

Hans Knot's International Radio Report - March 2003



Well dear radio friends another month has gone and being a short month not too much news and gossip. Thanks for the enormous response on my last newsletter. Some of you will be mentioned (again). Most of you I've answered personally.

On the evening that I was sending out all the reports last months it was very nice to see that the NOS Journaal, which is the official news bulletin from the public broadcasters, paid 4 minutes long attention to the fact that on the same day the program Candlelight was for the last time on Sky Radio. It is the longest running (it started 35 years ago on Radio Veronica) show on Dutch radio presented by the same man, Jan van Veen. Well not only the offshore radio station Veronica had Jan van Veen in the team but also the Dutch service of RNI in the early seventies. Jan, by the way, married one of the daughters of Dirk Verwey - one of the former Veronica directors who died a couple of years ago.

Then Robin Ross responded on my request for television work: 'I am looking for radio work not television work. As they say I have a great face for radio. So if anyone has a vacancy in radio within England please contact Robin at: robinross@blueyonder.co.uk

Early February: And Robin, who told us last month that, following the words of one of his friends, the MV Communicator has now been registered with Cambodia and plans are afoot. Well Nozema still thinks the ship is owned by the American Company Clear Channel Communications. Rob van der Vegt, former Q-The Beat director, is back. He couldn't be found last month due to a holiday. From another source we hear that our earlier mentioned Englishman is not alone. Together with his partner O'Conner he should have paid the first amount of money for buying the Communicator. So hopefully one day it will become clear what will happen to the former Laser ship.

Then it was Paul de Haan who responded: 'During last week I was from Wednesday up till Friday with my colleagues for a trainee course in Hotel Oranje at Noordwijk. Friday it was an excellent sunny day and on the horizon I saw, although on distance, the former REM Island. It's still standing there, after it was built almost 40 years ago. The 'Island' is still in use as a sort of weather and wind station. On my way back home I took a short break at the place where the MV Communicator is anchored and indeed it's very tragic to see it in these sad circumstances. As I read before it looks more and more like the circumstances in the seventies with the MV Galaxy, the former Radio London ship, which was anchored then in Hamburg harbour. As I read in the international report someone has plans for a museum on the ship. Well, in my opinion these are wild ideas and not attainable. One way Nozema can't give permission, as they're not the owners. Secondly someone who wants to open a museum on the ship will never get permission to have a big group of persons on the ship and thirdly there's a big asbestos problem on the ship. Warnings are everywhere inside the MV Communicator. It will cost a lot of money to get rid of it as well as rebuilding the ship into a good condition. I think that possibly we will never hear any more music from the former Laser ship and a better name than MV Non Communicator cannot be chosen.' If you haven't seen the site on Internet, which is run by Paul and his son Mark, go and get it. It tells a lot of the ships and the technical installations on the several radio ships, through the sixties, seventies and eighties of the last century: www.marine-broadcasters.com

But more people are focused on the MV Communicator. Ruud Poeze, former Radio Paradise land based station from Utrecht, was on the telephone and he stated that it wasn't a too big problem to buy the radio ship. He tried to hire the transmitter for the Christmas and New Year period but couldn't get it completely arranged due to the fact one of the people involved didn't want to give permission. I think personally he could hire the transmitter but couldn't get the money. Following Ruud's words it wouldn't be a problem with the

owner, the quicker they get rid of the ship, the better. It's so cheap that everybody (well almost) can buy the ship, as it is cheap. But then comes the problem of the Nozema transmitter. The licence for the 1224 frequency is given away up till June 1st. Ruud thinks also that going to international waters with the ship is impossible, but he has other remarks than Paul Jan de Haan has: 'Juridical and technical it is impossible and we haven't talked yet about the maintenance which has to be done on the radio ship.'

Talking about Internet sites, we got an e-mail from the webmaster of another marvellous site on the history on Offshore Radio: 'I have now carried out the February update to the Pirate Radio Hall of Fame. I have added ten more audio clips and some more photos; we hear from someone who worked on two offshore radio projects way back in 1960/1962 - before Radio Caroline was even thought of; there are more vintage press cuttings of Tony Prince's Caroline memories and a recording of Radio London on 277 metres (instead of the usual 266). Also there is news of a proposed TV documentary about Radio Scotland. All this and much more can be found at The Pirate Radio Hall of Fame: www.offshoreradio.co.uk'



Roger Day on RadioDay 2001.
Photo: Jana Dickscheit

Then our good old friend Roger 'Twiggy' Day responded. Of course he has a lot of memories to the good old days in Offshore Radio and he's still looking for two old shipmates. First of all he's looking for Carl Mitchell. He worked with Roger on Radio Caroline International on the MV Mi Amigo in 1967/1968 as well as on RNI - the MEBO II in 1970. I know that in the time between Carl Mitchell worked in Groningen city in the Discotheque 'Berenkuil'. After his period on Radio Northsea International Carl first went to Denmark again and later on he was in Canada. Present whereabouts unknown. So who will and can help us with information on Carl 'The weird beard' Mitchell? The second person who Roger Day is looking for is Lee Green. He was one of the crewmembers on the MV Mi Amigo and was working for the

Wijsmuller Company from Baarn in Holland, the company which provided the crews for several radio ships in the sixties.

A person whom I met for the first time on February 27th 1973 way back was then 17 years of age. I was going out to the MV Mi Amigo and this then young lad had to go too for his very first trip. He has a three-piece suit on and his name was 'Young' Paul Rusling. Almost every year we meet up and he sent in his response on last month report with some nice memories:



'I enjoyed seeing the pictures of the Communicator. I recognise the equipment of course - one nice Alice Chalmers generator I think that I bought for \$9,000 cash at a hospital in London, and sent on a truck to Ireland to fit on the ship in New Ross! A good machine it was too! There is an interesting picture of me sat on the cables in my Lid Off Laser 558 book.

Well of course I do remember Zeezenders 20, which was the very first offshore convention held in The Netherlands. Also, Noordwijkerhout that weekend was on the Honeymoon Tour of Paul and Anne Rusling, when they got married, 25 years ago this year.' Well before I do forget Anne and Paul congratulations with this silver marriage later this year in July.

Nice to see that always old lads do remember little things. Here's what Paul wrote on the fact that Kord, an old Caroline man, had his own Radio Mi Amigo on the Canaries:

'Kord, yes, I remember him. A good helper he was then at the van-Hoogendorpstraat-16 studios. I think he got the carpet tiles for Chris Cary. He took me for the first time to the Post Office with big bundles of international reply coupons to get stamps, and also showed me a few bars too. I could show him a few now of course!'

And like nobody is perfect Paul wrote about a terrible mistake I made in my last report: 'And I see now that I am as good as Hans Knot, who makes my mistakes with the keyboard and shows Mike Bass as being Mike Batt. (Mike Batt was a very famous producer and musician in England in the 1970s, responsible for giving birth to The Wombles!)' Sorry for that one Paul!

And referring to the nicknames we mentioned in last month's report: 'Graham finally mentioned Mike 'The Poet'. This was Michael Wall-Garland (his correct name, according to his passport) who sadly died in the mid 1970s by an accident in Italy. He came to the MV Mi Amigo as a diesel engineer (sent out by Chris Cary) and used to write poetry. So we got him to read it on the air sometimes. I still have him on tape with a nice short simple one.

'Caroline, it sounds fine
on 389 and 259
All alone in the great North Sea
Playing Music for you and me
when you hear our bell
stay on the line
Its your very own Caroline'

I still can hear his voice, quite a posh upper class voice, but a wonderful man. Very helpful.' Thanks Paul for sending this poem on the day that Holland had the annual national poetry day.

And Paul is planning to come to the Radio Day once again, this year for the 25th year in a row organised by Freewave Media Magazine and The Foundation for media communication.

Paul about this event: 'Anyway, I did put the 'Radiodag' down in my Agenda and I will definitely be there in Rocktober. It will be good to see those old rogues once again and be entertained with some stories! Of course, by then I hope to be in Amsterdam on official

business - measuring the signal strength on 279 KHz. 'Sounds Fine - 2 7 9'

Everybody must have seen the miss typing of Mick Luvzit's name. (I wrote Mike and Luvzitt) sorry for that.

Keith Knight wrote us: 'A superb report as usual! Have you sampled my clip programme 'wireless waves' on my sound and vision site <http://homepage.ntlworld.com/waffler/> it is in the current sound section?' Yes, I did Keith and I must say I enjoyed it truly. Next to some offshore sounds there are a lot of radio stations worldwide to be heard. Have a look on Keith's site. But there was more as he asked me: 'I don't suppose you could turn things round in 2003 and put the Ross Revenge back out to sea and run it efficiently and at a profit?' Well here is the answer I wrote back: 'If I would be rich I would buy a decent Dutch coaster built in Groningen, like the Peace ship. (I lived only 200 meter away from where the ship was in Groningen harbour for more than 4 years, before Abe bought it.) I would start two stations:

One oldies station and one very laid back middle of the road station. This as Radio 390 was one of my favourite stations.' And now Keith's answer to that: 'The Radio 390 format - fifteen to thirty minutes of music - could come back from the Isle of Man. Meanwhile try out the UK's talksport on am 1089, 1053, 1107 - not sure which will be the strongest in Holland. Between 8pm and 11pm on Saturdays (tomorrow!) Gerald Harper has a really good lounge music show Champagne and Roses - like he did on UK radio in the 70s for Capital FM - but even older music. I like rock up to date hits but also love oldies - even 78s from the 30s and 40s (I am 51).' So you see what kind of ideas he and I have on stations we would like today. Please give your comment.

There were nicknames not only for deejays but of course also for technicians. On the Veronica reunion in 1999 Sietze Gardenier met again old colleague Anneke and married her a year later. Yes 25 years after Veronica closed down as a radio station from

international waters. It was Eddie Becker who remembered the nickname for Sietze, which was Sietze 'scharnier' Gardenier. And while writing this I do remember the nickname for Eddie himself 'Eddie Becker de man met de wekker' (The man with the alarm clock - as he did the breakfast show on Radio Veronica).

Greetings to all from Bob Noakes, above all to his former mates from the MEBO II and Mi Amigo. After his time on the Mi Amigo Bob found a living in Holland and still Amsterdam is his home. Bob and I stayed in contact all those years and now and then we hang on the phone line for 40 minutes to get informed from each other. Every year he visits the Radio Day so if anyone wants to meet him, Amsterdam can be the place on October 25th.

Concerning the stories about Ronan O'Rahilly and his connections with the Beatles it's this month Robb Eden who wants to add something to all what has been written before on this subject. 'You may also have heard that there was a period in the late sixties (just before Allen Klein took over), when Ronan effectively became the Beatles manager through his association with George Harrison.' Every now and then it's also mentioned that George made some cash flow so Ronan could go on with his beloved Radio Caroline. But another one writing in on my comments about Ronan wrote: 'I like your stuff on Ronan and Georgie Fame. You might want to add that Ronan's famous story about Caroline Kennedy is not true either: get the original "LOOK" magazine photo story and you will see that it was John John (who recently died in a plane crash) who was the focus of the magazine article: but "Radio John-John"? Doesn't sound too good, does it? Ronan made a lot of stuff up or he stretched the truth until it looked like pure fiction.' And who told the truth? Ronan, or the writer of this, Paul John Lilburne-Byford?

And as we wrote about the death of Mike Bass, Robb added: 'Anyone who knew Mike Bass can add his or her thoughts at jacobs ladder.org.uk. Robin Adcroft is busy writing a special piece. This will be posted as soon as received.'

Robb wants to inform all readers of the monthly report on his new music project that 'Surefire' is doing well. 'They were interviewed by Bruce Dickinson, lead singer of Iron Maiden, on his BBC 6Music show last Saturday. Also the group is interviewed on TotalRock and gig at The Borderline in London early February. The promoter at The Borderline is an old mate, Barry Everitt, who was on Radio Geronimo. Thanks for the newsletter. It keeps everyone informed of what's going on. Robb' Well thanks Robb. Barry Everitt, I do remember, made also a short stay at the MV Mi Amigo in the mid seventies.

One of the other former Mi Amigo guys is 'Morning lads' Johnny Lewis. We had our regular drink with each other in Whistable for many years and during the last years we didn't succeed to get a date. So Johnny made contact by mail to see when I'm over this year. He also told me about the current state of Radio Caroline England: 'Not too much going on with Caroline apart from loads of new computers have arrived in Maidstone and since Sky has been on the calls and e-mails have gone up over 200% or more. So let's see where we go from here! Best wishes Johnny.' And when I'm talking about Caroline I've to congratulate Peter Moore with his birthday on the 25th. Many years Malcolm!

Well some months ago I told you about the plans restarting a new Radio 227. The man behind this project is the former Radio Dolfijn and Radio 227 deejay Look Boden. Early February he made an update about the project and wrote: 'During the past period our handsome technicians have made many hours to get a good result for our transmissions on Internet. We're not totally happy but work goes on. Also the last technical activities in the studio are done. New MD-players are installed, also a new mixing table and a new software program. Pruiko a specialised company from Sliedrecht has built our studio design. In the meantime also a jingle package has been produced to give us our own special sound. A few of the old Radio Dolfijn and Radio 227 deejays as well as some new ones have spoken with us for making programs. The names will be unfolded at a later

stage. We hope to get permission from a few cable companies to get our signal on their network. It can take longer time than expected. UPC is now planning the period up till April 2004. Essent will make a planning in April and what Casema wants to do is unknown. Also we're looking into the possibilities to use a satellite channel, as well we're bidding for one of the new frequencies.' Let's hope Look and his friends will be successful.

And that the international report has its former offshore deejays among the readers is known for some time. But one you haven't seen mentioned by me is a veteran. Way back in the sixties he worked on '242' or Radio Scotland. That's one of the more regional radio stations, which were active from international waters. Radio Scotland, funny enough, was reasonable receivable in the north of Holland (Groningen). I know from friends in the centre of Holland as well as Amsterdam, that they hardly could get a signal out of their tranny on '242'. Here are some very nice words Ben Healy wrote to me from Canada: 'Hi Hans: I want to let you know that you are a terrific source for news and information about offshore radio. You are a real gem so keep up the great work'. Healy who always started his program with 'Hi my name is Ben Healy. What's yours?'

Paul John Lilburne-Byford wrote me with a question, which I can't answer. Who does know more on the following subject. Paul John: 'Paul Rusling posted a history on Martin van der Ven's site of the Bacardi built offshore station that was involved a latter day reincarnation when it was bought by Sir James Goldsmith for use by his Referendum Party in the 1997 UK General Election. It was supposedly docked at Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada and to be brought to a point off Kent, where it would begin transmissions with a 100kW transmitter. I have asked Martin about this and his only source is Paul Rusling. We have other sources that we are following up, but as you could see from the letter to the DTI Insolvency Agency this story is very important to us and to me in particular. (The letter can be found on www.soundscape.info under Volume 5.) Our other sources in Goldsmith's old party are checking for us, but do you know

anything about this story? Any help that you can provide will be appreciated. 1) Have you heard this story before? 2) Did you get it from Rusling or from another source? 3) Do you have any additional information other than what Martin put on his site? So anyone who has more on the subject, please inform me on email: Hknot@home.nl

And then an e-mail came in from Johnny 'Pirate Memories'. He wrote: 'Hi there Hans, and thank you once again for a really good report. It was good to read about radio happenings in Holland and beyond. I see that very good photograph of Robin Ross, and the other DJ's when Radio Caroline came back on air in August 1983. I met and worked with Dave Simmons for a short while at Viking FM in Hull, England, where I was commercial production engineer at the time. He was a very talented broadcaster and very easy to get on with. He left in 1992, and I last heard that he was manager of a Hotel somewhere in Lancashire, England.'

What John however didn't know was that Dave Simmons never made it on the air on Radio Caroline. The photograph was shot at the press conference on board the Ross Revenge, a few days before the station came on the air. Stories are going that he went back with the tender to England due to the fact he wasn't happy with the fact that Dixie Peach was also in the deejay team. He should have made more than once comments on the fact Dixie was there.

Lucky enough there are still those old DX'ers who want to listen either to far away stations on short wave or on AM. One of them is Herman Content from Belgium, who asked me to inform all of you on an Internet site:

<http://users.pandora.be/hermanb/Emwg/index.htm>

Jan van Jager is currently living in England and he also wants some publicity for a new radio project: 'I'm e-mailing from the the United Kingdom with some news, a new project is under way, it's going to be hard going to turn it into a reality, the job has just recently been started. What is the project? The return of 'The Voice of Peace', not from a ship as we are not that rich, we are just a group of people

who are fed up with listening to the claptrap that's being spouted from news bulletins....and now feel it's time to voice the words of peace to all nations. We hope to be on a short-wave outlet via a 10kw relay service and thanks to other stations offering their support we relay via JRRI thanks must go to Joe who runs JRRI. This should be starting soon (details will be posted on our website soon). Our websites can be found at the following URL: <http://radio-rainbow.tripod.com>

Our group is not out to spread propaganda, it's to say to our respective governments. Please listen to us! No one is taking any notice of those who do protest marches in the name of peace there have to be another way to stop a war? We are a group of people, some out of work, some disabled, all believe in peace and the project. I must say via your pages, thank you so much Mike Brand for your help turn a project into reality. We would of liked to tell the original founder Abe Nathan, but we cant as Abe has had a second stroke and is not very good in health. We all send our wishes to him none the less, this is the idea that he started way back in 1969 and the original project actually took off in 1973. And in 2003 we are determined to continue the fight for a free and peaceful world, the more help we get the better. Respectfully, Jan Van Jager.'

Then something else about land based radio, although we could better speak about radio from pirates on land. From all broadcasts which are coming from the Dutch 'pirate police' 30% comes from Twente, just a small region in the east of Holland near the German border. A recent report showed that from the 2700 pirate radio stations, which have been active on the air in 2002 some 850 are from that area. The people living in that area are called 'the farmers' and they very proud of it. As far as possible they try to work as hard as they can during the week and celebrating far much harder during the weekend drinking and making music. And as you can see from the results a lot of radio transmitters are used for this. Maybe Peter Verbruggen, also reader of the monthly report, could write something about one of those stations for a future publication.

Dutch pirate police stated that at one time it was almost impossible to listen to the public radio station Radio 1 in the surroundings of Enschede, the biggest town in Twente. Funny enough nobodies complained about the interference.

One of the regional radio stations in the Province of Zuid Holland, Radio West, will change the format from March 1st. They will only bring news and information during daytime. For the evening and nightly hours the computer will be a jukebox. In this way program director Jeroen Soer, whom we know as Jeroen Woelwater of Caroline days in 1979, thinks that the station can be more attractive for the listeners. However I think that he forgets all those elderly people who tune in a lot to their regional stations in the Netherlands.

Stuart wrote in and told me: 'Another nick name, if it qualifies. I don't think you will believe me, so again, I attach the proof. Johnnie Walker once called himself Rodney Fortesque.' Well thanks Stuart, the attached mp3, you've sent me, proofed you're 100% right. Well maybe Johnny can react and tell us why he mentioned himself Rodney Fortesque! The recording from Stuart was from late 1967, the period Johnny Walker could be heard on Radio Caroline International.

But there are more to mention. While listening to an very old program of Tony Allan on Radio Scotland he invited a fellow deejay to do some imitations and so I heard 'Jacko' Jack McLaughlin and 'Jacko, your main man' McLaughlin. Another one on Radio Scotland was Richard 'Loves Radio' Park, followed by Bob 'Your main man' Spencer. Maybe Ben Healy, who's a regular reader of the international report, can fill in with some more nick names from his former friends on board the MV Comet.



Congratulations to Grant Benson. Yes, he was on the MV Ceto for the Voice of Peace and on the Ross Revenge for Radio Caroline in his young days. This month he becomes 40 years, which he shall celebrate with family and friends in Watford. Grant lives and works at the Riviera with one of the many RTL

stations in Europe and is very successful. You can listen to him in the evening on Internet:

www.hitchannel.tv/tuttiprogrammi.asp?pr=2

Mike Terry sent us a report on the activities of the Radio Communications Agency, which have been on search for illegal broadcasters. And of course they're right because they're paid for it. Mike sent us a report from the Evening Star in which was mentioned that a man has been convicted of running a pirate radio station from a base in the Black Country following a sophisticated surveillance operation. It's Ryan Evans, aged 27, of Kendal House, Oldbury, and he admitted breaching the Wireless Telegraphy Act of 1949, when he appeared before Dudley magistrates on January 31. He was given an 18-month conditional discharge and ordered to pay costs of £250. The court was told that officers from the Radio Communications Agency had managed to trace the unlicensed radio transmissions, from a pirate station named Groove FM, to an address in Clent Court, Dudley. The officers were able to secretly film Evans as he was installing transmitting equipment at the address. The Radio Communications Agency, which is an executive agency of the Department of Trade and Industry, last year carried out 1,042 operations against 209 pirate radio stations in the UK resulting in a total of 49 people being prosecuted.

But he brought in also some other news from ARNewsline: A United States appeals court has upheld as constitutional a law that bans a pirate broadcaster from ever obtaining a license for a low-power FM radio station. In fact, it bars a current or former pirate broadcaster

from even being involved with a station. In its action, the full court reversed a ruling last year by a three-judge panel of a court that had struck the law down. By a 7 to 1 vote it ruled the law and the government regulations implementing it do not violate free speech rights under the First Amendment. Back in 2001 Congress mandated that the FCC adopt rules to ban anyone who had been a pirate broadcaster or currently was broadcasting illegally from obtaining a license for a new low-power station. The appeals court appears to have taken this one step further in banning any affiliation but current or former pirates with a legitimate FCC licensed broadcast operation.

People at the commercial radio station Sky Radio, including director Ton Lathouwers (way back in 1980 Hans Verlaan, the last Dutch deejay ever on Caroline before the MV Mi Amigo sunk), must be very happy. They have a 10.6 million different listeners, who tune in on a regular base. This figure comes from a recent research done by Intomart. Radio 538 became second with 7.9 million. Radio 1, one of the public radio stations, became third with 7.7 million. Radio 10 I finally like to mention, as this station is also popular in England and Ireland. They reached an average of 5.3 million different listeners (the foreign ones not counted). This result is still a very good one.

Since 18th of February, after earlier close down of the signal on the cable network UPC, Radio Caroline in Holland, has also closed down on the Essent cable network. This one was one the most important one with million plus connection. Reason is that the station hasn't the money to go further with these transmissions. It opened in a glorious way more than a year ago but as the Dutch government still has no made a decision for reschedule the frequencies more and more stations are getting in financial problems. Advertisers as well as investors don't want to pay for transmissions on cable net works. Now Dutch Caroline can only be heard on Internet.



Let's take one historical view in my photo archive for a moment. This photo shows the transmitter room of the MV Nannell. One of the ships which failed to bring us real radio. On the photo, which is taken by Tom de Munck in the Eighties, you also see

José van Groningen, for many years working on Veronica and later for Laser as well as the people behind the MV Nannell.

In the middle of February in other countries apart from Holland a TV program could be followed which was called 'Het beste van Nederland' (the best of Dutch TV) in which for 30 minutes the new programme director of Radio Noordzee (yes the land based version from John de Mol jr.) was interviewed. The PD is Erik de Zwart (Paul de Wit on Radio Caroline) and he told very honestly that one time (1979) he shared cabins and the same radio ship where Jeroen Soer (Jeroen Woelwater) and Ruud Hendriks (Rob Hudson) worked. Both have also become millionaires in Holland with their radio work. Of course not forgetting that Ruud was one time boss at NBC in London. Never forget I did meet him in those days in the White Horse in Parsons Green during dinner time. He was constantly phoned and so dinner was short, as he had to go. But coming back to Erik he told in the program that the only demonstration he had been to was the one which was held on April 18th 1973 in the Haque in support of the offshore radio stations and against the plan of the Dutch government to close down those. Hope Erik will succeed in making a big station out of the new Radio Noordzee.

Then we got an email from Alex Jenkins who thinks he can find a record, played a lot on Radio Veronica and RNI in the seventies by writing in the following: 'Some time ago I managed to obtain a copy of the Continental Uptight Band's single 'Out On The Ride'. I am not sure who sent it to me. However I have had a very unfortunate accident with my PC and have sadly lost all of my audio recordings. Does have anyone a copy of this song, if so could you please e-mail me

a copy in MP3? If you have please email Alex at:
alex.jenkins1@ntlworld.com

He also wrote that recently he joined the team at Weekend Music Radio, 7526 KHz, who are probably the longest running unlicensed station in the UK having been broadcasting regular programming since the early 70's, and still going. I wish Alex and the whole team at WMR a lot of success for the decades to come.

There are talks between the people from the local radio station Stadsradio The Hague and those of the regional radio station Radio West. The town government of the Hague, which is after Amsterdam and Rotterdam at place three in Holland, when we do talk about inhabitants, wants the local station to survive. As it's in constant financial problems during the past years they want to see if it's possible to get the station under the wings of the regional station. Jeroen Soer, director of Radio West, stated that there are talks but he didn't want to go into details. The only thing he stated was that it has nothing to do with the rescheduling of programs on Radio West, which is currently worked on.

Then we had an e-mail from Michael Klosinski from Germany who wants everybody to know that his internet station can now be heard on several hours a week. Michael is a real anorak from Viersen in Germany and go to his site for total information and transmission schedule:

<http://www.wfcc-media-service-company.com>

The directors of the Financial Daily (Financieel Dagblad) have made the decision to buy the complete shares from Business News Radio to become the owners of the station from March 1st. Next to the radio station the company runs the Financial Daily as printed media as well as a internet site. With the three media together they think to bring a fast and honest information flow to listeners and readers as the editorial staffs of the three can work very close together and share the info which each other.

It was an e-mail from Steve Szmidt which exactly brought what I thought about the return of Radio Caroline, on Friday February 21 on the digital Sky. 'Almost to the minute that they disappeared from the Sky 28 degrees satellite platform, two weeks previously, UK Radio Caroline returned at 11.20 hours (GMT) on Friday the 21st February 2003. Unfortunately the frequency has changed, thus wasting all of the previous publicity (newspaper articles, fans making family, friends and work colleagues aware etc.). Also features in current publications in the market place will cause confusion and are a lost opportunity. The new frequency is 11.585 GHz, Polarity Horizontal, Symbol Rate 27,500, FEC 2/3. Caroline Sales are planning a 'Caroline on Sky Campaign' by distributing flyers (leaflets), so hopefully the new frequency will be more permanent than what 11623 was! For details of how to obtain Black and White copies of these write to: Caroline Sales, 148 Grange Road, Ramsgate, Kent. CT11 9PR or for a colour version see the attached or email Barry Crompton at barry@crompton.evesham.net.

Probably to coincide with the launch of two new Worldspace receivers, UK Radio Caroline will be encryption free for one month starting the 1st of March 2003. The new receivers are a welcome. One is at a much needed price point of £99 GBP, for a basic single speaker mono model (Stereo through an earphone/external line socket, if the broadcasts are in Stereo) and a more expensive two speaker stereo model. Both models feature a normal AM/FM receiver. It is disappointing that there is no Long Wave, for reception of a certain new radio station from the Isle of Man, planning to launch later this year! For more details visit the Worldspace website at www.worldspace.com'

By the way the reason Caroline was off air for two weeks had nothing to do with the technical uplink between the WRN building in Vauxhall and the GPO Tower in the DockYards in London. The reason was that the first frequency was given away to another organisation than Caroline at an earlier point of time. So I think a little bit of mismanagement at Sky. If you want to see recent photographs of

the studios in Maidstone I can advice you at the new pages from Peter Messingfeld, who was in Kent recently:

www.travelservices.de/trav2003/trav03_1.htm

When I go back thinking about the radio I liked in the early seventies, next to RNI, I must agree that I've listened a lot to the programs of BBC Radio One and still in my archive are a lot of recordings from that year. When you want to go back to the good old radio of those Radio One days, I suggest having a look on the Internet site: www.radiorewind.co.uk

And talking about BBC it's good to hear that DLT, or Dave Lee Travis, had found his way on the Sunday mornings where he can be listened on BBC Three Counties Radio from 9 up till 12 in the morning.

Together with Leen Vingerling (idea) and some other people I'm working on a new item for this international report as well as for The Soundscapes Journal (www.soundscapes.info). We try to make a list of people who have worked in offshore radio and also have done stints on television. And that means not that you've to be seen in on television but also announcers and voice-overs. If so, please let me know at my e mail address: HKnot@home.nl

Talpa Radio International BV, part of the investment company from John de Mol jr, will make a deal with The Foundation Management and Publishing Company Wegener to buy 100% shares of Radio 10FM. Already for more than a



year the radio station was for sale. It is not know yet if the format will be changed. Talpa Radio International bought a few months ago Noordzee FM. And bringing some memories back on the RNI days of Johnny de Mol, here's a photo of one of RNI tenders, the Trip Tender.

And just before ending this international report, which I did around

11 o'clock PM on Thursday 27th of February, I got a phone call from a person who told me that he heard that on Friday Morning the Nozema, which is partly responsible for the transmitters in use in Holland, will start on Friday morning to get all their equipment, including the transmitters, from the MV Communicator. The ship, rumours are going, has been sold for scrap. I couldn't get a confirmation late in the evening, so next month more on this subject.

And finally I would like to invite you to the latest update from the site of Paul and Mark de Haan in Holland. In their update they bring a wonderful page about 'Why the computer killed real radio?' Have a look at: <http://www.marine-broadcasters.com/links%205.htm>

As always, if you've any news or you want to share your memories with us, just write to me at:
HKnot@home.nl

Greetings and till next month

Hans Knot