

Hans Knot's International Radio Report - February 2003

Welcome to the new edition of my monthly report.



Stuart Aitken sent us another air check on which we could hear that Tom Lodge used another nickname during Caroline days: 'Your dawn buster man'. Then Martin van der Ven sent us the second nick name for Andy Archer. While listening to an old recording from Graham Gill he heard him talking about Andy 'Agatha' Archer. Well Andy you could have mentioned it yourself! Also Jan van Heeren mentioned that Dave Lee Travis was called 'The Hairy Monster'. Then one deejay who had two nicknames: We talk about Herbert Visser, who worked on Radio Monique in the Eighties. His fellow deejays at Radio Caroline, who shared the transmitter on board the MV Ross Revenge with Radio Monique, called him either 'Herbie the Fish' or Herbert 'The flying Dutchman' Visser.

Then it was nice to see that Chris Edwards, editor of OEM, sent us some updates on the Georgie Fame/Ronan O'Rahilly story: 'A comment on the Ronan/Georgie Fame story'

Chris wrote: 'Somewhere in my press cutting archive is one from around 1963/64 which mentions that Ronan O'Rahilly was working for the Rick Gunnell Agency as a record plugger. Rick Gunnell's was an artist management and promotion company around in the 60's. I think the story of Ronan 'managing' Georgie Fame has been somewhat exaggerated over the years. In actual fact Ronan was simply a record plugger, and one of the artists he was plugging was Georgie Fame. Another story from that period, which seems to have emerged in recent years (I think it's in the 'official' history of Radio Caroline on their website) is that Ronan briefly managed the Rolling Stones. Ronan certainly knew the Stones, he was a friend of Georgio Gomelski who was a sort of unofficial manager to the group

in their very early days. So there was a link, but it would be very exaggerated to say Ronan was the manager.'

It was also nice to see the interview with Shaun Tilney in the Radio Magazine. The former Radio Caroline and Radio Luxembourg deejay is currently working for Radio City in Liverpool and he still is extremely busy on the gig circuit, while also presenting Everton TV and hosting pre-match and half-time entertainment at Goodison Park.

Then Mick Coren responded on my message about Radio Caroline and World Space: 'I can tell you that the Hitachi model, which I have, did eventually sell well. I was listening to Radio Caroline recently and it was mentioned that this model is going to be replaced with a new one which it is hoped will be cheaper. Peter Moore has the sales figures for Worldspace and he is very pleased with them. I am looking forward to shortly listening to Radio Caroline via Sky Digital. How long do you think before the station will get a terrestrial outlet? It is now the only outlet left!! Maybe a long wave frequency like 279 with a deal with Music Mann. I often listen to the Dutch Caroline and I think you have a great station over there.'

Well Mick personally I don't think there will be a change for a terrestrial service as there is too less money and no real advertisers with the station. And if Paul Rusling and the other MusicMann want to make a deal, lies in their hands.

Then this month also an e-mail came in from Mick Luvzit: "Just a quick note to let you know that I have been trying to track down Captain Martin Gipps who married Janet and I (Mick Luvzit) on Sept 20th 1966 on board Caroline North, where it was broadcast live. Do you have any idea of how I could get in touch with him. I would really appreciate it if you can. Also...have you written anything about off shore radio, as I know you have incredible knowledge of such."
Thanks for your help Mick Luvzit. Well the last question was one I could answer myself of course, but the first one is also an unanswered one for me. During the past decade I've traced down a

lot of old crew members but Martin Gibbs (Gipps) couldn't be found. If anyone of you knows his present whereabouts, please let us know.

Good to be in contact with Mick Luvzit. He's living in Canada and still doing radio work, with presenting syndicate programs: "The show is called 'Micks' Weekend Wing Ding and Soul Party' ...as Saturday afternoons from 3 to 6 was called 'Micks Weekend Wing Ding' ..I also took over Jim Murphys 'Midnite Surf Party' on Saturdays and it became 'Mick's Midnite Soul Party' ...so I incorporated those two shows into one and I play hits from the 60's." Good to have made you happy with the message that I have a 3 hours recording from your wedding way back in 1966 Mick. By the way for all the young readers, Mick was married onboard the MV Fredericia, the radio ship of Radio Caroline North, way back in 1966.

I've something with Harmen Siezen, one time newsreader and presenter at Veronica. As mentioned a couple of months ago Harmen left the NOS Journaal after decades working for them. He did also some television presenting for NCRV TV lately and from today he starts a new knowledge quiz on KRO TV in which well known people are questioned about their knowledge of the sixties, seventies, eighties and nineties of the last century. The program is called: 'De tijd van ons leven' (Time of our live). In the program transmitted on the 24th of January it was a high Veronica profile, for Siezen had two former Radio Veronica deejays to answer his questions: Will Luikinga and Eddie Becker. By the way, Eddie nowadays has a very fine magazine in the shops, called 'Flashback'.



From left to right: Tom Anderson, Dixie Peach, Andy Archer, Tony Garreth, Dave Simons and Robin Ross on board the Ross Revenge 1983

It was also good to hear again from good old Robin Ross and then I talk about the one and only Robin Ross and not the cloned ones. Robin was one of the good guys on board the Ross Revenge when Radio Caroline did a restart on 963 kHz. Robin stayed in radio for a long time, most recently he worked 5 years for Jazz FM in Manchester and doubled the audience. Rob wants to be working in radio and if anyone of you knows a job for him, please feel free to contact Robin on the next e mail address: robin@robinross.co.uk

Then the news came in that the MV Communicator, once the house of Laser 558 and Laser Hot Hits in the Eighties and later on rebuilt as a transmitter vessel for Holland FM, Veronica FM and Q The Beat should have been sold by owners Clear Channel Communications. One of our readers wrote: 'Laser the ship has been bought by Dangerous Dave Miller, one of the most talented broadcasters I have ever had the good fortune to meet. I am not sure what he is going to do yet but rest assured Dave will come up with something.' We couldn't get any confirmation of the sale yet.

What I do know is that there were plans to start two radio stations from the ship on the position where it's anchored nowadays. The idea came from Peter Teekamp, once deejay Carl de Jong on Radio Caroline in the late seventies. He visited the ship with a maritime specialist in September and October last year and even an inspection under the waterline has been taken. The condition was good enough to use the ship for a longer period again. The idea was to use the 1224 kHz transmitter on the ship during a part of the day for the retransmissions of the programs of Radio 192 and for the other part of the day for a new radio station, runned by Teekamp himself. Finally this plan did not go on for two reasons, Teekamp told me: "The biggest problem is that the backer of Radio 192 has withdrawn himself from the station, so they don't have the money to

participate within the new project. I had interested some other people for participating for the other part of the costs. As I can't pay the other part myself, the stations will not come on the air. Secondly the condition of the anchorage has been getting worse during the past weeks and the Communicator is lying very unstable in the mud."

And most of all there is the problem that it's very difficult to find advertisers for a radio station that's only transmitting on medium wave. No advertising agency is interested in medium wave radio as well as the average listening group for stations like Radio 192, they only think that the younger people are those who can bring in the money. A pity, but true that there's no future for stations like these.

The Nozema, responsible for the main part of the transmitters in Holland and also for the new one on the Communicator, has been searching for the person responsible for the station Q The Beat, Rob de Vegt. He couldn't be found. The real owner of the ship is Clear Channel Communication, as main shareholder in Q The Beat. A lot of bills have to be paid to Nozema. In the meantime there have been talks with some organisations and people, including with a person who wants to start a museum on the ship. In the past a small offshore exhibition has been held on the ship but as there came not enough visitors to the exhibition, it was closed.



Former studio onboard
the MV Communicator
Copyright Pieter Damave

In the meantime still the ship is near Almere and Pieter Damave, former technician in the seventies with Radio Noordzee, the Dutch service of RNI, made a visit to the ship and succeeded in getting inside the ship. He took a lot of photographs which he sent me and you will find back [here](#).

Here just one of them and don't forget the photo's are copyright of

Peter Damave so don't try to download and re-use them.

Jim Parkes brought us the news that on January the 5th Mike Bass died. He was very ill during the past few months. Mike was one of the technicians on Radio Caroline South. Personally I met him a few times in 1978. Together with Mike Baron and Nick Oakly, Mike Bass worked on the English side of the team. I worked together with Frans Schuurbiens, Jelle Knot and Ton van Draanen on the Dutch side of the organisation of 'Zeezenders 20' where some 500 people joined together for a 3 days happening at Noordwijkerhout, which was the very first offshore convention held in The Netherlands.

Stuart Aitkin, who wondered if someone could help him with the original Swinging Radio England 'That Man' package, must be happy around this time. Paul Watt (former Radio Merlin International) helped him out as reader of this international monthly newsletter (by e-mail it's sent to some 1.700 people and read on internet sites by thousands more).

Another new reader wrote on January the 11th: 'Hi Hans, My name is Paul Johnson and I live in Bristol, England. I am a great friend of Jane Newbould of Southgate, London. Please could I be added to your Offshore mailing list. I am a Offshore radio fanatic (Radio Caroline being my favourite station). I am an ex Caroline/Ross Revenge crew member from 1991-95 and I've been meaning to get in contact with you for a very long time. I will in the very near future send you some of my photos from my time on the Ross. I am a presenter on Internet station Radio Samantha which broadcasts each Sunday on live 365 and features ex Caroline presenters - Tony Christian and Dave The Fish, we are also all involved with my hobby/playback cd station Special Music Radio.'

Well hopefully Paul does send some pictures for it was a very rare period when the Ross Revenge was in Dover harbour and on some other locations. It could be that Paul and I met each other as I remember meeting Jane in 1992 for the first time and later on,

spending some days at the Ross Revenge in London in 1995, for the second time.



Kord and Hans
from Graz in the
Mi Amigo studio

From the Canaries Isles we got an email from Kord, one of the people behind the station Radio Mi Amigo on one of the isles. Kord started his radio career with Radio Caroline, although he never made it behind the microphone there. He worked together at the Van Hoogendorpstraat in The Hague with people like Dennis King, Andy Archer, Norman Barrington and Tony Allan. The station, which he is running now on the Canaries, is on 89.8 FM and you can also hear it on a live

stream www.radio-miamigo.com

Kord has asked me to publish that his station is looking for presenters, advertisers and people who want to buy airtime for their own program slots on Radio Mi Amigo. You can contact Kord on the next phone number and e mail address: Tel.: (0034) 928 761159 or on (0034) 928 765974

e-mail: redaktion@miamigogc.com

On the online journal for media and music culture: www.soundscapes.info You can find a long story, I've written about the station. Klick on Volume 5 and you'll find it.

Good news is also the message, which we got that from last Saturday. Tony Allan does a regular slot on the brand new service of Radio Caroline. He can be heard each Saturday afternoon between 3 and 6 o'clock. Welcome back Doris.

Then it was nice receiving the annual Skuesletter in which Keith Skues is telling all his friends what he has done in the past year. Not only his Radio Show was going around through the Eastern Counties but he did also a lot of other work, including promoting the Skues CD, about which I told you some time ago. But also he did guest appearances including the opening of the Fire Museum in Stalham, The Horning Fete and Regatta, opening of the Tesco in Stalham and meeting up with Helen Shapiro in Norwich, where she made her farewell concert. Skues and Helen have known each other for 40 years. Thanks Keith for the beautiful newsletter and I borrowed one of the photos for this international report.



Keith Skues and
Helen Shapiro
Copyright K. Skues

In the middle of the month I came, with thanks to Mike Brand, in contact with Bill Danse. And I know some of the e-mail readers are now sitting sharp. Bill has worked very long on the Voice of Peace as an audio technician. He left with the VOP in the early seventies with captain Jaap Stengs on the MV Cito (the Voice of Peace Ship) to New York and stayed there for a long time. From then on he went (our good old Tony Allan also joined the crew) to Europe and a lot of trouble occurred before the station took the air in 1973. Including an almost always drunk captain from Norway; a crewmember from Portugal who was insane and wanted to kill someone with a knife (Give Peace a chance). Also there was the thought the Portuguese was a spy. They entered Barcelona (in the days of Franco) with the ship and were held for 24 hours so that the ship could be searched completely. Abe was thrown out of the country. Just a few of the many memories Bill has. Well exciting stories and we have already invited him for the radio day, which will be held in October 25th in Amsterdam. At an earlier stage Andy Archer has already stated that for the first time since 1978 he will join us. Bill and Andy know each other, although we hope they know it themselves.

Also good to hear that in early January, Tony Blackburn started with

his work at the Real Radio stations with his program 'The Real Party Night' in England. A show of four hours filled with soul and disco classics. Each Saturday evening it's on the air. Lucky for Tony he will stay in 'Debrett's People of Today'. This is a yearly list of important radio and television persons in Great Britain. Two other well known people, Noel Edmonds and Dave Lee Travis have been dropped from the list, which I think they don't deserve.

Another person who was into offshore radio in the seventies was Tom de Bree. He worked only a few days on the MV Magdalena, the radio ship for Radio Mi Amigo 272. He saw luckily enough that the radio ship was in a very bad shape and that the crewmembers didn't know how to fulfill their tasks. I was in contact with him in the years to follow. Next he left Holland to work into the Belgian radio scene. He made contact with me after many years and promised me to write a story on his days in offshore radio

Sad news from the Dutch radio scene is that Radio Caroline Holland has lost their distribution via the UPC cable networks. Reason is the organization couldn't pay the bills during the past months. I think Sietse Brouwer and his team deserve a good AM frequency soon. If not there could be bad storms.

On the 18th of June on Radio 192 former Radio Mi Amigo deejays could be heard. Rob Hessink, who worked on the station as Jan van der Meer in the mid seventies, talked about his memories with Johan Visser. Rob will not be heard too much the forthcoming years due to the fact he's leaving soon to India. In the late evening Martien van Engel talked on Radio 192 with Dick Verheul and Kees Borell. Both worked on different radio ships for Radio Mi Amigo, Radio Caroline and Dick also for Radio Monique.

On Dutch Radio 2 there is a new weekly list. Each Friday afternoon the team of the AVRO presents the Standard Album Top 50. Presenter Hans Schiffers and Producer Ton van Draanen bring tracks from the hottest selling CD's. There's only one restriction:

The cd must be on the market for more than two years. Since early January it's not possible anymore to get the printed version from the weekly Top 40 anymore from the record shops in Holland. From the second week in January 1965 the list came out each Friday. In the mid seventies each week more than 190.000 copies were printed. Selling of the CD singles is so low that it's not interesting anymore to print the list. Reading the radio newsgroups on Internet many people who went to the shops for many decades protested against the decision and many of them were 50+.

On Thursday January 30th for the last time the program 'Candlelight' was brought on Sky Radio. Presenter Jan van Veen started this program on Radio Veronica in the late sixties. It is a combination of easy listening pop songs and poetry. In the eighties AVRO Radio brought it on Radio 3 and during the last decennium Jan van Veen could be heard in the late evenings on Sky Radio. Let's hope Jan will join the team of Radio 192. It could be a good idea to let him present another program from the past: 'Alle remmen los' (All brakes go ahead). But now I'm maybe daydreaming. In the meantime a few radio stations already contact Van Veen, including the regional radio station Radio M in Utrecht, to have talks for starting to do the program there. Finally it came to my ears that soon Van Veen has been called for a meeting with Eric de Zwart, nowadays program director for Radio Noordzee (the commercial radio station owned by John de Mol jr) to see if he wants to work there. More on the subject next month.

All you people out there are getting greetings from Graham Gill and he had some nicknames, which we haven't mentioned yet: The people have either worked for Radio Caroline or RNI. Robin Banks ('Robino Banco'), John 'B' Meyr or John 'Jessie' Meyr. Norman Barrington 'Smythe'. Brian Anderson or Mrs. Ena Anderson. Johnny Jason became a short period 'J.J.' and Graham finally mentioned Mike 'the Poet'.

Well friends, that brings us to the end of a very long international

report. Let your news coming in the forthcoming weeks and I will see what I can do for us all.

Have a nice February,

Hans Knot