

Hans Knot's International Radio Report - November 2003



Welcome to this report which will highlight memories, news and have a look at this years Radio Day, which was held in Amsterdam October 25th for the 25th Year in a row.

Paul Rusling sent in some more memories about Radio 270: 'Most listeners first knew about it perhaps in the same way I did. I was a school boy at the time, and the usual radio station was Big L on 266. Well, our radios were only very cheap in those days, very basic and not much selectivity or sensitivity. So, listening to Big Lil one morning, suddenly it was hidden by a massive signal playing old people's music. Mainly Frank Sinatra - 'Strangers in the Night', that sort of thing. This was the first test of Radio 270. I hated it at first, once I knew what it was. My Mum's brother had bought some shares in it, like many people who lived near Scarborough, but he soon sold them when it became official Labour Party policy to oppose commercial radio - he was a schoolteacher, deputy head of the main school.

Well, to hear Big L was impossible from that moment and I tuned to Swinging Radio England; it changed my life completely. My music taste - everything. I needed a better radio and with that I found Radio City and others - that unbelievable Summer of 1966. And Caroline was back from the MV Mi Amigo after it was in Zaandam harbour for maintenance, now with 50 kilowatts and on 1187 kHz, so we could hear that in Yorkshire. But the signal was not too strong. Soon, though Radio 270 began changing its music for the better and it became hip groovy and maybe even cool to listen to it again. Everybody else in the North East of Britain was tuned in to the new station. We had some nice guys there. For instance that crazy Aussie Neddy Noel Miller was becoming household name that every one knew.

My involvement was to copy down the Radio 270 Fun Forty every Sunday afternoon, and I made up a chart adding up how many weeks at which number, and tabulating them, to show a annual league table of which records were the most popular in our area. I used this when I did my Saturday job, deputising for the regular DJ at the Locarno Ballroom, aged just 13 and a half. I sent this to the station and got a letter back from the Managing Director, Wilf Proudfoot, praising my effort and idea. They talked about this on the station too many times, and my parents became so proud. Even at school the teachers heard this and they asked if the Paul Rusling they spoke of on Radio 270 was a relation of mine. I had bundles of the Radio 270 stickers and publicity materials and distributed these to every shop, etc in Hull. Boutiques especially. I also used them to get into the 'older peoples' night clubs, which were strictly over 18s only. That scene also changed my life. I did not know what happened when SRE closed, only that it had 'gone Dutch' and I remember one Dutch DJ was pretty good in those days, and full of enthusiasm, now my good friend Lex Harding.

It was to be many years before I discovered the stories about SRE. The next year about Easter 1967 we were incensed by the Wilson Governments announcement they would bring in the Marine Offences Act , and I organised a petition to save Radio 270, and the other stations. I wrote to the station telling them about this and said that my friends and I had formed The Commercial Radio Supporters Club. Radio 270 began taking about this on the air, they gave out our address in Hull for people to write to help with the petition.

It was astonishing as we suddenly had about 50 letters every day from all over the North East and other places too - it was hard work organising all this but people did send us money to help, and that paid for the postage costs. We were very poor and I was eldest of seven children. I remember taking a lot of our mail to the Locarno and getting a friendly office worker to put it with their mail for sending to save stamps, so Mecca Ballrooms also helped the cause. Over the

next two months we got almost 100,000 signatures on our petition - from Leeds, York, Newcastle, Hull, Sheffield, etc. We took them to Downing Street and went to see the Free Radio Association - dear old Geoffrey Pearl and his wife June who made us every welcome and their NE representatives.

After Radio 270 closed our Commercial Radio Supporters Club got more organised, running weekly disc nights in Hull, and we invited Radio 270 deejays along as guest presenters, they said that they were paid them for a nights work was better than their weekly Radio 270 wages! Rusty Allen, Alan West (then called Ross Randell) and Mike Baron were regulars, and we had Don Allen too just a month after Radio Caroline closed down in March 1968.

I still have tapes of them doing these CRSC club nights - being introduced by a very excited sounding Paul Rusling, aged 14 at that time! We could not afford Spangles Maldoon and Johnnie Walker as they were too expensive and wanted 40 Pounds, I think. Some of the Radio 270 staff joined our club, including Maurice Jeffrey, advertising Sales Manager, but it was to be some years before I became friends with the Proudfoot family who became involved in later Rusling radio adventures. We still talk of Radio 270. Ian Proudfoot was my age at that time. I once borrowed his bike when visiting the Radio 270 offices and he was the luckiest boy I can think of as he went with his Dad to Grimsby for the final fitting out and sailed with the ship out to Scarborough for the first broadcasts.

In those days my family had no camera, we were much too poor, but visions of those days keep returning as lots of people have pictures of my on the quay side at Bridlington talking to Rusty Allen and Alan West on the tender (I was surprised to see one appear in the recent BB TV programme about Radio 270) and in Paul Harris' book 'Broadcasting from the High Seas' his picture of Geoffrey Pearl being quizzed by a policeman also has a young Paul Rusling with the sticker stuck on the back of his anorak for Commercial Radio Supporters Club. Without Radio 270 (and my favourite station, SRE)

I would probably have become a TV repairman or a ballroom DJ only.
best regards, Paul'

Very interesting to know Paul that you were active 'in radio' at such an early stage.

Nicknames are reappearing in our International Report and this time we have to add to the long list Mike Kerlake. He worked on Radio Caroline as well as on the Voice of Peace and got 'The Coconut' as a nickname.

A press report from Laser Radio came in early October:
'Commencing Saturday 4th October LaserRadio.net will be carrying a regular Saturday relay of Radio Seagull on 9290 kHz short-wave. The relay will commence at 10h00 UTC and end at 15h00 UTC. LaserRadio.net is a short-wave relay service located in the Republic of Latvia. We operate via a 100,000 watt short-wave transmitter on 9290 kHz. Our relay service is available to any group or individual wishing to have their programme(s) delivered across Europe via short-wave.' I mentioned already in the last issue that Seagull is the idea of Sietse Brouwer, who ran Radio Caroline in Holland through the past years. Each week the presentation is by a quest deejay and Stevie Gordon.

Oh many answers for the quiz regarding the photograph, last issue, showing the man in women's clothes. We heard answers like Robbie Dale, Rick Harris, Tony Allen, Graham Gill and many others. All were incorrect as it showed us the one and only Gerard Smit, who was newsreader and deejay on the MEBO II for Radio Noordzee in the seventies. So Gerard you can keep the price yourself.

A long distance email was the next, which came in: 'Many thanks for your latest report. I've received a few more archive recordings of Radio Geronimo recently and there is currently a selection of eclectic songs playing as a test webcast at www.listen.to/radiogeronimo I know Geronimo was not an offshore

station (Hugh Nolan & Barry Everitt later presented for Seagull) but I wonder if you have any recordings of Geronimo? There are many recordings of Radio Seagull in 1973/74 but so far, apart from a brief snippet, I've heard none featuring Hugh or Barry. I know they were on board the MV Mi Amigo, I remember hearing them, and Bob Noakes book confirms it. So, I'd really appreciate your help in finding any recordings of Hugh Nolan and Barry Everitt on Radio Seagull. Although I am living in Canada I plan to be at the Dutch Radio Day on 25th October. Hopefully we will meet. Best wishes, Chris Bent.'

Thanks a lot Chris and very nice to hear you're coming over to the Radio day from Canada. I did not record or collect myself any Geronimo recordings, except the LP which I've still in my collection. But maybe there's someone who has recordings from the station and can reflect on this report to me at: Hknot@home.nl

The next e-mail is one of the many with the same contents. It is about the Press agency, mentioned in September. They promised to inform people, who do sent the an e-mail, when test transmissions for a new radio station will start: 'Hi there Hans, Will here from Merseyside in the UK. Thanks for your report. I am writing to you to see if you have had any more information about Persbureau. Or if they have made any more press statements. I wrote to them around the end of September via email several times and got replies. They/he said that they intend to broadcast from international waters within 12 weeks. That makes it some where around Christmas when broadcasts take place. They/he said as well, that I will be put on a list of some sort and be informed via email when tests start. Finally would an offshore station be viable in this day and age. We haven't had offshore radio for at least 13 or more years now. Has time passed on too much for such a station to appear once more. Many thanks, Will.'

The answer on further reports can simply be answered by: 'Just wait and see what will happen or if something will happen'. If they've

promised to sent an e-mail when test transmissions will start, they will do. If a offshore radio station will be viable can only be mentioned after such a station is on the air for a long period.

Dutch Rijkswaterstaat, the company responsible for the former REM-isle since 1974, has decided that using the structure is too expensive these days. So all the equipment used during the past 30 years for their weather station and other sources of scientific research, will be taking off the REM platform. After that will decided whether the structure will be broken down or if it will be there as a token to a long career. The structure was partly built in Ireland in 1964 and on the Northsea, some 9 miles outside the Noordwijk coast. It was used for transmissions of Radio and TV Noordzee. Dutch government made a quick decision by introducing a special REM law and on December 17th 1964 the station was raided and closed down forever. However the REM became the TROS and was many years the most favourite public broadcaster in Holland.

In my last report I mentioned that Peter Moore had made a deal in the early nineties with the Department of Trade and Industry. I wrote that a deal was made with the DTI. Through the years, Rob Olthof and myself, mostly each year, do visit Peter Moore to have some drinks with him and on one of my note blocks this 'memory' could be found back. Although this is many years ago Peter wants to bring the full truth to the reader of the international report:

'Let me be quite clear about the situation with myself and the DTI in 1990/91. After the raid, we played cat and mouse with the UK authorities until they finally found and stopped both of our tenders, the Fairwinds from Ramsgate and the Dreamboat Annie from Pegwell Bay. Then Mike Dundee ran supplies in an open inflatable boat, sometimes making a round trip of 100 miles from Hoo in Kent. Eventually we were exhausted in every sense and this sort of tendering could never succeed in winter. We had our lawyers,



Richards Butler argue that after the raid, the Ross Revenge ceased to be a radio ship and thus it was not covered by the MOA anymore. Obviously the DTI resisted this. In the end we agreed that the ship would not break the new 1990 Broadcast Act and with this assurance we could tender the ship any time we wanted. Ronan had said that our way forward was to find a proper broadcast licence from an overseas country. Had he achieved that, our fresh broadcasts would not have broken the Act. Sadly as we all know he never did find a licence. No discussion of any sort happened about the DTI helping to tow the ship in. Ronan was insistent about staying at sea. In truth I eventually suggested to him that we should bring the ship inshore ourselves so that we could at least bring it to a place of our choosing, perhaps even Greenore, but he would not consider this.



So we did our best to stay at sea until the chain broke. Going to Dover was about the worst place to go, one of the most expensive ports. We went there because it was the nearest port of safe haven, which is the requirement of the people salvaging the ship. As you know it was the Dover Harbour Tugs Deft and Dextrous that made the rescue and of course they took the ship to Dover. The DTI had nothing at all to do with that. There is of course the rumour that the authorities knew that the ship was adrift and simply observed the situation. Captain Ferlie Mueller of the ferry Olau Britannia says that he called into the coastguard on passing the usual position of Ross Revenge saying that she was not on station. They allegedly told him that they were aware of the situation. The Ross Revenge did not go aground for several hours after that and while the coastguard did ask for the identity of the ship that was travelling very slowly down the coast, they did not use the name Ross Revenge until the ship was aground.

In Dover we were detained not for radio reasons, but because the ship was so badly damaged and that the ownership was not clear. So the people keeping us there were the Marine Safety Agency. The

DTI were not involved at all. Eventually when the MSA got to know me they had sympathy for my situation and decided to set aside the matter of ownership and eventually to say that the ship was fit to be taken from Dover to another place. Now at this point had I said that I was going back to the High Seas the DTI certainly would have acted, so told them that our new location was to be Bradwell, which was just the truth. Remember we had no overseas licence. Ronan never did get one. The ship could not steer or travel without a tug and she had a huge dent in the hull (which the MSA did not know about). We put new anchors and chains on her but not fit to hold her in the North Sea. So the possibility of going back in to the ocean did not exist. We just went away from Dover to prove that we could do so and to stop paying 50 Pounds a day in mooring costs.'

Thanks a lot Peter for the detailed information. So always welcome with more detailed info you haven't published before and go on with your good work.

I would share another photo with you, which I took in the summer of 1985. The MV Ross Rossrevenge was on international waters and so a repaint of the ship had to be done. To my surprise I found some special paint there. Have a look.

Jan from the Merseyside come around this time about land based pirate radio: 'I'd like your help with a poll. The idea is to bring in comments from all your readers on the subject of free/pirate radio! The question is: is free/pirate radio dying?, I ask this question as where I live there is almost no activity at all on fm-mw. However there is quite some activity in London. I would like to hear comments from all free radio readers and operators past and present. I would like to find out what it's like in the Netherlands, Germany and anywhere else. Are the stations being closed down by the authorities as happening in the UK? The DTI seem to be quite busy cleaning the airwaves of not all but most of the pirates. The burning question is: is there any future if offshore radio, land based pirates? Are there too many main stream radio filling the fm with almost the same

format as another stations? Are people turning to satellite, world space and internet radio and forgetting DAB? If anyone cares to email me with there comments I'll read every one as I'm interested in the comments from others who think radio in 2003 boring and would another station such as Laser 558 be accepted as it was back in the 80's? Ok many thanks Hans, keep up the good work. Best Regards

Jan Merseyside UK. Your comments can be sent to:
jan.vanjager@ntlworld.com

Omrop Fryslan, one of the oldest regional stations in Holland, will be going into court to try to get a better reception of their signal. Director Gaanderse announced this on October 6th. Last December the transmitter was replaced to the transmitter site in Smilde, away from the Province were Omrop Fryslan has its audience. Especially in the Nort West of Friesland the reception got worse and about 40% of the population of Friesland has nowadays bad reception. Earlier the transmitter was in Jinsum but Agency Telecom decided the transmitter had to be replaced, as elsewhere there would be interference on transmitters in Germany. Now they want a judge to decide about the future. Due to the changes Omrop Fryslan lost more than 5% of their audience.



Work on the MV Communicator is progressing. A team, including the technician who was involved with Laser 730 during the balloon test period, succeeded in getting some generators working again as well as the anchor chains and cables. Also all kind of little things have been done and the huge

task of cleaning up the ship has been partly done. Enclosed a photograph taken by Piet Treffers. More of his photos can be found [here](#).

On October 8th an e-mail came in from Mike Terry with some bad news: 'This morning I received news from Riga concerning developments at the Latvian Radio Television Centre (LVRTC) and the Latvian Broadcasting Council. Maris Pauders (LVRTC General Manager) has been sacked over the scandal regarding Digital Television. Also the Broadcasting Council member Ojars Rubenis has just finished his term in position as Chairman. We are now therefore awaiting the Latvian Parliament to appoint a new Chairman. Due to the scandal involving Maris Pauders and the lack of a new Chairman at the Broadcasting Council, the LVRTC management have suspended any further use of the short-wave transmitter until the yet to be appointed new council Chairman re-confirms our existing relay licence.

Due to the fact Dutch government has decided that the public broadcasters all will get a lot of money lesser in the future, the broadcasters have to make reorganisation plans. Earlier on the Evangelic Omroep came with their plan and around October 6th the AVRO, one of the oldest public broadcasters in Holland, released a press report in which they published that 40 people will be dismissed. With the AVRO currently some 230 people are working. In total the Public Broadcasters have to save from 2007 a total amount a year of 80 million Euro's.

Dave Roberts has recently visited the Thames Estuary during nice weather and has put some of the photos he made on an internet site: www.gulbekian.plus.com

Another site to go to is www.radiojackie.com and see if the reincarnation of Radio Jackie is that what you did expect.

There was a reunion on October 8th from the people involved in Radio Essex and Britain Better Music Station. Martin Kayne, or should I say Andy Cadier, reporting: 'The Vine public house in Highgate Road, London, was the venue for this year's Radio Essex reunion on the afternoon of Wednesday 8th October. It was indeed

back in October 1965 when the offshore Radio Essex, broadcasting from a former naval fort, called Knock John, in the Thames Estuary commenced test transmissions on 222m (1349kHz) with an old RCA 1kW transmitter. Radio Essex was eventually prosecuted for illegal broadcasting by the Post Office who regulated the airwaves in those days, Essex changed it's name to BBMS (Britain's Better Music Station) but was forced to close in December the following year. Radio Essex's main claim to fame, if any fame really existed, was that it was the first British radio station to broadcast 24 hours a day. These days very few station's close for the night, but most use modern forms of computerised automation, a system that was not available back in 1966 so everything had to be played using a live presenter playing vinyl records. Persons present this year were Dick Palmer, who served faithfully as Fort captain, for the entire year or so the station was on air. Roger Scott (not to be confused with another presenter with this same name who was on Capital Radio) real name (Greg Bance). Guy Hamilton (Gerry Zierler), Mark West (also known as Mark Wesley on RNI and Luxembourg), Tony Mandell, Martin Kayne, Chris Stewart/John Aston (John Hatt), Radio Engineer Dick Dickson, previously of Radio City and radio media correspondent Bob LeRoi, also ex-Radio City. The event involved a luncheon that lasted well into the afternoon, I left at 5pm but the rounds of commemorative drinks, so I am told, lasted well into the early hours. Clearly some wanted to celebrate the 24 hour format for all it was worth! Radio Essex was probably the least significant of the 1960's offshore stations, yet appears to be the only one that still has a regular reunion. Not only that, even including the few that were unable to attend, it appears all of us are still alive...clearly it must be due to the consumption of all those obscure unlabeled tins of corned beef and watery mashed potato.'

Work has been done a lot by former Veronica technician Juul Geleick for the Veronica archive, which he is building, together with some other people who worked for the former offshore radio station. For instant he has scanned 146 photographs, which have been taken by Niels Zack during the 1999 Veronica reunion. Cees Baarda, former

shareholder of the company and who was also known as the owner of 'Radio Veronique The Hague' has been collection newspaper cuts about Veronica since 1959 and brought these recently to the people of Radio 192, including transmitter parts of the very first transmitter on the MV Borkum Riff, the first Veronica vessel from April 1960 up till November 1964. All the documents have been digitalised now by Juul. Also some very well documented recordings, mostly air checked, were given to the Veronica archive by Sanne Benjamins from Alkmaar. Former Veronica technician Adze Veenstra is a very well technician and he has built many extreme things during the years. His last little 'baby' is a movie scanner, so a lot of Veronica 8 mm movies can be digitalised soon. Updates of the work can be found on www.norderney.nl

Then there is a plan for a Radio City reunion next year, as it will be 40 years ago that the station did start transmitting from Shivering Sands. Here's what Bob Le Roi did write about the plan: 'May 2004 is the 40th anniversary of the first broadcasts from Shivering Sands. We're hoping to bring as many of the original team together for a Radio City Re-Union To Radio City Managers, DJ's, Engineers, Promoters, back room boys & helpers. Like you I'm one of the many dozens who climbed aboard the Shivering Sands Fort in the Thames Estuary. A tentative step & experience that was to mould on my whole working life David 'Screaming Lord' Sutch had begun broadcasting from the Fort in May 1964 and by September it became Radio City. Next year marks the 40th anniversary of our first transmissions. Whilst some Radio City people have maintained contact, over the years the majority have never seen one another again. Recently Dick Dixon, Paul Elvey and myself met up, the last time we'd all been together was on the fort! It occurred to us that we should organize a Radio City re-union to mark of our tiny piece of broadcasting history. If you were part of the original Radio Sutch and Radio City we'd love to hear from you. If you're interested in coming along, as a first step please drop me a line or email via the website. For more information pictures & audio from Shivering Sands navigate from Sutch and Radio City Part 1. For more details:

<http://myweb.tiscali.co.uk/bobleroi/ScrapBook/CityReunion/Reunion.html>

This year again a 'week of the seventies' was transmitted on Radio 2. One of the items was a poll in which listeners could answer on several subjects. When it went about the most favourite radio program at the first position 'De Avondspits' was mentioned. This program was transmitted on weekdays between six and seven in the evening, presented by Frits Spits from 1978 onwards. Second became Veronica's Top 40. When talking about favourite deejays Frits Spits became number one but former offshore deejays Joost den Draayer (2), Ferry Maat (3) en Lex Harding (5) were also in the Top 5. In the list of the most favourite radiostations. Radio Veronica shared the first place with Hilversum 3. RNI became 3rd as Radio Caroline was found back on place 5. One question was asked about the things happened during the seventies and what had left the biggest impression in the memories. On place four with 22% came the introduction of the Dutch law against the offshore radio stations in 1974, which tells a lot what it did to the Dutch and international listeners of those stations.

Many letters and e-mails came in during the past weeks about the rumours that Radio London will try to use the former REM island in the future. Even Ruud Poeze, which is the spokesman for the London project in Holland, could be heard on Radio 2 in an interview in which he stated that if he succeeds to buy the REM platform there will be a possibility to have two transmitters working from there. If one should be there, he told the listeners, it has to be the one for 1008 KHz. It means a lower signal has to be transmitted than from the IJsselstein site, which is some 100 kilometres inland from the West coast of the Netherlands. I asked Ray Anderson if he had some updates for me: 'Hi Hans, Thanks for your e-mail. Just to let you know that we have now raised our funding and we plan to be on the air by the end of the year. The opportunity to use The REM Island will give us greater flexibility with our service providers and possibly an opportunity to increase our signal to the UK but a full study of

the site will need to be made first and fully evaluated. Our priority is to get the service on the air and work is progressing very well now. Perhaps you can pass our thanks to everyone who has sent us reception reports and good luck messages. I've tried to reply to everyone personally, but I fear I may have missed a few. Best wishes, Ray Anderson.

Then for those who do remember their time listening to RNI in 1970 have to go to the recent update of Martin van der Ven. You can find an interview with Ulf Posé (Hannibal) as well as many very nice airchecks [here](#).

Then, after going from Radio London to RNI, back to Radio London and that's where I'm talking about the one and only Wonderful Radio London, we do remember from the sixties. A press report came in from Mary Payne: 'The Radio London Webmasters, Chris and Mary Payne, have keep a secret for ten months, but now they can finally reveal some wonderful news. In the USA in September, an amazing event took place which forged a link between the wartime crew of the USS Density and the ship's later identity as the MV Galaxy, home of Radio London between 1964 and 1967. The Caroline bell is of course, so well known that it has become the station's logo. The Radio London bell from the MV Galaxy, however, has rarely been mentioned - but every ship has a bell! Thanks to an incredible series of events, which began with a single e-mail message received by the Radio London Webmasters in December 2002, the Galaxy bell, which has resided in the Netherlands for all these years, has been returned to the USA. Ron Buninga, the son of the Galaxy's much-admired Captain, Bill Buninga, travelled from Holland to present it to the surviving members of the original USS Density crew. The amazing story unfolds in our special Radio London fifty-photograph, twelve-page supplement: <http://www.radiolondon.co.uk>

Some of you outside the Benelux may remember Ron van der Plas, one time Mi Amigo deejay. He worked a lot in radio in Belgium as well as in Holland. During the past ten years he has been working very

successfully in the business world. From November 1st he will back in the radio world. Radio MaevaFM in Belgium has hired him to run not only the commercial department of the radio station but also to search for partners for their FM network in Belgium.

Then SBS6 did a 3 minute feature on television in which some of the history of the former REM island was told by yours truly. The first day of shooting the video team went out to the North Sea to see the former island. The next day they were up in Groningen to shoot for 1,5 hours with three people. And 'yes' three quotes from 10 seconds each was the result. Very expensive television and lucky SBS6 as they got a recording from me of TV Noordzee's first hour which was nowhere to find in the official archives.

On Sunday October 19th Mike Brand sent in an e-mail twice. This could be read in the first one: 'Israeli Justice Minister Yossef Lapid, is planning on introducing legislation that will make it illegal to advertise on a pirate radio station. As we all know, this is part of legislation that has already been passed in Europe in 1967 and 1974. Lapid has yet to add that it is illegal to work for such a station, as is with the MOA's of Britain and Holland. The bill, when introduced in the coming days, is aimed at getting rid of the tens of religious pirate radio stations that broadcast around Israel, of which some of them interfere with the Ben Gurion Airport control tower. This has put at risk, several landings of aircraft in the past few years, as these stations literally blot out all communication between the landing aircraft and the control tower. But more important, this will be a death blow to the worlds last offshore radio station - Arutz 7. Arutz 7, unlike most of the land based religious stations, depends wholly on advertising to survive. Lapid, and his party Shinui (Change) is known for its anti Ultra-Orthodox (religious) platform, and this is just another of its attempts to make its stamp on Israeli society, to make it more "secular", after years of religious legislation has been forced on the Israeli public.'

Some hours later the second e-mail: 'With a majority of 11 for and 5

against, the proposed "Pirate Radio Law" will now go to the Israeli Knesset for a primary reading. As stated before, the law will go to the Knesset for its primary reading. To become law, it will have to pass the Primary reading, and three other readings. The right wing will try to muster all its power to try and block this law. Out of a 120 seat Knesset, the right wing and religious parties hold 69 seats.'

Justice Minister Tommy Lapid said that the goal was to end financial support for the stations. "We will not allow right-wing and hareidi elements to use this public resource [airwaves] and make a mockery of the law," he said. Lapid said at today's Cabinet meeting today that whoever objects to this bill will have "blood on his hands" if there is an air accident. Housing Minister Effie Eitam (NRP) said that Lapid was resorting to "verbal terrorism," and said that the entire purpose of the legislation was to destroy Arutz-7. He, together with Ministers Zevulun Orlev (NRP), Avigdor Lieberman (National Union), and the Likud's Uzi Landau and Yisrael Katz, voted against the proposal. Arutz-7 broadcasts have not, in fact, been accused of disturbing air traffic radio messages.'

The next day more news came in from Mike: 'Arutz 7 just "suspended" all radio broadcasts until further notice. In reading the Hebrew statement, and not the English one (which seems more dramatic), they state that as a protest against the decision yesterday by the Government to introduce a "pirate radio law" which forbids Israelis to advertise on pirate radio stations, and the conviction of many of the Arutz 7 staff, the station will be "suspending" radio broadcasts until further notice. Internet broadcasts will continue.'

Another message from Mike mentioned that a court ruled on another case against the only offshore station in the world: 'A Jerusalem court has just convicted presenters, management and the owners of the Israeli offshore radio station Arutz of illegal broadcasting. The conviction refers to broadcasts that originated from the radio ship "Eretz Hazvi" within Israeli national waters between 1995 -1998, and to sites around Israel where the station had relay stations. The

Judge.Yoram Noam, convicted Yaakov Katz, and Yoel Tzur of running an illegal radio station, and the operating of broadcasting equipment, without a license. Yaakov Katz was also convicted on two accounts of giving false testimony. On the first account, he swore that the ship was broadcasting outside of Israeli territorial waters, and the other, that the Studios at Bet-El, were for recording purposes only. Also convicted were, Rabbi Zalman Melamed, for starting an illegal radio station, Shlomit Melamed, Studio and Programme Manager, for the day to day running of an illegal radio station. Yair Meir, for giving technical advice and services, including the fitting and running of broadcasting equipment. Meir was also convicted of running an illegal radio station, and of operating broadcasting equipment without a license.

Well we have to wait if this close down was just a publicity stint or that the Israeli law will become an Act as well as it will force Arutz Sheva to close down for ever. Remember this date October 20th 2003! Mike asked himself if this is the first time since 1958 that there haven't been any broadcasts from an offshore radio station? There has always been some sort of offshore radio station on the air between 1958 until now. Well to be true it must be the very first time that nowhere on the world there's an offshore station on the air. Of course Arutz has been off the air now and then, as the VOP did, but they always came back. So this is it? The end of offshore radio? An update on the latest news regarding Arutz Sheva always can be found on [Mike's website](#).

On Soundscapes, the online Journal for media and music culture, there has been a long series of RNI Memories. This series, edited by Hans Knot with beautiful lay out by Ger Tillekens, have been partly been published in German, Dutch and English. People, who have worked for the station during the period 1969 up till 1974 as well as people on the sideline, are looking back on that period. As we got so many request for a printed version the Foundation for Media Communication in Holland has decided to put some money in a project for a printed version. A very low printing is now available and you can

order it by sending 15 Euro or 10 Pounds to SMC, PO Box 53121 NL-1007 RC Amsterdam. Don't forget to mention your address and also don't sent any bank cheques as the cost to exchange them are too high. Please mention that you want a copy of RNI Memories. SMC can also be reached at SMC@caiw.nl.

Talking about Soundscapes, which can be found at www.soundscapes.info. Go to Volume 6 and do find there, along other articles, a long article called 'The fight for free radio', which I did work on for more than 6 months to complete. You will find many background stories, photographs and other illustrating material you haven't seen before.

In the Gazette, a local newspaper in Britain, on October 17th, an article could be read, written by James Howell: 'A businessman who took over an ageing fort in the North Sea and declared it an independent principality is to have his story told in a major Hollywood blockbuster. Warner Bros has snapped up the screenplay to Sealand, the story of former British Major Roy Bates who moved his family to the abandoned World War Two anti-aircraft platform off Harwich in the 1960s. A-list actors Mel Gibson and Russell Crowe are already being touted as potential stars to play the parts of Roy, and his son Michael, a part-time cockler who is the current Prince of Sealand, the smallest country in the world. Film-makers will have no shortage of action to choose from as the Bates family have dealt with everything from a hostage ordeal and legal battles with the British Government to allegations of collusion with Colombian drug barons, the Russian Mafia and internet terrorists. Prince Michael said today: "The deal has been signed and we are talking to Warner Bros now. "Obviously there is always a waiting list to get top actors because they are often booked up for several projects well in advance of any filming starting, ~ but I've heard that people like Russell Crowe and Mel Gibson are being talked about for this film. "They'll probably come up with Christopher Biggins to play me." The script was penned by American writer Sean Sorensen, who optioned the life rights to the Bates family with money he won on a television

game show.'

Let's wait and see if this movie for Roy Bates will come reality!

Some time ago I mentioned the AFN-CD in my report, which can be obtained from Ingo Paternoster.

60 YEARS OF AFN EUROPE



UNIEKE DUBBEL-CD

Dit jaar bestaat het American Forces Network zestig jaar. Voor die gelegenheid stelde AFN-kenner Ingo Paternoster i.s.m. John Proven een dubbel-cd samen met een keur van opnames die hij in de loop van de tijd verzamelde.

De dubbel-cd "60 Years of AFN Europe" is te bestellen door 20 Euro te sturen naar: Ingo Paternoster, Postfach 127, 86439 Zusmarshausen Deutschland. Die prijs is dan inclusief verpakking en verzending. Liefhebbers buiten de landen die de Euro hanteren, krijgen de cd's thuis gestuurd voor een bedrag van 15 Pounds.

October 24th an e-mail came in from Geoff Baldwin: 'Hello Hans, I just thought I would tell you about something that happened today and which I've put in the next issue of Radio Review. I went to a different shopping centre today just for a change. It's a few miles away from here but still in this part of Essex. I went in a corner shop (selling sweets, cigarettes etc.) and they had Arrow Classic Rock playing in the background. I've never heard a Dutch station playing in public here before! The last time I heard a Dutch station playing in a public place was when I heard Radio Mi Amigo on in shops and bars but that was in Ostend, Belgium in 1976! So it's not just anoraks listening to this station over here, it's the general public, even though there is no advertising for it! I think I was right when I said (in the magazine) that there is a large audience in the U.K. for Arrow but for how much longer? No doubt, you will tell us in your forthcoming reports what is to happen with the AM frequencies. The other strange thing is that I realised that the place I went today is the same place that I last visited on the 14th August 1967 when I was only 16 years old and you know what day that was!' Keep up the

good work. Best wishes Geoff'

We just have to wait some 6 more weeks before we hopefully can tell which organisations have got the last AM frequencies.

On Saturday October 25th for the 25th year in a row the Annual Radio Day was organised by Rob Olthof (Foundation for Media Communication) and me, Hans Knot. A little bit late this year, as we normally have the day in March or in April. Reason we've chosen for October is that the Koningszaal, where the happening took place during the past years, was not available in March and April.

This year we had invited guests from which we thought to talk about subject we didn't talk about through the past 25 years. The same we tried a bit to do with the videos which were presented. The program started at 11 with a 70 minutes presentations of videos, from which only 8 minutes were brought in earlier years. First a 15 minutes video which showed the excellent organised reunion (thanks to Chris and Mary Payne), which took place last year in London and featured a lot of sixties deejays. This was followed by a documentary from German Television, transmitted in 1974 and which was sent to us by Wolfram Bender. Wildes Wasser was the title (Wild Water) and brought a view in the kitchen of Radio Veronica and RNI. Next a 1965 portrait of The Isle of Man as well as the Caroline North family on the Fredericia. A lot of 8 mm material was sent to me years ago by Jan Andriessen, one of the crewmembers. I took a lot of work editing but it was happy to see that it was very quiet in the room when it was shown on Saturday. Then we had a musical interval. Former Radio Atlantis owner Adriaan van Landschoot is big in the music industry and a documentary on his orchestra followed. Also a view at the radio museum in Harwich and Keith Skues talking about the sixties was shown.

The first guests on the podium were Mike Hayes and Paul Rusling. Mike worked during a part of 1966 and 1967 on Radio 270. This was a more regional radio station which was on the air from the Ocean 7

off the coast of Yorkshire, near Scarborough. Memories were told which were for several people very unknown. Paul Rusling was there to add his memories. He was 13 years of age when Frank Sinatra was played at the very first record on the station and from that moment on he listened as much as possible. He even organised a local branch of the Free Radio Association. Recently he told me that if he hadn't listened to his most favourite deejay, Mike Hayes, he probably had not gone into radio. Mike was very honoured to hear this.



After a short break for a coffee and tea it was time for Sietse Brouwer to tell the audience why the decision was taken earlier this year to stop programming of Dutch Caroline. Also he read a letter, which was originally written by Peter Moore for the deejays of the station, but which contents made a lot clear for all those attending the radio day. Then Sietse talked about his new project, Radio Seagull, which in no way can be seen as a direct follow up to Caroline but which is a station run by Sietse and two friends. Seagull can be seen as a follow up of the station with the same name, which was on the air for some months in 1973 and 1974. A pity was that a DVD, Sietse took with him, with recordings of the Voice of Peace in new York, was not accepted by the recorder.

Next was a video we did show some 15 years ago for the last time. As a very good quality copy was found recently we decided to show it again. Many of the people attending hadn't seen it before as they were not in the scene yet 15 years ago. I'm talking about the in house movie from RNI: 'The show must go on'. This movie is focussed on the work in the land based studios as well as on the people on board the MEBO II..

For many a surprise was the fact that Ferry Eden made a visit to the Radio Day. The last time he was there was in 1978. I met him for the last time in 1994, when I organised in cooperation with the Broadcast

Museum in Hilversum the Offshore Radio Exhibition. In a phone call some 3 years ago he told me that he didn't want anything to do with the past anymore. Lucky enough this has changed since Martien van Engel from Radio 192 asked him to do an interview with him about his time on Radio Mi Amigo. Ferry loved to do it again and since then he can be found regularly in the studios of Radio 192 in Hilversum. I did a short talk with him about a double CD he did produce in 1978 but wasn't released at that time as the history of the station was then too fresh. On the Radio day the CD was baptised and sold for the first time. It can be ordered by going to the site of [Radio 192](#) and it's worthwhile listening.

It was the last time we hired the Koningszaal at Artis. New owners have decided to make the prices very high and also the catering didn't do their work as promised and paid for. During the end of the morning and early afternoon all the people who were hired, disappeared for some time and no coffee and tea or refreshments could be bought, which was a shame. Also no beer was available, like in other years.

After another short break it was time for the next guests in the program. I did introduce them and told them to do if they were sitting in the messroom of the good old Mi Amigo. I'm talking about three persons who did work on the Caroline ship during 1973 and a part of 1974. Again Paul Rusling was on stage and together with Bob Noakes and crew member Peter van Dijken, he looked back in a marvellous way to the time he had a lot of fun but also did a lot of hard working to enjoy the listeners. What was not known to a lot of people was that Peter van Dijken also was on the ship during the period after the MV Mi Amigo was towed away by the MV Delta, owned by Delta Diving (Captain Tom) to the British coast.

And again I must say that it is always interesting to hear a crew member as they've always something else to tell than the deejays and technicians.

The time went very quickly last Saturday and after the '1973 memories' it was time for a video interview done by my brother Jelle Knot with Timmy Thomasson, former director of the International Broadcasting Society and owner of Capital Radio. A more idealistic radio station transmitting off the Dutch coast in 1970. Mostly to technical defaults the station only lived a very short life, which still is a pity. But there happened a lot which was brought back in this long interview.

Once again I want to thank all the guests from the radio industry who have come to the radio days during the past 25 years to tell their stories and memories. Also I would like to thank all the people who were and are interested in the radio industry and visited our days. Also a big thank you to all those people who were working for free to make the Radio Days to a success. Thank you, also in the name of Rob Olthof for your assistance through the years: Meindert and Pim Dikboom, Jan Fré Vos, Hillebrand Favre, Jos Leijgraaff, the late Hans Verbaan, Jana, Pim and Jeroen Knot.

For those who did not attend I've to tell that I did an announcement at the end of the Radio Day. After 25 years of interviewing people I've decided to stop this activity concerning the Radio Days. This will not mean that it comes to an end. It will come back next year but in another form. At the end of the day a lot of people reacted a little bit shocked on my decision and also I did get a lot of e mails since then. Some of them thought I would stop with all my work. I can tell you that all the other things I do, within the radio world, will be continued. So I keep on writing for Freewave Media Magazine, Soundscapes online Journal as well as the International Report. Also I keep on recording, together with my wife Jana, each month the spoken version of the Freewave Media Magazine for all the visual handicapped people in Belgium and Holland. In this way I hope to bring you a lot of news as well as



historical articles in the years to come.

And yes, I almost forgot to mention. On the Radio Day I did count more than 30 people who did work on Offshore Radio Stations as well as people working nowadays for the Caroline organisation. Here a rundown: Nigel Harris, Tony Christian (both Radio Caroline), Bob Noakes (Caroline and RNI), Paul Rusling (Caroline and Laser), Mike Hayes (Radio 270), Graham Gill (London, Radio 390, Swinging Radio England, Britain Radio, RNI and Radio Caroline), John Patrick (Radio Caroline), Andrew Austin (Radio Caroline), Ryan Woodman (Radio Caroline), Walter Simons (Radio Monique and Radio 819, Leendert Vingerling (Radio Delmare and tender king), Ad Roberts (Radio Mi Amigo, Radio Monique and Radio Caroline), Jan Veldkamp (Radio Monique), Wim van Egmond (Radio Monique and Radio 558), Arie Swets (Radio 819), Mirjam Verhoef (Radio Monique and Radio 819), Ferry Eden (Radio Mi Amigo and Radio Monique), Pieter van Dijken (Radio Caroline), Ruud Doets and Gerard Doets (Radio Veronica), Hans ten Hooge (RNI), Pieter Damave (RNI) Peter Jager (RNI), Harky (Harald van Gelder) (Radio 227), Ellie van Amstel (Radio Monique and Radio 819), Anne Hondema (Radio Caroline), Sietse Brouwer (Radio Caroline), Chris Bent (Radio Caroline) and Rob de Bree (Rick Verhagen) (Radio Mi Amigo 272). Finally Ron Visser, Freddie Schorsch and Ton Vogt (Offshore 98).



Then recently some news came in about Radio Caroline: 'Radio Caroline is in 'advanced talks' o launch a station for the Helvetic market. The organisation hopes to begin transmissions on Switzerland's CableCom service in Spring 2004, coinciding with the station's fortieth anniversary. Station manager Peter Moore said: "I am sure that the station will reach a massive audience among Switzerland's many rock fans who until now do not have a dedicated rock station." Over 90 % of Swiss homes are cabled and 'cable only' stations account for twenty per cent of radio

listening in the country.

Finally it's always nice to find photos in my archive, which haven't been published before and sending them to former offshore deejays. Here's an e-mail I did get from California during last weekend: 'Hans, where are you finding these great photo's? The man behind me is my dad, that passed away two years ago at 87, My wife Carol is turning around the door. Don't know who the other guys are. Please find more photos. I love it, Larry Tremaine'. Well here is another photo for everyone featuring Larry Tremaine (the one with the beard). Another 'famous' person you can see on the deck of the MEBO II, Spangles Muldoon.

That's all for this time. Let your memories come into my mailbox: Hknot@home.nl and if you've any other news it's always welcome. Till next month.

HANS KNOT