

Hans Knot International Radio Report March/April 2019

Welcome to this edition of the report. Getting all the things together I got a very sad feeling as again a few radio people and friends have gone. Also I cannot publish everything in this issue as so many memories and more came in. So all the other material has to wait till the end of April. But this does not mean you cannot send anymore. Feel free to share you memories with all those others versus HKnot@home.nl

Jack Curtiss posted on Facebook on January 25th: "Saddened to learn of the passing of my Swinging Radio castmate Harry Putnam aka Johnny Dark in Maryland at the age of 82. Deepest Sympathies to widow Cheryl, daughter Michele and the rest of the family."



This is what the Pirate Hall of Fame has about Harry Putnam (born 1936, Washington, D.C.) was an American airtime salesman who worked with and was heard on both Radio Essex and Britain Radio. Before heading to the UK around 1965, he broadcast from the DC area on such stations as WDON, WEAM, WASH, WEEL, WIVE, WPIK and WTOW and served as General Manager at some of them. He became involved with Radio Essex very early in the station's life and brought some high-powered salesmanship to the operation. There are apocryphal stories that he had his car radio 'tweaked' so

that Radio Essex's notoriously weak signal sounded louder than any other station on the dial when he demonstrated it to prospective advertisers; and, allegedly, he could be known to play a client Radio 390's much more powerful output, claiming it was Radio Essex!

Although he was not a daily broadcaster on Radio Essex, Harry's voice was heard on numerous commercials and he did occasionally present programmes from the Knock John fort. Many of the American records played on Radio Essex were from Harry's personal collection. In 1966 he transferred to the Radio England/Britain Radio setup. Again he was mainly employed as an airtime salesman but he also found time to host the regular Sunday evening *R&B Night Ride* on Britain Radio under the name of Johnny Dark.

Following the end of the sixties era of offshore radio, we lost touch with Harry but his Britain Radio colleague Jack Curtiss tracked him down in June 2008. He wrote: "the irrepressible Dark Lord of the Night Ride (aka Harry Putnam) is alive and well, despite having a few strokes, and is living with his current wife, Cheryl, in Pasadena, Maryland, not that far from Towson, the Baltimore suburb where he worked on WTOW years ago." From what we understand from Harry and his family, after Britain Radio closed down in 1967, Harry, his second wife, Penelope, and infant daughter Michele moved back to the Washington DC area and he worked as General Manager at WTOW and WEBB.

By the seventies Harry had left broadcasting altogether but continued to work in the music business, selling recorded background music. He was one of the top producers and eventually went on to own his own background music company, as well as operating several petrol stations, a satellite dish business, and numerous other successful ventures.

Review time:

Is anybody there? by Tom Edwards

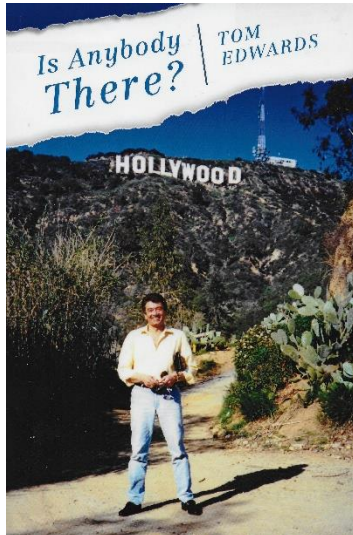
Kaleidoscope Publishing, Handsworth Wood, UK.

212 pages, illustrated

ISBN 978-1900203-79-2

2018

braintv@info



Long ago Tom Edwards, known for his long radio and television career in England, intended to entrust his life story to paper. In the third week of January, the book finally became available in the Netherlands, after it had been published in December during an official presentation.

It has become an honest story of mainly own experiences, in which Tom did not protect himself by avoiding his very difficult periods in life in the book. The first four chapters are mainly about his youthful years, in which he lost his father at an early stage. He spends his late teens for almost two years - of course with leave periods - on Shivering Sands, one of the Maunsel forts in the Thames estuary, where Radio City was located in the mid-sixties of the last century.

The entire event around the station, in which owner Reginald Calvert was shot dead by a director of another station, he has experienced from close by and will of course be discussed in detail. But also memories that never before came out of that period, are told. Like a relationship with another employee that broke down because a third person came between both partners. Tom Edwards was taken from the fort at one point because of food poisoning and more than half a

century later he doesn't know if there was any intentional involvement, as he was the only one on board the fort with these phenomena.

After Radio City finally came to an end, Dorothy Calvert, then the owner of the station, promised to help the City deejays find a new job, and not much later Tom Edwards received a phone call from the Caroline office requesting him to work for Caroline South and on his way to the ship two former City deejays turned out to be present. Then Tom describes in chapter 6 his experiences on Radio Caroline and the breaking of his promise to return on board on August 14th, 1967, and the entry of the MOA. He then switched to BBC Local TV.

In the chapters that followed he devoted a lot of attention to his entrance into the BBC Radio section where older listeners complained in newspapers that a former offshore deejay presented a BBC programme, but also especially to the description of how people treated each other correctly or not within the BBC.

By the way, the same can be said about his many jobs in many places as an employee in the radio and television world, where he does not avoid telling the truth about colleagues who were not so strict with the rules. There are also occasional moments when the story provoked a good laugh.

At some point he decides to leave for California to see if a future can be built there. His homosexual relationship comes to an end and after many setbacks he decides to return to England where it turned out that his elderly mother suddenly came to live in a small house; the big house was sold and the will changed. Changes he never saw. Meanwhile he had been touched by the drink for years, especially by the high work pressure. After a few years of working for the BBC again and being sidelined again, Edwards lapses into the drink and a very difficult period of, among other things, wandering and at a certain moment he is sentenced to prison by a judge for repeated public drunkenness.

Fortunately Tom comes out of a deep valley again after a very long period of clinic and he was able, as already mentioned, very honestly, to have his heavy biography published in book form.

To order at www.tvbrain.info Kaleidoscope Publishing

Hans Knot

Look, who's there again, the main man from Los Angeles, Rosko. He lost my report on his computer and reflected 3 weeks later then I normal was used to.

'Hi, I am still getting used to your change of format to the cloud etc. I had lost your last letter as I was looking in the wrong place. Well done as always, I guess you will need to advance the cause and go to a visual next month. Imagine you doing it like a teacher with your pictures and blackboard. We will see it as well as read about it I know, know, nothing a sponsor can't fix.'

Well Rosko I will stay with the new format whereby every reader get the message to download it. Never forget it goes out to around 4000 people and it cost a lot of time to send away in old style. Above that it's now possible to publish better quality photos. And talking about photos The Emperor went on with: 'I loved the Offshore magazine OEM picture of Ronan! He looks the pirate part! He was the part I should say. RTL Germany story was cool but 20-80 % ratio of English vs German service was scary. They were lucky. My time on RTL France was 50 - 50. Have a good winter and thanks again for polishing off all our histories! EMP P.S. you're the king of pictures

but I will throw you with this one, which was my second wife.'



Thanks Rosko but you didn't tell which one was your second wife. Lucky in a certain way I recognized Annaliese on the right, so on the left it's Beverly.



THE 19th ERKRATH RADIODAY

Saturday, June 15th, 2019

On that Saturday we are for the third time guest at the Technical Museum QQTec in the city Hilden. This location and its large exhibition met great enthusiasm of the visitors last year.

The event is scheduled from 13:00 to 19:00 hours.

Details to the days schedule will follow soon.

The location:

QQTec , Forststr. 73 , D-40721 Hilden www.qqtec.de/museum/

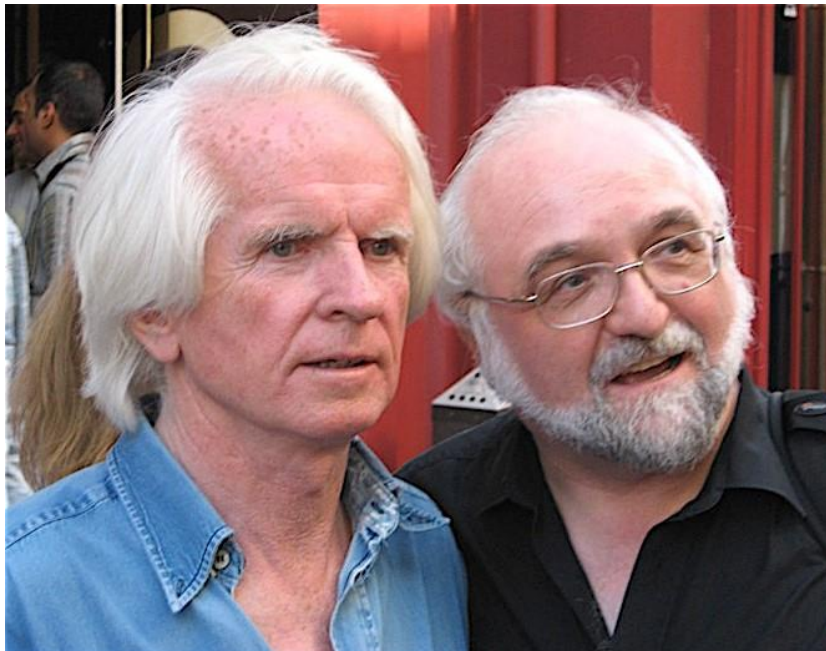
GPS 051° 10,23` N , 006° 54,12` E

The entrance fee is 12.- EURO.

Jan Sundermann

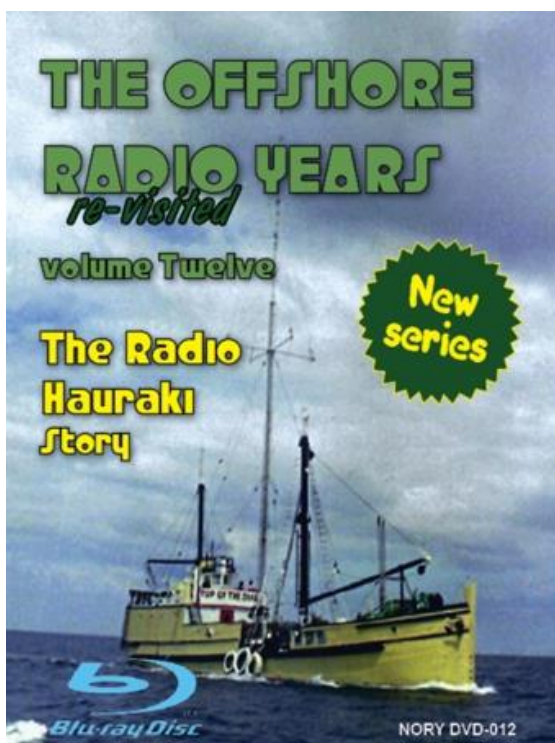
radiotag.erkrath@yahoo.com

Sad news is the loss of Alan Milewczyk. Alan was a true radio lover, his knowledge was high also about his love for soul music. Alan's parents roots were in Poland and therefore his nickname was 'The Pole with the Soul'. The RadioDay team had contact with him for more than 3 decades. He wrote around the 25th of January that he had to go into hospital again for two operations. His severe heart problems broke up again and also an operation for cancer had to be done. He didn't make it and died in a hospital in Manchester on February 7th. In 2009 Alan was honored during the Annual Radio Day in Amsterdam with the 'Radio Anoraks Award'. The photo was taken in 2007 when he met Caroline's Ronan O'Rahilly.



A shed-based DJ, whose interest in radio was sparked by pirate station Radio Caroline, has had his "dream come true" by visiting the ship it broadcasts from.

Deke Duncan, 73, was given his own one-hour special on BBC local radio last year after broadcasting to just his wife for more than 40 years. read more here: https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-beds-bucks-herts-47276976?fbclid=IwAR1Ya0wqbdauZSF7qMUeuJC7Y35M9Eu7q7c03Gd-iKPjmDVjSEqZ6E_0EaM



Review by Martin van der Ven:

'As a teenager I regularly made tape recordings of my beloved offshore radio stations. One highlight was a recording of an NSGDX broadcast by A.J. Beirens about Radio Hauraki. Again and again I listened to the recording where the ship Tiri stranded off the Great Barrier Reef. "We're on the rocks... I love you Mum and Dad." Radio Hauraki at the other end of the world: For me that was David's fight against Goliath, but also part of the youth movement against the

establishment. The dramatic "1111 Days At Sea" led to a victory against the authorities, and Radio Hauraki was the first and only offshore station to succeed in obtaining an official license on land while still broadcasting from the high seas. You can now relive the fascinating story of this radio station up close with the new DVD/Bluray from Offshore Echos, and I promise you: You will get goose bumps when watching the Tiri on the rocks.

Once again a highly professional oeuvre has been achieved containing amazing video material, hundreds of photos, countless recordings and jingles and above all the music of the years 1968 to 1970. I guarantee you will be thrilled. This DVD/Blu-ray should not be missing in your collection either. It is particularly recommended by The Offshore Radio Guide!

NEW FROM OFFSHORE ECHO'S

The latest DVD / Blu-ray in the highly acclaimed series of documentaries on the history of Offshore radio, from Offshore Echo's, is now available

THE OFFSHORE RADIO YEARS REVISITED VOLUME 12 features RADIO HAURAKI

With radio in New Zealand controlled by the state, David Gapes and a group of like-minded young people decided to follow the example of offshore radio in Europe, to break the state broadcasting monopoly.

With limited finance and a lot of do-it-yourself ethic, they acquired and fitted out a ship, coming on air as Radio Hauraki, the name Hauraki a most appropriate Maori word meaning "sound from the sea".

There were many highs and lows in the story, including the loss of their first ship in a storm, and the sad loss of one of their deejays in the final days.

Radio Hauraki eventually, after just over three years at sea, did achieve their goal to obtain a land-based broadcasting license.

This documentary contains airchecks, interviews, and much rare photo and film material of Radio Hauraki's offshore days.

The DVD costs £26.50 and Bluray £31.50 including postage for those in Europe, for rest of world please enquire for postage rates. There's a discount for Offshore Echo's subscribers.

Offshore Echo's web www.offshoreechos.com

e-mail oem@offshoreechos.com

post PO Box 1514, London W7 2LL, UK

Dirk Rutten from Belgium is next:

'Let me introduce you. Ever since the short pants period (late 60's) I was fascinated by free radio. Possibly under the influence of my father (radio and TV engineer-electronics wizard), who always told fascinating stories about the few hours that he and a friend on Sunday illegally made radio in Limburg shortly after the liberation 1946.

He had assembled his equipment from parts he took from a crashed RAF plane. I still remember that parts of the cockpit were in the attic for years together with a whole collection of resistors and lamps. He also collected electronics magazines that I read with fascination. It regularly contained pieces about offshore radio stations. For a long time I collected everything but that collection together with my own collection may have been lost. If I still find this collection (because I never throw it away) I will not fail to transfer interesting pieces (among others letters from S. Tack, M. Thatcher, Qsl cards...).



Marc van Amstel, Dirk and Ferry Eden Photo collection Dirk Rutten

From 1973 I was fascinated by the offshore radio stations but unfortunately too young to be an active part of them. Just when I was accepted as a member of the editorial board of the Caroline Newsletter (only 10 editions) the Mi Amigo sank on my birthday in March 1980. Fortunately, a few articles have appeared in Soundwaves. And once I did a program on Radio Viking (lbp in Scandinavia). A year later I started up two local radio stations in Antwerp with friends (hence a limited criminal record - fun).

After several years of success with these radio stations we handed them over to Ben van Praag (Mi Amigo Magdalena) and others. Thanks to my radio career I was able to get to know characters from the illustrious radio past, such as Peter Van Dam and Stan Haag. And on various radio reunions, such as Mi Amigo 40, I was able to meet Marc van Amstel and Ferry Eden. And we still have contact from time to time.

I am an art and cultural scientist by training. This has ensured even more that I have never lost the anorak microbe. Once an offshore radio fan you are that forever. And what strikes me is that some of

my friends, who work for Studio 100, VTM or VRT themselves, have an unbridled respect for the pirates.

Too bad that you have to report more often about deceased DJ's, producers, managers etc. Fortunately, we still have the many recordings that we can hear through the Radio Ship and other channels.



At work at a local radio station in Herentals Belgium

Thanks again for your numerous contributions and I hope to enjoy your researches, articles and contributions for a long time to come. And maybe I will meet you at one of the radio events. With kind regards, Dirk Rutten.'

Well Dick thanks a lot for sharing your memories and photos and yes in forthcoming summer is Mi Amigo 45 in Blankenberghe and surely you will show up there!

Here's more: Recently I came across two non-stop hours of Radio Hollandia versus the forum www.radiotrefpunt.nl. In October 1978 the station would start broadcasting its programmes from the MV Mi Amigo. The plan was that cassettes, with ready-made programs, would be delivered to the radio ship, not with the regular tender ship but via detours. The intention of the initiators Jan van Veen and Willem van Kooten was to set up a cassette service for shops and factories. How the cassettes would get on board a radio transmitter ship was 'a mystery to the gentlemen'. In other words they tried to avoid they knew this would happen.

Recordings of the alleged station had never been heard before until late 2018 and I have listened to both hours. Apart from the golden oldies music, I also heard badly produced jingles that also were of long duration. Judging from these two hours I can conclude that the idea has not continued. Mi Amigo's programs were in the summer of 1978 much better. Oh yes, these tapes have never been on board of the MV Mi Amigo as Marc Jacobs and Johan Visser have both confirmed.

Also take a look at the two-and-a-half-hour interview Patrick Kicken had with Jan van Veen. In that interview more about Radio Hollandia. This is the link: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7e_FKQFNYN0

On February 5th this sad news came in versus Robb Eden: 'Ever so sorry to hear the news that Jim Coad has died suddenly. I've known Jim since our landbased pirate escapades in London in the late sixties and still have fond memories of visiting the family home in Pinner.



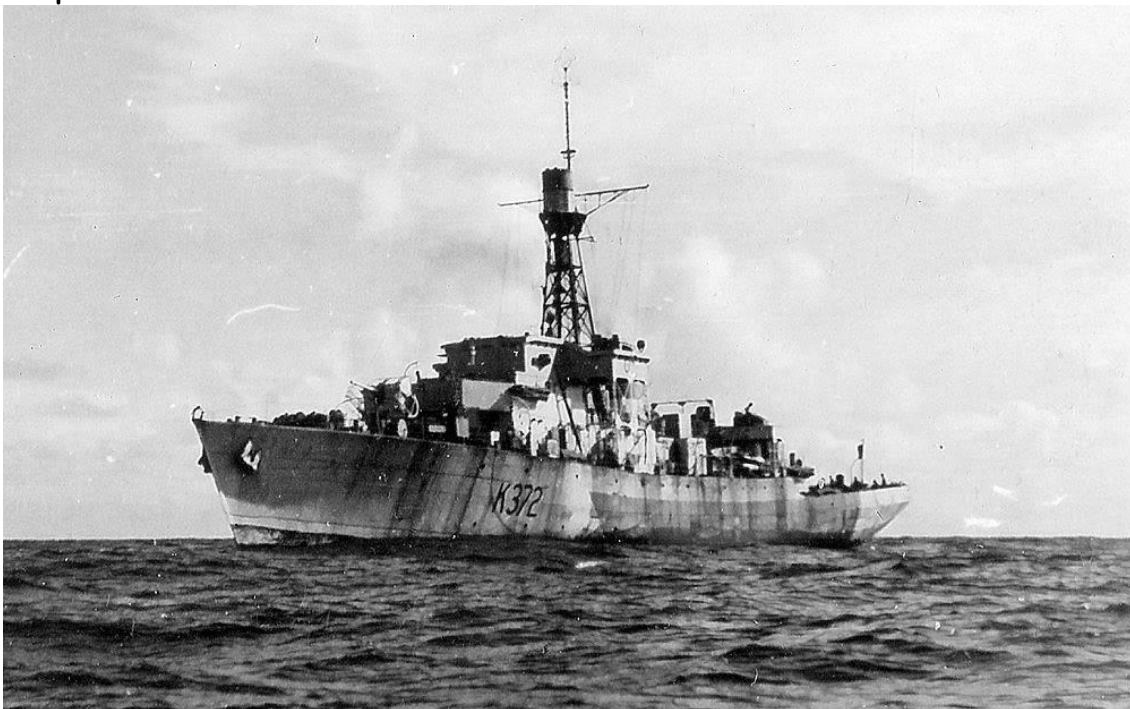
James Kay 2015 Photo: Martin van der Ven

Apart from being an excellent engineer Jim was a very good photographer which is why I asked him to accompany myself and Chicago out to the Weather Surveyor in Portsmouth harbour. The Weather Surveyor may well have been the next Caroline ship after the Mi Amigo, indeed we put a very large deposit down which sadly the solicitors and Harry Pound (the owner of the vessel) gobbled up

when they realised it was Caroline buying the ship. Yes, Harry Pounds owned a scrapyards and was ready to scrap the ship when we came along but decided against it at the time. Yet another one of the Caroline family has left us. A sad day for all of us. Robb.'

Thanks Robb for sharing. Let's keep all the memories alive. James also worked a period on the Nannell project and did some programs as well on Caroline in the seventies.

The mentioned ship Weather Surveyor, which didn't become a radio ship:



More photo's

<https://www.tapatalk.com/groups/theflowerclasscorvetteforums/hms-rushen-castle-post-war-as-weather-surveyor-t778.html>

It must have been around March 1970 that someone in good old England thought to write a letter to Carl Mitchel, who was then working for RNI. She or he made a masterpiece by filling up the whole envelope. However she or he forgot to put the name of the sender on the envelope. After reading Carl put it in a box with other letters which he took with him to his then Amsterdam living place. Yes the box is already years in our archive and we have a question:

Was is one of you who wrote to the Zürich address so often mentioned in the programs on 186 meters?



The very first hospital-church ship 'de Hoop' came into service on 17th of June 1899. It was a two-master schooner who had to assist the herring fishermen on the North Sea. In the first half of the year, i.e. until 1 January 1900, medical and surgical assistance was provided 99 times. Not much of the church services ended up in those first days, because the fishermen, when on board of 'de Hoop' the church pennant was lifted, could not cross because of the seaway.

In 1913 a larger ship came into service: a two-master, equipped with an auxiliary engine. This ship served until 1954. In that year the association started building an even larger nave, which had a separate church hall. In 1965, in view of the rapid development of the fishing industry, an even larger vessel had to be brought into

service, with a capacity of 1105 GRT. and that was propelled by a 1000 hp diesel engine.

On average, approximately 23000 nautical miles were covered per year. The service trips always lasted three weeks. The ship was 63 meters long and over 10 meters wide. The regular crew consisted of 23 people, including specialised professionals, such as: mechanics, a radio and radar engineer and a nurse. The radio operator maintained contact with the shore and the ships; he passed on all requests for assistance.

Each trip the doctor and preacher were changed for others. After the Sunday church services, which were sometimes attended by up to 100 people or more, the doctor held consultation hours, while he could be reached continuously by radio during the week. Assistance was provided to all ships, who asked for it. While carrying out repairs on the high seas, the preacher took care, if the sea allowed it, a change, to make home visits. The fishermen then briefly interrupted their work and listen in the mess-room to reading a part of the Bible, followed by a short reflection; after which the preacher ended with prayer; usually there was then an opportunity to have a personal conversation with the men while enjoying a cup of coffee.

The work done by the hospital nave was highly appreciated by the fishermen; the presence of "Hope" was seen by them as an indispensable link between them and their company. The songs were sung by visitors of the church services aboard 'de .Hoop'. When the ship was in the open sea, the churchgoers were picked up and returned to their own ship. For this transport a rubber was used Let, which in restless seas was often used for a wet suit, through the overflying tube water. Spontaneously there was sung; as was always sung on board of 'de Hoop'. The captain played the electronic organ, which was given as a gift by H.M. Queen Juliana in 1964.

What a wonderful picture. The Laissez Faire in the ZSM harbour in Zaandam in 1967 to get a new mast. It's from the Dutch National Archive under number -920-1581 and more are available on the Flickr pages from Martin van der Ven and me at:

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/offshoreradio/albums/72157705485384634>



Interesting site with the subject cold ware are:

https://coldwarradios.blogspot.com/2019/01/when-best-laid-schemes-go-askew-project.html?fbclid=IwAR1o2UBT0va3IIZD+VCPnBeAfE_IbstoNcPpWzmtH1ala3YFg0RxmghWp9g

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

https://coldwarradios.blogspot.com/2019/01/when-best-laid-schemes-go-askew-project.html?fbclid=IwAR0ycrP4ZYl3WOj6GEH_OD3qKWdMAsgjqWmTg0iPFtJCWsYYvb1QNR87zvE

In my article in last issue about Maritime Radio I wrote that it was a forthcoming RSL station. In stead of that Maritime Radio is a full term license for a period of 5 years. Photo of one of the new studio's is provided by Bob LeRoi.



The political tolerance of Spain with the Offshore stations in the 60s and 70s. Part 2

As told in part 1 This article had been written in Spain and translated with a translator from the internet by the author so mistakes can occur.

We began to have evidence that the Franco regime was interested in the Offshore phenomenon in early 1973, when in a note from the Information and Tourism Counselor, Luis Escobar de la Serna, informed the Undersecretary of Information and Tourism of the Dutch government's maneuver to emit commercial music (Hillversum 3) to compete with the Pirate Radio Veronica. The note is exhaustive and includes the percentage of audience that the state transmitter borrowed from the pirate station.

A few months later, it was the Spanish Ambassador to the

Netherlands, Ramón Sedó, who reported on the presence of a new ship called 'Elisabeth' involved in illegal radio activities in the North Sea. The note addressed to the Spanish Foreign Minister referred to a certain W.Beusenberg, related to fishing companies, as the owner of the station.

The charge d'affaires at the Hague from the Spanish government, Manuel Massot, informed the Ministry of Affairs Exteriores in July 1973 that a new station had started operating off the coast of Zandvoort. The new station, informed by Massot, was owned by Ms. Van Donselaar and was installed on a ship called 'Condor' owned by S.Willemse and Gerrit Elfering. It even described technical aspects, such as the emission frequency, at 270 meters and a power output of 500w.



Tender Dolfijn alongside the MV Condor. Photo : Rob Olthof

In January 1974 Luis Escobar de la Serna issued a note to the undersecretary of Information and Tourism explaining the vote of the second Dutch legislative chamber to ratify the Strasbourg Agreement. It affected this approval to mean the closure of Radio

Veronica, Radio Sea international, Radio Caroline and other similar broadcast stations.

In November of 1974 he was the Spanish ambassador to the Netherlands who informed on all the affairs to the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Spain: The newspaper *Algemeen Dagblad* published a news story according to which the Paraguayan government would have played a fundamental role in the survival of the station (Radio Mi Amigo), owning a participation in the property of the same; This information added that a plan was underway to install a powerful short-wave radio transmitter in Paraguay for the American company "Rocke", having been granted the broadcast license to the company Radiodifusora Nueva Asunción del Paraguay S.A.; The signal emitted by that one could be reconverted in average wave by the transmitting boat. Following the words of the Ambassador: « Lately they have assured, however, that their owner is Belgian Sylvain Tack, the owner of two record companies, a recording studio and the Joepie pop magazine, and currently resides in a place near Platja d'Aro, at the Costa Brava. »

Even this last fact gave rise to the species that Radio Mi Amigo would settle in Spain, because it was a country that had not signed at that stage the Convention from Strasbourg. On the other hand, the circumstance was that the broadcaster dedicated extensive advertising spaces to the "Lois" clothing brand, very popular in Holland as well as in several housing estates of the Costa Brava.

Dutch television had also in those days devoted a program on the system Mi Amigo worked, which was said to have traveled the station so that it did not fall into the cases of illegality of content in the provisions of the Dutch government, and that would give the opportunity to intervene and cause its closure (work in the issuer of subjects Dutch and prohibition to Dutch companies to enter into contracts of advertising broadcast through the transmitter) .

The first case has been an easy solution, resorting to the recruitment of Belgian speakers of the Flemish language. For the second assumption, a more winding solution had been adopted: the

advertiser hired the insertion of an advertising text in the magazine "Joepie", not at the cost of space, but at the cost of time necessary to read the advertisement (12,50 florins per second), and these ads were read during broadcasts as information. Advertiser companies were unaware of any legal relationship with the broadcaster.



Paul Severs is nooit een echte zonneklopper geweest, integendeel. Vandaar ook dat hij er steeds de voorkeur aan gaf zijn schaarse vakantie-dagen door te brengen in een besneeuwd landschap, eerder dan zijn body lullekker te laten bruinbranden in een Zuiders zonneland. Maar bij gebrek aan tijd heeft Paul deze keer evenwel moeten alzien van zijn jaarlijkse sneeuwpret. Van die enkele vakantie-daagjes die hem uiteindelijk toch gezond waren, maakte hij gebruik om zijn producer van weleer (Sylvain Tack van Mi Amigo) te gaan opzoeken in het zonnige Spanje. Het werd Paul's eerste zonnige wintervakantie...

Geen heimwee

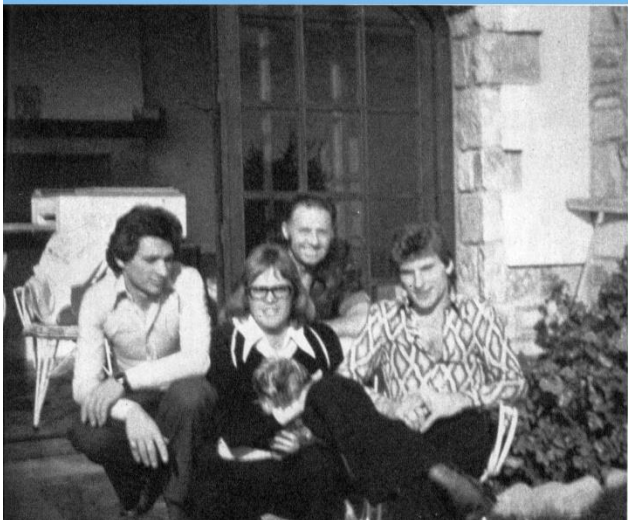
«Ik ben nooit gek geweest op de zon», geeft Paul toe. «Als kind had ik een hekel aan die echte, warme zomers, om de eenvoudige reden dat ik er niet tegenkon. Ik zweette als een paard, ik kon de zon niet verdragen. Maar in Playa de Aro heb ik er echt van genoten. Nu moet ik wel zeggen dat die warmte er veel draaglijker is dan bij ons, wellicht omdat het nog geen echte zomerzon is. Ik denk wel dat het niet zo tot zou zijn geweest mocht ik in het volle seizoen zou zijn gegaan. Maar nu was het er echt zalig: je werd wakker met de zon, je kon gewoon in korte broek en korte mouwen rondlopen zonder dat je er last van had. En het landschap is er uniek. Ik kan best begrijpen dat de jongens daar graag zitten...» Bij ons wordt er wel eens gefluisterd dat de Mi Amigo Boys heimwee hebben naar hun geboortestreek, maar Paul is de eerste om dit tegen te spreken. «Moet je geen snars van geloven. Niemand van de ganse bende — de tuinman en de technikers inkluis — die van plan is terug te komen. De DJ's hebben me zelfs verteld dat ze in Spanje zouden blijven wonen mocht Mi Amigo op een dag verdwijnen. De jongens zijn daar trouwens al goed ingeburgerd: ze praten al een aardig mondje Spaans, en tellen onder de plaatselijke bevolking al heel wat vrienden. En het contact met het moederland blijft, vermits ze regelmatig bezoek krijgen. Nee, ze vervelen zich daar niet, integendeel... Ze leven in een aards paradijs.»



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Op bezoek bij Mi Amigo...

DE EERSTE ZONNIGE WINTERVAKANTIE VAN PAUL SEVERS



A Joepie Magazine Special about Mi Amigo in 1976 part 1

Ramón Sedó ended with: "The Dutch Minister of Justice has stated that there are still no grounds to act against Radio Mi Amigo. Only when it is verified that Dutch subjects participate in the emissions

they will be able to take measures ». However discussions are being held between the Netherlands, Belgium and Great Britain, because the station has found a formula to broadcast advertising that seems to be legally unapproachable. »

The Information and Tourism Aggregate of Spain explained in a note to his ministry that several companies and organizations had requested radio licenses, but that the Dutch government has dismissed them .

The keys of the passivity of Spain

In the multiple branches of the Spanish administration there were various sensitivities. Some general directorates were in favor of adhering to the Strasbourg agreement, while others valued strategies, sometimes technical, other policies to cool the topic. Ezcurra wrote to Fernández-Shaw in February 1972 in the following terms:

"There is talk now about the convenience of ratifying the television agreement, but not about broadcasting, given that our country had participated in the metric and decimeter Wave Distribution Conference in Stockholm in 1961, an agreement that was ratified by Spain, which allowed Spain to have the corresponding frequencies in these bands.

However, in the case of broadcasting, it has been operating according to the ITU Radio Regulations, but our country did not participate in the Copenhagen Accord of 1948, because Spain was excluded from international organizations, as already mentioned, where the distribution in the long and medium waves was agreed.

Consequently, although our country has applauded all these measures, Ezcurra continues, our strength will be greater when the Copenhagen Agreement is revised in 1974, where the countries, that have signed the Strasbourg Agreement, have made the best frequencies for their countries. "

End note underlining the fact that Spanish broadcasting was internationally defended, so it 's had to act very carefully.

It also insists on prudence and provides new arguments which would be the future president of Spain Adolfo Suarez when he writes as CEO of Radio and Television Director General to Cooperation Technique International Affairs Director in January 1973, exposing it a series of considerations where the back key appears for the first time, REI (Radio España Independiente):

1. Ratification is something that is requested by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and DGRTV informs you favorably.
2. The problem (Piracy) as it is posed has never affected Spain, nor does it seem to affect it.
3. It is about obtaining the maximum political profitability in the ratification by Spain of the Agreement and carrying out different actions to achieve the establishment by the ITU or the Council of Europe of a list of pirate stations, including those that appear without clear indication and without known situation in order to get that REI is listed as pirate stations or simply it is considered as such.
4. Another success would be that in the country that conceals a pirate station, the rest of the signatory countries of the Agreement would adopt economic and political measures to avoid these protections.
5. The technical center of the UER is very likely to accept to determine the exact position of all pirate stations if the Council of Europe requests them.
6. Defined REI as a pirate and certified by the aforementioned center, we should take advantage of the diplomatic resources to obtain from the protecting country the abolition of emissions, which is undoubtedly much easier now for years, given the east-west distension.
7. The definition of pirate of REI would be a great propagandistic blow for your real listening.
8. The mystery of the location is another element of the interest of the Spanish population for listening to broadcasts. An international

denunciation, clear and open against the country that protects it - which is not the USSR - demystifies the station and its programs.

9. In a moment like the present one, of some opening towards the East, a public retraction from this opening towards the protective country of REI would be very well seen by all sectors, both Spanish as international

Therefore, in the voice of Adolfo Suarez, we see how REI suddenly becomes the main obstacle to signing the Strasbourg Agreement.

But other state departments are willing to go ahead with joining the agreement, so the matter reaches the Council of Ministers that at the meeting on the 11th In February 1974, he had agreed to send them to the Cortes, for which reason Spain would grant his adhesion to the Strasbourg Agreement. It was intended to draw up a Preliminary draft of the Special Law relating to the matters in question, which establishes the norms that the Spanish government deems necessary, in addition to the criminal ones, strictly precise, for the execution of the Agreement

In the preliminary draft, some regulations were specially designed to combat the REI. But finally, it is unknown at the initiative of who, they were eliminated from the final text.

At this point there was a will on the part of the Franco administration to start gestures against piracy. Thus, on January 9th, 1975, the undersecretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs received this note:

"The ship Mi Amigo has suffered breakdowns, so it is asked to transfer this information from the United Kingdom and sent to Spain to the authorities competent to deny any assistance that is requested to repair, as well as to take steps to prevent the ship Delta can help or carry out any repair at sea.

The Spanish authorities, in part, are not only put to the service of the British in this case, if they do not make publicity and as a continuation of this writing, another one of the Undersecretary of the Interior is written to their counterparts of Foreign Affairs and Information and Tourism, which also includes a photocopy of the

paper received from the Belgian Telephone and Telegraph Administration on the activities of the Belgian subject Tack Sylvain, in connection with the Mi Amigo broadcasting station.



Prettig weerzien

Dat Sylvain erg opgetogen was met het bezoek van Paul, kan je best snappen - ze hebben samen hun allereerste stappen in de showbusiness gezet, en hadden dus na zo'n lange tijd elkaar erg veel te vertellen. «Wij hebben het inderdaad aan elkaar te danken dat we in dat wereldje verzeild geraakt zijn. Sylvain was een succesrijk zakenman die van de showbusiness een hobby wou maken, en ik was een streekzanger die nog nergens stond. Hij financierde mijn eerste plaat, en ik bezorgde hem een eerste hit...» Gedurende meer dan een week logeërde Paul in de villa van Sylvain. «Sylvain leeft nog altijd erg mee, wat mijn loopbaan betreft. Zo was hij bijvoorbeeld van plan mijn jongste single een mooie promotiebeurt te geven op Mi Amigo, maar het ongeluk wou dat die plaat er precies was op het moment dat Mi Amigo voor enkele weken uit de lucht was. Sylvain wou nu nog een speciale promotie voeren, maar ik heb hem verteld dat ik er het nut niet van inzag en dat ik liever had dat hij op mijn nieuwe plaat wachtte. Urenlang hebben we over nummers gepraat, over nieuwe ideeën, zoals we dat vroeger gewoon waren toen hij nog mijn producer was. En met de DJ's werd het ook een prettig weerzien. Ik heb die jongens goed gekend toen ze nog vanuit België opereerden, ik heb trouwens een tijdje een eigen programma gehad op de zender. Wij zijn alle dagen naar die Nederlandse pub in Playa geweest, de stamcate van de jongens dus. En Joop Verhoof is nog steeds dezelfde grappas gebleven. Toen ik hem vertelde dat mijn wagen iets mankeerde, en bijna evenveel olie verbruikte als benzine, vertelde hij me wat ik moest zeggen als ik ergens ging bijtanken: wil je es voltanken met olie, en tussendoor ook eens de benzine nakijken... Nee, het was een leuke troep, en het werd nog gezelliger toen Ricky Gordon — ook een vroegere beschermeling van Sylvain — kwam opdagen. We hebben ons geamuseerd als gekken.»

VIC DENNIS

Page 2 of the Joepie special about Radio Mi Amigo in 1976

But in a demonstration that power in those times in the Spanish administration was a hydra with many leaders, the Suarez DGRTV sent a letter to the Navy General Staff of the Ministry of the Navy, Intelligence responds that it is not considers it appropriate to carry out any intervention in relation to the issue because Spain had not signed the Agreement; the emission frequency does not cause interference to the Navy and the help that the "Delta" can give to the "Mi Amigo" is within the agreement of freedom recognized in

article 2 of the Convention of Geneva ratified by Spain March 27, 1971.' Joan Perich

to be continued

Next is another photo in the series related to Knock John and Radio Essex. It's from the late David Sinclair collection and as no names were attached and I did not recognise everybody and I asked Roger Scott (Greg Bance) for more: 'It is one of the happiest photos from offshore times, Hans. On Radio Essex. Top left is a certain Van Sterling.

To our right of him is Keith Robinson, "Chief Engineer", who, some might say, could have done a lot more than he did to boost the signal. He was a good man but a bit of a 'mixer' who was more interested in stirring things up than getting on with the job of getting us a viable output. Having said that, he was a sort of father figure to a naive 17 year-old Roger Scott and I wish I knew where he ended up. To his left (our right) we have, of course, young Dick Dixon / Dickason. In the front, as you know, we have those two angelic faces, Dick Palmer and Roger Scott.



Next we go Southward: 'Dear Sir Hans, greetings from 'Aussie' Phil, and wishing you and your family a safe and happy 2019.

Hans, I have just finished reading the book by Adrian Johns "**Death of a Pirate**" (2011). As you probably know, the central theme of this book is the story of the end of **Radio City** on Shivering Sands fort, and the response of the British Government to the shooting of Reg Calvert - leading to the Marine etc. Act in August 1967.

While I enjoyed reading it (apart from some rather 'dry' sections), there are parts of the story that I found difficult to fully believe. For example, the author alleges that Oliver Smedley was closely involved with "Project Atlanta", and paints a picture of a close and lengthy relationship with the Radio Caroline organisation - to the extent of cross advertising each other's station. I have never heard this before and wonder if it can be true.

There are also some factual errors; for example the author claims that when Radio 1 started, the BBC took only two DJs from Radio Caroline and both were quickly sacked, and they took none from Radio City. Yet Johnny Walker and Tom Edwards both became popular presenters on more than one BBC station. There are also mistakes by omission, for example Johns says that the landbased 'pirates' after 1967 were FM enterprises, which completely ignores a whole era of AM stations, some of which went on to become legitimate (Radio Jackie, Sunshine, etc.).

And perhaps the worst error is no mention or reference at all to Radio Nordsee International (RNI). This is quite strange, given the book contains quite a bit of discussion of the British Government's clandestine actions during the offshore radio phase, yet the author completely misses the astonishing story of the jamming of RNI, and the interesting history of the transmitter used to do it.

In summary, the book has an interesting story to tell (especially around the death of Calvert) but I have doubts over some of the other facts, and I feel this would make a much better historical record if the complete story post-1967 was included. Perhaps the author is considering a revised edition? What do you think? I am interested to know your thoughts about this book. Kind regards Phil Crosby.'



Thanks Phil yes sharp reading! Excellent. Smedley was deep involved in Caroline and maybe it was so that there were plans to cross advertise if the transmitted delivered on Shivering Sands had worked We all know that it never did. I also had, when reading it years ago, the thought why not include the fight for free radio in his full length; that RNI included. Anyway I've written a review in those days.

Each Sunday there's an excellent blog update called Arthur Pewty's Maggot Sandwich. In the late January edition also a flashback to the start of a radio station 35 years ago, Laser 558. It's interesting to read. <https://arthurpewtysmaggotsandwich.blogspot.com/>

Theo Bakker from Leeuwarden in the Netherlands is next:

'Maybe it's nice to mention something about 'the listen again service' Radio Caroline has now. Since mid-December, they offer this on the website. After every hour the hour will appear in a link that you can play or you can download the program. Ray Robinson, Roland Beaney and myself and others did it since 2002 and put all the broadcasts on the internet, the last few years at Woodley.net.co.uk. That will stop now, probably already at the end of this month. Radio Caroline North

will stay and possibly also a few shows of Caroline Flashback. All things must pass George Harrison already sang.'



I already wrote some time ago about sponsored programs in the seventies of last century. It was also the time that teenagers and twenties went to their favorite kiosk each month to buy their favorite music monthly. Mostly to see which poster would be enclosed. Muziek Parade was one of those magazines which had also a sponsored program on Radio Noordzee, the Dutch service from RNI.

Recently I put above photo on my fb page and one reflection came from Tom Edwards: ' Thank you for this picture ...a hot summers day in 1967. Steve Young, Ian MacRae and myself chatting to the kindly folk who came out to say 'hello' to us on the Mi Amigo, aka Radio Caroline. We were getting close to the date of The Marine Offences Act of 14th August, which would change all of our lives in so many ways. I love this picture, all smiles.'



Photo taken by Sheridan K Street

So a few more pages for this edition of the International Radio Report so space for the continuing story from Phil Champion about Radio Luxembourg.

RADIO LUXEMBOURG 208 2.7.1951-31.12.2015

The last years of the Benelux Service and new shows on the English 208.

What was the Benelux Service like? By 1969 the Benelux service was on for 90 minutes except Sundays at 1800 CET. Three fast-talking, rather high-energy Dutch deejays ran it, one on each night. They were Felix Meurders, Peter Koelewijn and P  p  . Each Friday evening Peter presented the station's Top 25 - it seemed odd a chart not ending in '0' but fitted the 90 minutes allowed. In January 1969 a 208 schedule showed this Dutch/Flemish Service on Sundays 0730 - 1400. Later though Sundays was just 1800 -1900.



Felix Meurders. Photo: Archive RadioVisie

Around that time the Radio Luxembourg Drive-In Show (promos heard on air) was one of the most popular in The Netherlands, Belgium and Germany. By 1971 P  p   had been replaced by the more relaxed Romeo. Just as the English Service had a Powerplay, so the Benelux Service had their own. With its shorter airtime this was played once every evening. In winter especially this Service was a good early evening listen.

In 1972 Romeo left to be replaced by a double act of two Belgian/Flemish deejays who had their own disco roadshow and had broadcast on the official BRT: Mike Verdrengh and Jackie Dewaele. Their "Mike en Zaki Show International" went out Wednesdays and Saturdays. Their presentation wasn't frantic either. For a short while circa 1973/1974 two of the station's deejays were on most days: one at 1800 and the other at 1900 After a while Zaki left so Mike did the shows on his own. The chart moved to Sundays as a Top 20.

From August 1972 tuning in to 208 at 1930 or 1900 Sundays brought a strange sound: the sound of car horns and male and female presenters talking in Italian for 15 minutes. This was "Qui Italia" (This is Italy) produced for Italian expats in north and central Europe by Italy's State broadcaster RAI, which hired time on 208.

It was very popular with its target audience and was even heard all over Italy itself. This meant English programmes started at 1945

summer/1845 winter. It was still going by the early 1980s but was followed by a German religious programme so that English shows now began at 2000/1900 winter. In the mid to late 1970s the only place in the UK to hear pop music in the evening was 208.



In late 1978 '208' was changed from 1439 to 1440 kHz as all European radio stations shifted down 1 kHz. The late 1970s brought more changes to English programmes, all coming from Studio 5. The Top 30 went out on Tuesdays, just as Radio 1 listed their new chart positions earlier that day. While still pop the English Service had specialist shows. Stuart Henry opened up Sunday evenings with "New Wave Bands" at a time when punk/new wave was prominent. From around winter 1978, under Tony Prince's leadership, the sound was geared more towards the fashionable disco sound for a while. Under his time as Programme Director deejays played the Powerplay - a new release which could be a hit- then records from these lists: A (Top 10), B (a strong sound) and C (a new release). Instead of finishing at 0300 UK time in the summer for a period the English Service went on until 0400 or 0345. At this time Bob Stewart did the voice-over for what was now the 'Disco Radio Powerplay'.

On a mid-Friday evening Tony Prince played the Disco Import Top 10. The jingle package used "The Rhythm of Nightlife in Great Britain" was similar to the 93KHJ package "The rhythm of Southern California" made by San Diego firm Tuesday Productions. Rodney Collins wrote that Mr. Schultz and his engineering team needed to do checks on the equipment before the German Service started. Record retailer and listener 'beacon' later remembered that the deejays were clearly enjoying themselves.

On The Dutch Service there was more contraction. It was now just half an hour from 1900 except Sundays with Mike. It was geared towards penfriends with 'international correspondence' read usually in English mid-show after part of a record which went, "I'm waiting for a letter she has promised me to write, so please Mr. Postman I can't wait another night." Later this was replaced by a line from Charlie Dore's song: 'Pilot of the airwaves, here is my request.'

Mike opened the programme with greetings in a number of languages including Yugoslavian ones. There was still a selection of European records and a Powerplay. The show ended with the last words of "Goodbye" by Mary Hopkin ("Goodbye, goodbye, goodbye my love, goodbye"). This show was still popular. Rodney Collins wrote that it regularly got audiences of 50,000 in the UK with the strong winter signal and Luxembourg's UK office was able to get some of the daily newspapers to include its schedule as 'RTL International.' The Top 20 on Sundays was done by Frans van der Drift then Peter van Dam. By the early 1980s this had all gone.

The last of the Benelux Service was replaced by more German. On weekdays you could hear "Superclub" with Oliver 1800 -1900 where he played the latest hits geared towards younger listeners - certainly no Schlager - plus items of general interest to young people and home-made jingles often done by groups which visited his show.



Peter van Dam Photo: RTL Archive

The German Service was now 'RTL 208' and broadcast on 1440 kHz 0500-1900 CET along with FM and short wave at those times and until 0100. David Christian on the English Service since 1969 did his first German show in 1975. From 1979 he had a regular (German) hour on Fridays at 1400 on 208 plus a Monday evening and Saturday night show who went out of FM only.

By 1982 the English Service had a chart each night, sometimes two, starting at 2100hrs. On Mondays and Fridays there was the "Disco Top 30" with Tony Prince. Sundays and Tuesdays had the "Top 30" singles. Monday featured the "Airplay Chart". Tuesdays had the "Top 30 Albums" at 2300, the American charts went out on Wednesdays at 2100 followed by the "Easy Listening" chart at 2300 while Thursdays had the "Top 30 Futurist." On Saturday at 2100 they played the "Rock" chart at 2100 followed by Bob Stewart at 2300 with the sponsored "Top 20 Country Chart" hour. This successful attempt to provide interesting programming included a 15 minute "208 Editorial" some evenings at 1845 and a "No. 1s" show Thursdays 1900-2100 with Bob Stewart and another dj.

By 1982 it was using the American practice of giving the frequency which was increasingly being used on British and Irish (pirate) stations. So the deejays spoke of "Radio Luxembourg 1440" as well

as "208". The news incorporated the parent company's name as Bob Stewart's voiceover announced: "RTL 208 News Headlines, compiled in London." The English Service was announcing "Radio Luxembourg is Planet Earth's biggest commercial radio station."

The news service introduced in 1968 continued but was later sponsored by the "Daily Mirror" whose name was prominent in each bulletin. Research after the mid-1970s by Gallup showed that this was quite unpopular so 208 launched its own news service again with UPI and the Press Association. At one point some late night bulletins were stopped but reinstated after research showed people wanted them even in those early hours. Rodney Collins (behind the scenes at 208 1974-88) wrote that they often ran the news at 59 minutes past so that if anyone tuned in on the hour they would hear music rather than speech.



Radio Luxembourg Villa Photo: Dick Offringa

A number of firms produced jingles for Luxy, including Alfasound in the UK. The American company Tuesday Production did the "Station of the 80s" set. Jingles, like music, are a matter of personal taste, but to me this set is the most memorable, being crisp, catchy and very up beat - fit for a modern station.

to be continued Copyright Phill Champion.

Well that's all for this time. Already 24 pages for next issue are filled but get your e mails coming and spread the memories to all readers by writing to Hknot@home.nl

Best wishes Hans Knot