

October 6th 2002



Welcome

Hi and a warm welcome to this monthly newsletter from Holland which comes out either during the last weekend of the month or the first of the next month. It's Saturday evening in Holland and I thought to take some time to translate the material I've put aside during the past weeks. Of course we want to say a big hello to all the new readers as still each month a lot of new persons are reading this news bulletin.

This month I want to start with the news from Holland.

Felix Meurders

First of all congratulations to Felix Meurders (56) who is now in his 35th year as radio and television personality in Holland with the same organization, the public VARA. During those years he made very well listened and watch programs as 'in the red cock', 'nails with heads' and 'Kassa'. Meurders started his career in the late Sixties as a deejay. First at the Dutch Service of Radio Luxembourg and then as 'Felix the big bird on three' on Hilversum 3.

BNN

The youngest broadcasting society within the public system, BNN, has a so called 'aspirant status'. Changes in the Dutch media law means that the public broadcasting companies must have each as least 300.000 paid members to get a new license. A spokesman for BNN announced that they will go for a new license but that it will be hard to get some 200.000 paid members extra. BNN, which makes radio and television programs aimed at a young public, has also the problem that the Dutch government made restrictions whereby it's forbidden to make extra promotional spots during the programs. At the yearly Statue Awards Evening at the National Broadcasting Gala, a Golden Statue was given to the family of former BNN director Bart de Graaff for the work during his media career. Bart died earlier this year at the age of 35.

Top 2000

During the last week of December all the public broadcasters will take part in the yearly top 2000 of the listener. This started in December 1999 and it was so popular that the All time Top 2000 is now a yearly thing. However from this year there will be more as the NPS will, during the last week of December, also pay attention to the list on television. A series of documentaries will be brought on Dutch Nederland 3 in which the story of certain songs from the all time top 2000 will be brought. It will be produced by Mathijs van Nieuwkerk.

Radio 2

Since September 15th on Radio 2 a new media program is presented in the afternoon under the name 'Antenne2'. It is presented by Roeland van Zeijst, who worked until last month for the Dutch National Pop station 3FM as Razende Roeland.

From January 1st Radio 2 will be a grown up station as it will get a 24 hours a day program. Till now during night hours they had to share the programs from Radio 1. So 35 hours more with own identity pro week for Radio 2.

NOS

The chairman of the NOS, Wolffensperger, who is responsible for the daily running of the whole public broadcasting in Holland announced this month to step back at the end of the year. He has been in function for five years and the decision to step back has been taken while the chairmen of the several public broadcasters have too much to say whereby a good administration power for the chairman for the NOS is impossible.

RTV Noord

The government of the Province of Groningen has decided to give a subsidy of 6.1 Million Euro to the regional radio and television RTV Noord. 2.9 million will go to the radio department the rest to the television department. The station came in trouble after the license fee was changed in Holland as well as there came in lesser

advertisement money than in the past. The radio department of RTV Noord is the best listened to regional station in the Netherlands. High ratings are for Rob van Dam, who is known in offshore radio in the seventies as Marc Jacobs and who presents 4 days a week an own program in his hometown Groningen.

Raid on the Ross Revenge

And now over to the section past and present in which news from former offshore people and happenings.

Early this month we got a mail from a visitor to our site 'Soundscapes'.

He had seen some interesting stories as well as photographs and started to tell about himself. His name is Harry Meyer, who has worked more than 20 years for the OCD, the Dutch Service to track down illegal stations. In his email he also wrote why the Ross Revenge was raided in August 1989: " From the beginning of making plans for the raid it was clear to us that we would do something very illegal. That's also the reason that the Dutch people had to do the work from the Volans on board the Ross Revenge. The British people from the DTI were doing nothing but watching us. They wouldn't like to burn their fingers. As all know some 1,5 years after the raid all the equipment was given back to The Caroline organization. Well the only reason why we did the raid was to give a present of goodbye to our man Johan Roth. Through his long career with the OCD he always wanted to catch up with Caroline. As he didn't succeed we wanted to surprise him with the raid. After that Roth went into pension."

Well almost unbelievable.

MV Communicator

A special program was brought this month on TV Flevoland, called 'Province 12th'. In this program every time a well known personality is taken to a special place. This time it brought Erik de Zwart, director of the commercial radio station 538 to Pampus harbor, where the MV Communicator is still anchored. Near as well on the ship Eric was interviewed and still some fund memories to the offshore days were visible. Eric of course was known as Paul de Wit on Radio Caroline in

1979/1980. What most people don't know is that Paul de Wit also recorded programs for Radio Mi Amigo, which would be aired from late October 1978. He was the successor of Ton Schipper who had left the station. However due to technical problems on the ship Mi Amigo left the air in October and Paul had recorded the programs in Playa de Aro for nothing, as they were never aired.

Graham Gill

In name of Graham Gill I would like to thank everybody who sent him e mails after the news came last month that he had knees problems after falling down in Amsterdam. Well Graham is feeling a bit better now and is making a well earned holiday in Portugal, although it will be one of much resting.

Harmen Siezen

On Friday the 13th of February the last ever News bulletin presented by Harmen Siezen was on NOS television. He started there on September 1st 1969 and trough the years he presented more than 17.000 bulletins. He's leaving the NOS and will now do some programs for public broadcaster NCRV. Harmen started his career as a newsreader on board the MV Norderney from Radio Veronica in the mid sixties of the last century. Also he was a presenter on Veronica. Always when writing something about him my memories are going back to the bomb attack on the MEBO II of RNI on May 15th 1971. When the MV Volans left the Scheveningen harbor to fight the fire on the radio ship also Harmen was there with a camera crew and I still think he was informed on forehand that the bomb attack would happen.

Lex Harding

On the 18th The VRT Radio 2 program 'Koffers @ Co' had a special quest from Holland in the person of Lodewijk den Hengst. He was there to talk about his wonderful long trip he made during a very long period in Mongolia. Of course we know him as Lex Harding, the man who worked for Radio 227 and Radio Veronica and was for many many years the most popular deejay in Holland. Not only his weekly

Top 40 attracted millions of listeners, so did his Lexjo. He was the man who founded also Radio 538 and The Music Factory television station.

Radio 227

Some months ago I asked in my newsletter for the missing persons of Radio 227 crew as Jack Curtis wanted to meet his old pals whenever he is in Holland. Well Jack still has to come later this year, but we got some info from the lost people. Jos van Vliet is working within the entertaining industry and made contact himself. Also we found out that Thijs Liefferink worked until the mid nineties at the regional radio station Noord Holland and has emigrated to Portugal. Present whereabouts are unknown. Finally we found out that Rob Klaasman had worked until the mid seventies at the public broadcaster VPRO and died at an early age.

Peter Tait

Talking about passing away, I have to bring the sad news of the death of Peter Tait who died on Friday the 20th as a result of brain tumor. It became known earlier this month Peter started his radio career on board the MV Ross Revenge in the mid eighties on Radio Caroline, where he also met his good friend Carl Kingston. After that he went to Radio Trent, followed by Radio Aire in Leeds. After the split of this station he worked for 1990 for Magic 828. On Magic 828 a whole day remembrance program was transmitted. On Sunday 29th a special repeat of an old Peter Tait program will be transmitted on Caroline Holland. Our condolences are going out to the family of Peter as well as to Carl and his wife who did a good work to take care for Peter during the last months of his life.

Close Down RNI

Sometimes it's strange, when looking at your calendar that you see the date and you'll suddenly remember an incident which happened decades ago. So today on the 24th of September it was for the first time 32 years ago that the English service of RNI left the air for the first time, to come back in 1971. Official reason was given that the

station would leave the air to prevent problems for Veronica, as two radio ships could on the North Sea of Holland could give the Dutch government the reason to take the ships away. Of course we know the real reason: the money had gone. I've listened on the evening once again to the old last hour with Alan West and Andy Archer. The rare thing is that one of the persons saying goodbye to the listeners during that hour was Captain Tom (van der Linden) from Scheveningen, one of the three divers who would attack the MEBO II on May 15th 1971 with a bomb.

Peter van Dam

From Monday September 30th Peter van Dam will be back on Dutch radio presenting the weekdays between 6 and 7 in the evening on Radio 192 with the program 'Hek van de Dam'. When doing a quest program at the Zeezender week last month, the feeling to make a regular program for the station started to come. It was the atmosphere and the rule not to use a computer which plans the tracking list which was for Peter the reason to ask Radio 192 for an own show. They were of course delighted to make use of him. Peter started his career at Radio Caroline in 1972 as Peter Brian and worked for Radio Atlantis and Radio Mi Amigo as Peter van Dam. From there on he worked for Dutch public broadcasters AVRO and TROS as well as for Radio 10. During the last years he worked within the Belgium Radio and Television industry.

Edo Peters

One of the other newcomers at Radio 192 is Edo Peters, who worked for Radio Monique in the mid eighties and also works for a local station Seaport FM in IJmuiden and has his Media Voice Production Company. Edo has also taken part in the organization as well as presenting programs during the past three editions of 'Muziek uit Zee'. He is a very amiable person and we did congratulate him with the new job. Edo himself: "Well it felt very good in the week before the last offshore revival week 'Muziek uit zee' as well as it did in the years before. There was a tense of being on the same line as the people within Radio 192 and proposals of an own program were down

at an earlier stage. Due to the fact I was too busy the talks never started really, but it went quickly after the last weekend of August. I must say that I know director Michael Bakker of Radio 192 already a long time as we worked together years ago at a local radiostation in Zaandam."

By the way Edo Peters did his first program on Dutch radio as a 11 year old guy, the week after Elvis Presley died.

But Edo continued: "What a joy to be responsible for your own flow in a radio program, The American can say it in such a nice way. "We don't program by the charts, we program from the hearts". This feeling is such a better thing than the only playing while a record is in the chart. The finest radio songs are mostly the obscure ones and there are so many examples of songs which could have had a potential hit, but never got this change. I will try to bring those songs as much as possible."

Ad Bouman has disappeared out of the programming of Radio 192. But he still remains at Radio 192 as he is doing the styling and production work for the station.

Soundscapes

Well finally I want you asked to bring a regular visit to our site [Soundscapes](#).

During last month several new stories were published. For instance there is a story written by Ger Tillekens in which the relations between Pink Floyd and the Offshore stations is highlighted. Also there is a story about the oldest American radio ship, the MV Leviathan, which was on the air in the 20's of last century. And very soon to come on Soundscapes is a spotlight on the career of Keith Hampshire aka Keefers. Not only he made a very good career within the radio industry in England and Canada but also had his own television show from coast to coast in Canada. Next to that he made a big singing career in Canada and other countries, scoring several number one songs. I have talked with him, while we were both visiting London last August. We will add some air checks to the interview and one we found is from 1966 and Keefers saying: 'As you can hear from my humming I will never become a singer'.

Well may I wish you all the best and if you do have a personal news which you want to share you know where I'm to find.

Greetings,

Hans Knot