always diarised when we changed jobs. My diary notes in February that Lynn and I toured the local post boxes on bikes, we had so many letters to post, we didn't want to fill the local ones up entirely and upset the neighbours! Martin Rosen (CIB) and Fred Hassler came to February's Committee Meeting. Sometimes after intense meetings or work sessions, we used to let off steam at 239 with massive fights which ranged all over the ground floor using anything to hand, usually paperclips, dish cloths, and Lynn's Gonks (collection of furry animals).

After Easter, the Clerical Team worked on setting up an alphabetical index card system - and typing stencils featured quite highly -all riveting stuff. The mundane, but necessary nuts and bolts of a growing organisation. Lynn was a whizz on the Addressograph, which made a noise like a train.

In May 1969, Klaas Vaak and Stevi Merike visited. I was working on shareholders' envelopes (whatever they were - diary doesn't elucidate). In early September, there was talk of Ronan O'Rahilly starting a TV station, but no-one was very optimistic about it.

Saturday 24th January 1970's entry notes, 'news of a new station perhaps - 'Radio North Sea International'. Hope so'. By the second week of February RNI were doing test transmissions regularly. An entry about then notes 'a strong signal, playing Je t'aime - RNI. At last, free radio is back'. Younger readers must understand that, for us, losing the pirates was tantamount to losing the internet today. In mid-February, we had word that Andy Archer and Carl Mitchell were to join the ship. They were on RNI on 24th February. Full transmissions commenced on Saturday 28th February 1970. They had a few engineering problems and were on and off in early March. Mark Wesley joined RNI on the 10th March and RNI was on the ITV news at ten on the 11th March.

At 239 we were working on the Associate Membership packs. Friday 13th March I noted in my diary that 'RNI unlistenable due to bad morse' but the following day reads, 'RNI being jammed...why can't they leave us alone'.

Sunday 22nd March 1970 there was an FRA Committee meeting. RNI was to move. By Tuesday, they were off Frinton, Essex and the signal was fantastic. They made the TV news again on 27th March. RNI were on intermittently in early April. By Tuesday 14th April, the FRA were handling an enormous amount of mail, and a tired diary entry reads, 'Some mail! Due to RNI's plugs'.



The Demo, left to right: Colin Walker, Tony Barber, Ken Bennett, Pam Bird, Angela. Photo: Lynn Strang.

Wednesday 15th April 1970 - 'RNI jammed. Off air 16th, 17th'.

Thursday 16th April 1970 - 'At 239, sending out appeals for RNI like mad'.

Friday 17th April 1970 - 'At 239, working on RNI letters like a maniac. Short notice demo at Beeb tomorrow'.

It was becoming increasingly clear that we had to get Wilson's Government out.

Saturday 18th April 1970 - 'Demo outside Beeb about the jamming of RNI. Mike Tickner, Alex McKenna, Delphon Branch(?) there. About twenty of us marched down Oxford Street to Marble Arch. The Beeb had been jammed in the morning. I gave Noel Edmonds an Appeal leaflet.'

Monday 20th April 1970 - 'Andy Archer visited 239. He is staying with the Gilberts in Daws Heath Road. RNI testing.'

From late April to May, we worked flat out on the Appeal while trying to keep Associate Memberships up to date, which they were by 9th May. RNI was on/off, playing cat and mouse, changing frequency to VHF, and then to 244 metres.

Sunday 16th May 1970 - 'at 239; sub-committee meeting, then National Committee Meeting. Fifty-six people there! Including Tim Davies, Alan Purnell, Tony Young, Tony Rounthwaite, Bob Craig, Alex McKenna, Ed Moreno'.

Monday 18th May 1970 - 'RNI fantastic signal! Catching up with memberships'

By Thursday lunchtime - they were being jammed again - 'not too bad...listenable', my diary notes.

It was getting to be all hands on deck, and I increased my evenings. Near the end of the month, Choc (Cathy Hockley) came down, and the Clerical Team comprised six people, all working to get things up to date before the big push. Casual drop-ins were a BIG help - the amount of goodwill for the pirates never ceases to amaze me.

A General Election was announced for Thursday 18th June 1970.

On Thursday 4th June, six of us went to the Criterion pub on Southend seafront until it got dark, - and then we literally 'stuck up' town. There were anti-jamming posters everywhere, the new shopping centre, back streets. Anywhere it was possible to stick a poster, we stuck it. The following week, I was at 239 every evening, and so were the rest of the team. A diary entry for Wednesday 10th June reads 'Great arrangements for Sunday going ahead, work going feverishly...loads of people here, ran out of chairs!'



Pam, Simon Dee, Ronan and George Lazenby. Photo: Lynn Strang.

By Thursday 11th June, my Team were working in the kitchen until gone 10pm. There was no room anywhere else.

On Friday 12th June, RNI came back as Caroline. There was a Committee Meeting, and 'loads of people in other rooms'.

Saturday 13th June, I was at 239 by 11.30am and got Associate Members up to date. There were 'visitors galore'. My friends and I repaired to The Lodge for a drink in the evening.

Sunday 14th June 1970. 'Caroline Rally. Went up with Colin Walker, Ken Bennett, Lynn Strang and Tony Barber. There at 2.30pm. Met up with the gang. Met Ronan, Simon Dee and George Lazenby. March to No. 10. Thousands there'.

Monday 15th June - 'at 239 in evening'

Tuesday 16th June - the six of us went out in two cars around Brentwood and Billericay, fly posting and handing out stickers and the anti-jamming leaflet.

Wednesday 17th June - went out in two cars around Rochford and Southend 'sticking' and handing out free RNI stickers and the anti-jamming leaflet.

Thursday 18th June 1970 Election Day. All we could do was wait. Five of us went round to Lyn Strang's house.

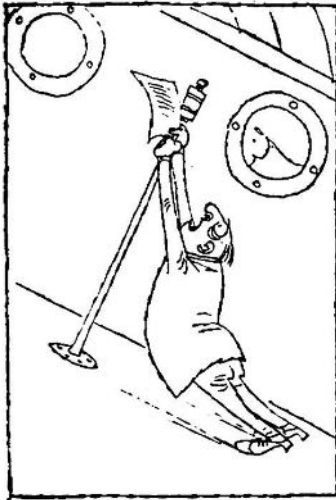
Friday 19th June 1970 - my diary reads, 'Cons in. Champagne at The Lodge with Lynn, Colin, Tony, Margaret etc.' and the rest, my friends, is history. Pam

What an excellent and interesting in depth story Pam, Amazing and thanks for sharing your memories with my readership.

Now Antti Marvia from Finland who mentioned: Here an interesting site about Radio Mercur with many photos and soundcheck (but only in Danish)

<http://www.danskradio.dk/radiomercur.html>

Radio uit volle zee



„ . . . Wij zenden uit op de volgende golflengte . . . ”

I thought it must be time for another cartoon. It goes back in the days no offshore radio station was on the air from international waters of the Dutch coast, but rumours were going round about a station which would become famous as Veronica. I published the cartoon in our FB Group Marine Broadcasting:

Greg Bance reflected on it with: 'And this one cartoon alone explains why Veronica's output was always going to be recorded ashore! Upon reflection, Radio Atlanta ("The Station that Rocks the Nation") was on to something when they decided to have no jocks out at sea. However! Of course it was always going to be more exciting to be live from International Waters. Let us not forget the offshore stations were to be an antidote to the BBC's Light Programme and to the Dutch State broadcasting system.'

August 23rd was a sad one as we received a message from Ron O'Quinn that Larry Dean passed away. Larry was one of the most influential voices in the British radio scene in the sixties. As Program Director for Swinging Radio England Ron O'Quinn was responsible for hiring people like Johnnie Walker and Roger Day and also Larry Dean.

Here's some of the information of what the Pirate Hall of Fame has about Larry in the archive: 'Swinging Radio England launched in May 1966 with a predominantly American DJ crew, three of the team all coming from the same town of Moultrie in Georgia. Larry was one of them, the other two being Ron O'Quinn and Jerry Smithwick.

Larry's real name was Frank Laseter. He had started working in radio at the age of 15 while still at school. He had gone on to a number of different stations and, like many of his fellow American broadcasters, had used various names on air. He once said: "I first started using Larry Dean as an air name in June of 1963 when I was hired at WVLD in Valdosta, Georgia. I continued to use that name until I left in September of the next year. When I took the new job in Tampa, Florida, they decided that I should use 'James Bond'. Not what I would have wanted but it was a job. I returned to Larry Dean when I departed for WPTR the summer of the following year."



Larry on Swinging Radio England Archive OEM

WPTR in Albany, New York, had a fine jingle package produced by PAMS of Dallas and when Larry left there to join Swinging Radio England, he brought a copy of the jingle master tape with him. These jingles were too good to waste and a number of his new colleagues chose their DJ names from the tape. Chuck Blair, Johnnie Walker,

Greg Warren and Boom Boom Brannigan were all WPTR broadcasters who, unknowingly, had identically named colleagues on this side of the Atlantic.

Radio England did not last long and Larry did not stay for its full term. In late summer 1966 he returned to America and resumed his career there. Until sometime ago he was heard, using his real name, as the morning news man on country music station WSOC in Charlotte, North Carolina.' Thanks Larry for what you gave us.

It was very silent around the Emperor who reflects on almost every international radio report since who knows when. The reason I learned on August 23rd when Sherri Lynn wrote: Rosko is resting up at present after having had an op to one of his hands. No doubt you will all want to send him some good thoughts for a speedy recovery!'

Thanks Sherri and I hope that around the time The Emperor will read these line he feels far much better.



The RADIO SHIP NEWS: From September 1st we are playing out

historic Casey Kasem's American Top 40 Shows. Every Saturday at 13-00 UK time commercial FREE. Doug Wood.

Of course you've to visit the latest updates from Mary and Chris Payne on their tribute site for Wonderful Radio London:

<http://www.radiolondon.co.uk/kneesflashes/happenings/2012julyon/july2012.html#news>

And let's see what Jon has to mention about his updates in the Pirate Hall of Fame: 'New this month:

- your webmaster has just returned from a holiday in Australia, where he caught up with a couple of Aussie legends of offshore radio. We have some photos;
- plus some rare recordings of Radio Caroline's Mike Ahern, provided by the woman who used to run his fanclub;
- and there is the sad news of the deaths of Swinging Radio England 'boss jock' Larry Dean and Tony Hiller, the co-writer of 'Caroline' for The Fortunes as well as many other songs.

My thanks as always to the contributors. With best wishes,

Jon

www.offshoreradio.co.uk

Last but not least is an avid writer to the report from London, Ian Godfrey who wrote some weeks ago: 'For the past week I've been tuning into the offshore Seagull/SeaBreeze broadcast; the first time I've listened to either station for some time. I have a feeling that neither will sound quite the same from next Monday. It's the closest we're probably ever likely to get to the former spirit and atmosphere of offshore radio; with references to tenders, boat-trips and hairy weather. Mandy Marton really seems to be in her element! Earlier this week there was a short simulcast with the LV18. I don't know why; possibly connected with its 60th birthday. I hope the Ipswich RSL materialises.'

Well this is page 38 and again more than 12 pages of information had to be left for the December issue. Also there was no room for another chapter in the wonderful Radio Luxembourg story from Phil but surely it will be next time. In the meantime keep sending your memories and more to HKnot@home.nl and keep it going!

Best wishes, Hans Knot