

February 2nd 2002



Well a good day to you all and welcome to another month of news and info

As mentioned last month Love Radio, the cable station which was owned by the same company which has Radio10 (Wegener Publishers) has stopped transmissions on the 31st of December. During the first days of January on the cable networks which forgot to switch off the Love Signal an old sound could be heard. The technician played for a few days programmes from a station, which closed down in 1994. Power FM was the name before Love Radio started. Some of the listeners were fooled and really thought this was the start of a new station.

During the last week of 2001 on Radio 2, the listeners Top 2000 was transmitted, as they did during the last two years. More than 4 million listeners tuned in to the programme, which was 300.000 more than in 2000. The listeners results for the month of December were also in favour of Radio 2, which attracted 10.4% of the listener ship in Holland. The national pop station 3FM got 9,3%. The most listeners were for the regional radio stations, which got a share of 14%/ Radio 1, the information station from the public organisations, took 8.4%.

Rob Stenders, VARA deejay for 3FM, played for 90 minutes in a row the soundtrack of a new Dutch movie 'She believes in me', which features the career of Dutch singer André Hazes. As far as I know for the first time in radio history that this has been done.

Remember with 'Soundtrack' I do not mean the music on CD but the original sound you hear when watching the movie in the cinema. This happened on the 23rd of January, a day when Robert Jensen, Yorin FM deejay made headlines. He mentioned Maxima, the forthcoming Princess who will marry Dutch Prince and forthcoming Alexander soon, a hoar. Dutch government has already giving the BVD (who's responsible for people offending against the Royal Family) the order

to take action against the deejay. The sponsor for the programme of Jensen, Dutchtone, decided to withdraw the contract with Yorin FM.

25.1 Dutch government decides that there will be no auction of FM frequencies in the forthcoming years. The consisting 7 commercial radio stations will keep their frequencies and have to pay altogether 10 million Euros per year to the government. Next to the 7 there will be 2 new radio stations which will go to the highest bidders. Government had decided they will drop the lines in which was stated what kind of format the new station should have (news, Dutch language or classical). In the meantime two organisations which wanted to go for a licence on an auction, Veronica and The Dutch Radio Group are considering a court case against Dutch government as their chances are now lower than before the Governmental change on this subject.

Back on radio again will be soon Adam Curry. He started on pirate radio in Amsterdam in the eighties and became a big hit in Holland with Veronica radio and tv in the eighties and early nineties. He then went to the USA where he become veejay with MTV and making a lot of money. He then started a internet company which also became a hugh success. For a couple of years he came back to Europe and is still in the same business. But he will start a weekly programme again, together with Ruud de Wild on BNN Radio on 3FM every Friday evening between 20 and 22 hours.

Offshore Radio - Now and then

Here we are with part two of this monthly news from Holland

9.1 Many memories were flooding through my memory today, I saw him sitting on a chair on the beach of Scheveningen near a campfire. It was a beautiful summer evening in 1977. Veronica TV was recording a programme called The Day the Music died. Several former offshore deejays were there including artists who were famous due to the offshore radio stations in the sixties and

seventies. The singer who attracted me the most was David McWilliams. Coming from Ireland he was brought in an enormous way by Radio Caroline in 1967 when they plugged his first three albums on Major Minor. David McWilliams MMLP 001, 002 and 003. All within a year with the most beautiful songs I've ever heard up till that moment. Major Minor was a record company which was owned by Philip Solomon, who bought himself into the Caroline organisation. In exchange he got minutes long commercials for his artists and in this way Major Minor succeeded to score with artists like Frankie McBride, Dubliners, Raymond Levefre and his Orchestra and much more. I bought all 14 LP's made by David, except one. A Soundtrack to the movie with the same name, which wasn't released at all. It was directed by Ronan O'Rahilly and told the story of President Nixon's career. When the CD-R recorder made it into the audio market some 6 years ago I compiled a 'best of David'. A CD which had those songs which were not on the EMI Best of CD. I gave the LP's to a big friend in offshore radio and I know he does still enjoy this exclusive LP's. David McWilliams is not more, he died at the age of 57.

9.1 Today it became known that the planned radio project from Harry de Winter off the coast of Israel will not go on. A research taken by him and his partners showed there is no future at

the moment for such a station. Harry thought to bring a station for Peace, like Abe Nathan did between 1973 and 1993. However at the moment there are so many stations that the cake would be divided into too much parts. He was in Israël for talks during the past period. He now thinks that there is more need for pro peace advertisements in the newspapers. On Dutch television Nederland 1, a few days later, he confirmed the decision not to go for a Peace station.

10.1 A couple of Dutch artists like the seventies stars Jacques Herb, Corrie Konings and Normaal have recorded a song 'Het zit wel snor' (His moustache it fitting well) in favour of Chiel Montagne. This former Veronica deejay and nephew of Bull Verwey did a long time running music programme in the seventies and eighties on Dutch TV.

Recently he is promoting CD's in a commercial programme. This led to a campaign on the Dutch station 3FM, headed by deejay Roeland van Zeist, to get Chiel Back on TV. He had a massive response and now it's waiting again until the moment a television organisation in Holland will step into this idea of bringing back Chiel.

11.1 Today I was guest in the programme 'Van kust tot kust' (from coast to coast) on Dutch regional station Radio Noord Holland. Jan Eemans wanted to go into the story of my life. Or must I say: Why does Hans Knot write about radio and offshore things since 1969. Well we succeeded in making a 60 minutes talk in which a lot of memories, especially to RNI, came back. Reminiscing is always nice to do.

15.1 After 33 years Dutch Television News reader Harmen Siezen has decided to quit his job at the NOS. During a poll last year he was voted at 2nd place as the most trustable newsreader in Holland. In the sixties Harmen worked as newsreader as well as presenter with Radio Veronica. In 1966 he started to work for TROS radio and on September 1st 1969 he went for the NOS.

18.1 Today it became known the a container has been put again next to the *MV Communicator at Almere harbour*, filled with a generator. After Q the Beat stopped transmissions from the ship all kind of rumours were going around concerning the future of the former Laser vessel. Including Arrow taking over from Q The Beat. Also three e-mails came in at our headquarters asking if I could talk with the owners of a sale of the ship. What will be next is a big surprise to me, too. 23.1 Today I sat at a dinner with 40 other people and those festivities are always to keep your eyes and ears open. So I heard today that forthcoming king and queen of Holland (Willem Alexander and Maxima) have got an intensive media training. It was done by a former RNI employee Hans Prakke. He worked on the sports programme AD Sport and Sport Wereld in the Seventies. Nowadays he works for Dutch government.

Radio Caroline the Fifth attempt

If we look back in the history of Radio Caroline, that started in March 1964, we can count the opening of the Dutch cable station Radio Caroline as the fifth serious attempt to get the station on the track again. It was Ronan O'Rahilly who came with the idea of bringing a commercial radio ship from international waters off the British coast, as Veronica did off the Dutch coast. It was a part of breaking the monopoly of the governments in Europe for radio broadcasting. It took a few years that the British government took action and in August 1967 the Marine Offences Act became law. However Caroline went on until early March 1968, when the tender company got grip on the ship, due to a failure of paying the bills.

Caroline came back temporarily in 1970 on the MEBO II to campaign for the Conservatives but the second serious attempt was coming back in 1972. With getting up and falling they were on the air until March 1980 when the ship, the MV Mi Amigo sank in a heavy storm.

1983 saw the coming of the Ross Revenge and Caroline was back for the third time. With again Dutch money they succeeded until early nineties when this ship also went in a storm on the Goodwin Sands. The fourth trial to start Caroline is in the hands of Peter Moore. RSL's and several satellite broadcastings still give us the idea to listen to the original Caroline, although the atmosphere which once was there has been going for a long, long time.

The fifth attempt was on Saturday January 26th and this time legal on a part of the cable network in Holland with studio in Harlingen. Approximately 2 million people can now listen in their homes to the station. Big man behind this is long time lover of the station Sietse Brouwer. He brings the station 24 hours a day. Partly live from the studio in Harlingen, partly from recorded programmes by known former offshore deejays as well as the satellite programmes from Maidstone. At the official opening a lot of former deejays attended. But the man who should have been there, the managing director himself, Peter Moore, wasn't there. He had something else to do, which had nothing to do with radio. Sietse was not happy with that. Also I tried two times to convince Moore to be at the official

opening but he thought there were enough Caroline people to talk to the press. Well I saw and talked to a few journalists and they also found it strange that a director was not joining the official opening party. And thank you Peter, this led to nothing as the journalist I spoke to didn't publish at all afterwards in their newspapers.

Nevertheless Caroline Holland is on air on cable and, although there are some technical difficulties now and then, it's sounding like we wanted a station like this in Holland. Better than Arrow as there are presenters and a wider variety of music. And above all commercials, which are paid for. May I wish that Sietse and his team become a hit in Holland and be intelligent enough to go for themselves as a brand new radio station with the strength to expand it into a very professional organisation which will gain listeners and maybe a terrestrial licence in the future.

We saw, by the way Steve Gordon, Graham L Hall, Dave Forster, Rob Ashard and Barry James during the opening session. Thanks guys. You all did a good job being there.

During the opening I met Graham Gill whom I met for the last time in 1993. He is doing a weekly programme on the station and it was for the first time since 1987 he made radio. At first he wasn't at all interested to do a show but after the first programme he was so thrilled that he asked to do a weekly show. In a long talk with him he was very open about his career and told me how he was working and dismissed for the several stations. When you visit to pages of Wonderfull Radio London at www.radiolondon.co.uk you will find the full story from Sunday.