

November 1st 2002



Hello good readers, once again a monthly update. Next month it will have a delay of around a week due to the fact I'm off for a week for a visit to England. Doing some work there as well as visiting some really good radio friends. Well once again two segments, the one with news from 'past and present' for all the offshore radio anoraks and the news from Holland.

October 1st was a 15 minutes documentary on Dutch television on the life of the people behind Sealand. Of course the old chap himself was interviewed and also wife Joan and their son Michael. Next to several beautiful shots of the Roughs Tower nowadays the Dutch movie crew also visited the archive of the Dutch television to bring back some rare shots from the sixties and seventies, including the hostage of Dutch people on the platform at the end of the seventies.

October 2nd. We received the latest bulletin from the Commissariaat voor de Media, the commission responsible for all the licences of cable network stations as well as terrestrial licences. In the bulletin we found out that a licence has been given to Look Boden. He wants to start a radio station with the name Radio 227 and want to bring the easy listening format. First on internet, then on cable network and when there is enough money he will also go for a terrestrial transmission.

Also we saw in the bulletin that the Foundation Support Group Netherlands also got a licence. It's their second. Next to the one for bringing Caroline on cable they've got now a licence for starting a station called Radio Seagull (?). Time to get Sietse Brouwer telling more about this second licence. So Sietse get on the computer and send us some info.

Also we have once again a nickname. Remember we started this pre-summer with a long list of names from former offshore deejays,

adding their nicknames to it? Well we received another one: 'The damned yank' Blake Williams, who first worked for Laser 558 (730) and later went to Radio Caroline.



On October 2nd we also saw the return of a former Veronica deejay on the radio. We all remember him from his very beautiful voice and also from his very good choice in music. After Veronica closed down as an offshore radio station in 1974 not too much was heard from

him. We're talking about Tom Collins, who started his career at Radio Dolfijn from the MV Laissez Faire. He was, for a long time, out of work, and since a few years he found himself back within the IT world. But there's more news as from today he's reading the news on the Dutch Classic FM under his own name Tom Droog.

On Radio 10FM they celebrate this week the fact that the program item '50 Pop op een enveloppe' (50 guilders in an envelop) could be heard for the 25th year. Well if you count also the years that the game was not on the radio, you will come to this number. The game started on Hilversum 3 when it was transmitted by Tom Mulder on TROS. Well anyway, Tom Mulder (aka Klaas Vaak from Veronica) likes to celebrate now and then and we feel lucky for him that there was another thing to be happy on.

On October 4th an official statement was made by Peter Moore from Caroline headquarters in London. He stated that Caroline has nothing to do with the short-wave transmissions which were on the air during the past few days. Caroline hasn't give anyone the order to relay the satellite transmissions versus short-wave.

October 5th. Last month I already talked about the raid on the Ross Revenge and the name of Martin Raumen felt in this story, too. Well

what most people don't know is that Martin was and is a full Caroline fan and that he acted from a professional side when doing the raid. He left the Dutch OCD a couple of years ago to find his then future within the gardening business. Also he wanted to start local radio stations in Delft and The Hague. Nowadays he's back at the IND, which is the organisation with the new name for the former OCD. And the head office is in Groningen, where I'm living. So who knows I'll see him suddenly and maybe I could act in the name of all the Anoraks? I'm only joking of course!

A few of the former Radio Caroline presenters, who left Maidstone some weeks ago, are dissatisfied about the way the Caroline organisation is ran by Peter Moore and his people. They think the time of Caroline as a really free radio station has gone. "All what they bring nowadays has nothing to do anymore with freedom of speech. We were told what to do and what to say and above all what not to say and that was the limit. We didn't want to be there to kept our mouth shut when Moore wanted this." Also the people told us that they plan to start a new radio station called Radio Free Caroline. Further plans have not been given free but they told us they will be soon revealed.

October 11th there was an item on the history of Breakfast programs on Dutch television. Nowadays director for RTL4 and 5, Leo van der Goot, (the men with the strongest voice on RNI) was interviewed as well as Breakfast presenter Jan de Hoop (former Frank van der Mast on Mi Amigo). Some old shots from the very first breakfast show in 1989 showed us another former offshore jock, Marc Jacobs from Mi Amigo.

Every weekend two old Veronica programmes from the sixties or seventies are repeated on Radio 192 and so Anushka came back today with a program from 1964. Well I met her a few times, nice lady but listening back to her after so many years remembered me not only on the slow presentation style she had but also how she liked herself. Shamelessly she played her own song 'Anushka' by 'Anushka'. On the

other hand there was a song in the program called 'Er is maar één Amsterdam' sung by Rika Jansen (There is only one Amsterdam). The song was written in the early sixties by a certain Kees Manders. Yes, you're right Andy Archer; Kees was the guy who tried to hijack the MEBO II on August 29th 1970. In the early days of Veronica he was also part of the investors but thrown out when the Verweys came in.

On October 19th On Radio 192 they had a special quest talking about his radio past. It was Ferry Eden who was guest in the program of Martien Engel to talk about his past on Radio Mi Amigo (yes already 25 years ago). Nowadays Ferry has his own successful video production company in Utrecht.

Talking about Radio 192 another former Radio Veronica deejay can now be heard on the station. It's Chiel Montagne (Bert van Rheenen) who presents the program between 11 and 12 on Sundays. Chiel worked, until a few months back, on Radio Nationaal. Due to the fact Chiel is now on that timeslot one hour of the weekly flashback show can now be heard on Saturday evenings between 19 and 20 hours.

On October 17th I listened to Radio 2 and the 'Program of the Sentiment' in which the presenters look back 4 times a week on a special year with some items in the program. One of them is searching for people who were special in that year. Today the year was 1964 and they were on search for Bob and Brenda a then popular presentation duo on Radio Veronica. What they didn't know at that stage that there were two different 'Bobs'. The first one was Krijn Topping. At once stage in 1965, he left Veronica to work for Hilversum 3 on AVRO Radio. So he also left Brenda (by the way his own wife at that stage). Then Veronica had to find a new Bob which had some radio experience at the REM Island (Radio Noordzee 1964). His real name is Rob Out. Well Krijn still does radio work and is also speaker at the football stadium of FC Twente. Brenda works as a journalist in the Caribbean freelance and Rob Out has become multimillionaire for many years and is living day in day out behind a big gate in a beautiful home.

Does the name 'Dikke Danny' or Danny Vuylsteke ring a bell? He was one of the people behind the 3rd rebirth of Radio Caroline in 1979/1980 and came from Belgium. On October 18th he had to go into court for several cases of fraudulent behaviour. He didn't arrive at the court but the judge spoke and judged that he had to go to jail for a three year period. Nobody knows where Danny is at the moment. Sometimes having some beers with old radio friends, the nicest stories are going about 'Dikke Danny'. He was responsible for a lot of commercials on the station and for instant there was a spot for a chicken restaurant. Well the story goes that Danny came there often for dinner and the owner got a free commercial for that. In that way, so the deejay of Caroline told me, he got also a beautiful car and the boys couldn't tell me if the relaxing farm, which was advertised on the station, also got a frequently visit from the people behind the scene in those years.

Well John de Mol jr, who once started as 17 year old guy at Radio Noordzee, where he was technician, is back within the radio scene. John nowadays is one of the richest people of Holland as he is De Mol of EndeMol productions.



He's also the son of John de Mol, former director of Dutch Service of RNI. But it can be back to the roots completely as John de Mol jr bought all the shares from Radio Noordzee, which were in hands of SBS and Strengholt, and now he can mention himself the proud owner of Radio Noordzee.

On October 24th on Radio 2 it was Tom Mulder (Klaas Vaak) of Radio10FM who was interviewed about his career. Tom started in 1969 on Veronica and really came big on TROS Radio. The interview

was done in a special week on Radio 2, called the week of the Seventies. Today also Blackburn had a special on Channel Four on his career. Only this one was 60 minutes. Both Vaak and Blackburn are known in their countries for the ever-loving love for oneliners.

Yesterday, October 31st another edition of the Television Years was on Dutch TV. It showed us highlights from several programs from the sixties, including the Pop show Moef ga ga. In this show, which was presented by Joost den Draayer, also Rob Out aka Egbert Douwe could be seen with his number one hit from the late sixties 'Kom uit de bedstee'. This song was first sung by the Brothers Four under the title 'Come to my bedside my darling'. Well here we have an exclusive photo were Rob Out gets his golden record for this song.

Early 2003 a start will be made in Holland with digital radio broadcasting. It is expected that before summer 40% of the Dutch could be receiving digital broadcasts (of course if they buy a receiver).



And finally for this month the message that Dutch Parliament has taken the whistle and have forbidden the fallen Dutch government to go ahead with the selling of the frequencies. How long further will this bring us. Some people

could write a book about all what was happening on this subject during the past few years. Well as a direct response the director owner of Radio Nationaal, Ruud Hendriks (former Rob Hudson on Mi Amigo and Caroline) declared that from November 1st the

transmitter on AM (1296kHz) will be turned down for the time being. In that way he want to save a lot of money. Nationaal can now only be heard on 80% of the cable networks in Holland.

We'll hope to bring you more news in December. Then we can also announce the date when we, Freewave Media Magazine and the Foundation for Media Communication, will celebrate not only 25 years of Freewave, but also 25 years of Radiodays in Holland and 25 years of SMC.

On the photograph you see Peter Chicago, Hans Knot and Rob Olthof. Behind Rob just a glimpse of Krijn Torringa, first known as Bob from Bob and Brenda on Veronica

Greetings

Hans Knot