

3rd December 2001

Welcome to the last report of the year 2001

The Dutch edition of the Business Monthly Quote has come this month with the list of the richest persons in Holland. And then we can see that there are a few former offshore radio people who have done very well in their career. At 17 years he was allowed by his father John, who was director of the Dutch Service of RNI, to do some technician work. Nowadays he's one of the richest people in Holland: John de Mol jr. counts around 2 billion guilders. Willem van Kooten (Joost den Draayer) from Veronica, RNI and Radio Monique days and nowadays co-owner of Arrow Classic Rock and Country FM counts for 350 million. As a young boy he was heard for the first time on Radio Mi Amigo as Rob Hudson. He has done a lot in radio and television too, including director of the European NBC Super Channel. He counts at 100 million. Other names: Lex Harding 95 million guilders and Rob Out still at 75 million guilders.

7-11 On Radio 192 today in the programme of Tineke (of course Coffeetime) she flashbacked together with Bull Verwey at the past and Radio Veronica days. The 92 years old Bull Verwey, one of the three former Veronica directors who survived both brothers, is still in good condition. On the same day it was announced that another ex Veronica deejay, Chiel Montagne, will leave Radio 192. He is offered a daily programme on Radio Nationaal from December. Chiel was very popular in Holland with his tv programmes showing Dutch artists. In the 70's and 80's his programme 'Op losse Groeven' was the most watched programme on Dutch television for many years.

8-11 The unofficial Radio London Video was brought by the postman this morning. Showing rare footage of Swinging Radio England, Radio London, Radio Caroline and tendering from Parkstone Quay in Harwich. Watching the deejays on several trips to the ships and even Cheetah II as the standbyship for Radio Caroline in 1966. It was all promised as very rare material. Well maybe for the English market. However the same footage was shown in Holland on the annual radioday in

1994 when Keith Skues' book Pop went the Pirates was official launched. The 20 min long footage was then re-edited to a 15 min video in which a story was brought: deejays leaving from the office to the train and then from Harwich to the ships. For those who never ordered videotape number 39 from Hans Knot should buy this one from Pirate Johnny for it are unique 60's shots. He sells it for 16.50 Pounds, including package and postage. All info you can find on his website: www.piratememories.co.uk

20.11 Last month we reported that Danny Vuylsteke, former tenderman for Radio Mi Amigo and Radio Caroline (also co owner of Caroline Dutch service in 1979/1980 and one of the owners of Radio Paradijs) was put into prison. It was thought that he was involved in a murder attempt. Today he was set free after 6 months of research. The officer of Justice has found out that there is no reason anymore to keep Vuylsteke in jail. Danny himself announced on tv that he knew from the first moment he wasn't guilty and that it was nothing else than a trap by another person to blaim blame his good name.



Tony Allan, Elja van den Berg (Caroline House 1972/73) and Robin Banks

(copyright SMC)

21 .11 Peter Moore is in talks with one of the organisations which hired transponders from BSkyB to see if there is a chance to hire cheap radiolines for the digital broadcasts from Caroline. He went to talk about it to WRN in Vauxhall. Comment of Tony Allan, whom I met this week: Ronan O Rahilly and Peter Moore still think they are in the seventies and want everything for free. Was a nice meeting with Tony and several other radiofriends this month in a 8 days visit. One of them I hadn't talked to since my last visit to the MEBO II on international waters off the Dutch coast, on August 28th 1974. Robin Banks hasn't changed a lot. Still has his sense of humour and it was good talking to him again and bringing a lot of memories back to the both of us. Once thing he told was that he was in the eighties the responsible man who took off all the equipment and transmitters from the MEBO II before this ship and the sister ship MEBO I was targeted by the Lybian Navy. Tony by the way hopes to present another programme on Caroline before Christmas.

26.11 During the last week in which English newspapers stood full of the 7 years imprisonment of popstar Jonathan King (who was often on board the *Galaxy* to promote his songs in the seventies and seeing his friend Tony Windsor). It also became known that Chris Denning, another former Radio London deejay, will not be sent to Britain by the Chzech authority. Denning has been in jail for three years and could come out last May. As the British authorities requested Denning to be sent back to England for further punishment, Chzech judge decided that all things the British wants him for have happened more than 5 years ago and he will not be sent back. Both Jonathan King and Denning have been caught for paedophily.

The regional broadcaster Radio and TV Gelderland has bought 50 shares in UPC. Two of them will kept within the organisation. The other 48 will be given to listeners and watchers who are angry on the

UPC, which is responsible for the cablenetwork in the Province of Gelderland and other parts of Holland. Omroep Gelderland thinks that the listener/watcher has more strength to complain if they have a share in UPC.

Up till 500 persons have to leave the NOB, the production arm of the Dutch private Broadcast Societies. The organisation is in debts. Also a lot of the buildings, which are in ownership of the NOB, will be sold the get more money free. In this way they hope to make a healthy company of the NOB in the four forthcoming years.

Well not too much this time as I was busy with writing some long stories for a few magazines and our online Journal Soundscapes. By the way, may I remember that the radioday will be held in Amsterdam on March 2nd.

Later this month some more news about a book which will be released early 2002.

Have a look now and then at our site

www.soundscapes.info

greetings

Hans Knot