

HANS KNOT INTERNATIONAL RADIO REPORT FEBRUARY 2012

Welcome radio friend to a new edition as well as a new year for the international radio report. I would like to thank everybody who sent me a Christmas card or best wishes for 2012. All wishes were most appreciated. Next to that a lot of other interesting e mails came in during the past four weeks. Also we have another episode from the Graham Gill files and some nice photographs to share. We start with an interesting e mail which was sent by a reader from the Netherlands, from which I forgot to write down his name. Sorry, a bad starter for 2012.

I was listening to an old recording from a Daffy Don Allen show on RNI from, I suppose, 1974 as he was playing a song from the Rubettes. Don is reading a letter from a female listener and she wrote a story about a deejay. Don reflected that it was possible a person acting like a doppelganger. So a person who acts to be a famous person, but isn't. It's the same as the story Don Allan told about a person who acted he was Tony Blackburn. When Don met this guy he told him that he had worked together with the real Tony Blackburn. Well you must have guts to behave like that. My question is if there are more people who have heard such stories in the past.

Well the one which came up in my mind was of a guy, who finally was arrested in Belgium as he was acting several times as 'Chiel Montange' from Radio Veronica in the late sixties. But who knows more? Hknot@home.nl

Well it's t shirt time and this t shirt was once sold by me during the RNI days to several other people, who I worked together with, within the company I had a contract at that time. Now almost 40 years later an unexpected e mail came to me. 'In 1973 I was on a working holiday to Israel together with Arent Boonstra. After a long control check at Schiphol airport, even my shaver was opened on search for a bomb, we left for Tel Aviv. I found a place in the Kibbutz Einath, near Tel Aviv. It was a perfect way of living together, deciding together and no alcoholic beverages. We were guarded by soldiers to teeth guarded. Of course there was a war in those days going on. I think that all t shirts from radio stations which you offered in those days, including the RNI, Caroline, Veronica ones, I bought in those days. Living in a Kibbutz meant also often on a photograph with kids. And so this attached photograph saw the daylight. I do remember it as it was yesterday. The RNI t-shirt made it into the Dead Sea, the dessert, and climbed together with me the Massada. Also the t shirt was

there while I was making love on the warm beach of Eilat. If t-shirts could talk!
With greetings Cees G.



Jan van Heeren found on the internet and advertisement for British dropping parachute used for Radio Caroline. 'That's what the seller wrote'.



Next an e mail from Bryan in Australia who went through a couple of reports during Christmas time: 'Dear Hans: Sorry for the long time that I have taken to get around to reading this! The July report I was delighted at the exciting story of seafaring derring-do. How nostalgic! I was a science student in Southampton University at that time. That was the story from Don Stevens: how invigorating!

The names of English towns where fans were, was reminiscent for me. I am now

in the capital of Australia! In 1966, I joined high school in Manchester, UK! It was from there that I used to listen to RNI. Thanks also for the link to a page of nostalgic DJ photos. I have sent that to a friend who's a community radio DJ in Sweden. Offshore radio obviously provided then a service that people desperately needed but they couldn't get at home! I like your historic pictures of letters and photos. I also liked the trailer of The Boat That Rocked!
<http://www.blogbypass.com/travel/the-boat-that-rocked-pirate-radio/> Anyhow, chores beckon. So I wish you well with your historical artistic endeavours!
Bryan Kilgallin'

Well thank you Bryan you found the reports on internet. All old issues can be found at www.hansknot.com and thank you for sharing your memories with us.

Remember I asked you to send your favorite all-time top 8 of deejays? Well the next list comes from Paul Harald van Gelder, who once worked as Harky on Radio 227. He has made a longer list as 8 was not enough in his mind so here we go:

- 1 Kenny Everett
- 2 Rosko
- 3 Randall Lee Rose
- 4 Dick Biondi
- 5 Wolfman Jack
- 6 Russ 'the Weird Beard' Knight
- 7 Boom Boom Brannigan
- 8 Jack Armstrong
- 9 Joost den Draayer
- 10 Ron O'Quinn
- 11 Dan Ingram
- 12 Jack Jackson
- 13 Jools Holland
- 14 John Peel
- 15 Jan Steeman
- 16 Bill Lee
- 17 Charlie Harrigan
- 18 Rob Stenders
- 19 Howard Hoffman
- 20 Mark van den Akker

And Paul reflected the long list with: 'Yes I love derogations, as well as in normal life as on special lists. Only the fact is that those lists are never complete. Of course there are also very good deejays in countries like Russia, China, Iceland

and more. Only the problem is that I don't know them. I used two criteria next to voice and timing, originality and music choice were important for me. People like Roel Bentz, Jan Donkers, Bob Harris, Willem Bloemendaal, Lennie Len (Jan Lenferink) and Pete Felleman were just bubbling under this special Top 20. And yes, sometimes I really get sick of myself to strive for completeness. Let me and with some self-promotion. In January there will be some other programs for VARA Radio 1 in the night and also my shows on Big L are still there. I would love to give the link to the VARA night special on January 8th when I talked about the forgotten link between rock and roll and capitalism.

<http://paulvangelder.com/vara2.mp3>

Next a link sent by Chris Watford:

<http://www.bobleroi.co.uk/ScrapBook/CarolineRollCall/CarolineRollCallWXYZ.html>

Just before Radio Caroline restarted in 1983 rumours were heard that a new radioship would appear at the West European Horizon. But it would last until November that year that we saw in the trade publication 'Radio News' the first printed message about the American financed project. In their edition from November 4th 1983: 'A new pirate ship is leaving Fort Lauderdale, Florida, today to anchor alongside Radio Caroline off the British Coast. The station, which will be called Laser 730, is expected to arrive off Kent in two weeks time. Laser 730 is American backed and will feature only American personalities keen to make impression on the European Market. Its music will be CHR - Contemporary Hit Radio - or Top 40 - which has taken the major stateside market by storm. The mast is 354 feet high and Laser 730 is hoping to achieve a power of 100 kW.' It was the start of a hectic period in which Western Europe was highly caught by the broadcasting team of Laser 558. In this book many memories of a wonderful radio station from more than 25 years ago, 'All Europe Radio Laser 558'.

Hans Knot (62) is a Dutch media historian and has been researching and writing since 1969. He has written countless articles and books on the history of radio and television which were published in the Netherlands, Belgium, Germany, England, France and the USA. In 2009 he was honoured by the Dutch Queen Beatrix with a knighthood for his work as media historian.

LASER 558 All Europe Radio

LASER 558 All Europe Radio

Hans Knot

Laser 558 all Europe radio

Hans Knot

It did not mean a big surprise as the Radio Caroline radio vessel MV Ross Revenge arrived in the Thames Estuary to seek for an anchorage and to start broadcasting programs for the new Radio Caroline. It was August 1983 and after 42 months the station was back on the air. Some years earlier it had to stop transmissions (March 1980), when their former radioship MV Mi Amigo sunk in a heavy storm.

The new sound of Radio Caroline was for many avid listeners very boring as less talk and too much nonstop music tracks were played. It wasn't the family station we were so fond of. In those days I wrote for Buster Pearson's Monitor Magazine and the Freewave Media Magazine. A third person I have to mention is the late Tom de Munck, who also wrote for the Freewave Media Magazine and incognito as John Wendale for the Free Radio Magazine. Along with others we followed the offshore scene to bring reports for the readers. The three of us worked closely together in the eighties and succeeded in presenting our work not only to the readers of our magazines but also to several newspapers, magazines and radio stations, who were interested in the intensive work we put into the Laser scene. Now after more than a quarter of a century I dived into our archives to edit this 'All Europe Radio, Laser 558'.

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Groningen, Hans Knot, October 2011.

So, there it's the introduction to my new publication, which just came from the printer and is now for sale. It's a 192 pages book, with also many photographs, including 8 in full colour, many not published before. How to order the book: **The Price is 21 Euro, including package and postage. For people from the Netherlands payment can be done at account number 4065700 or 988940301 on the name of Mediacommunicatie, Amsterdam.**

For ordering from outside the Netherlands you can use either 4065700 or 988940301 adding IBAN NL85INGB0004065700 BIC INGBNL2A

Or you can use paypal: rob@mediacommunicatie.nl

Please inform also the author when ordering the book and giving your complete address where the book can be send to at HKnot@home.nl

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It's also nice to hear from those who have bought a copy of the Laser book. Here's one from Richard Walker: Hello Hans I hope you had a joyful and peaceful Christmas. Many thanks for the book it made fascinating reading with, as I know I can expect from you, good accurate information. Laser was a great station although, alas, I have to admit to being an age that meant my first love was listening to the offshore stations during the 1960's. Living at Holland on Sea, next door to Frinton (then and now), I could not only listen but see them (well Caroline, London and England/Britain) and would sail out in my dinghy occasionally to say hello (although I never went on board). I also used to go out on the Viking Saga quite regularly and reminisce with the then owner of the pleasure boat about those times - happy days! I retire from work in March 2012 and my aim is to write a comprehensive record of Caroline(s) from the beginning of August 1967 (the buildup to the MOA) and then a detailed account of the months up to March 3rd 1968, and continue until December 1969 with the various attempts to relaunch the station. Any help you can give Hans will always be appreciated. Best wishes, Richard Walker.'

Thanks a lot Richard and I hope you don't work too hard during the last month in working life. Have pleasure afterwards with logging the Caroline time as you do remember from the sixties and feel free to write if you've any questions. I will answer, if time permitted!

Hi Hans. Thank you for your reports, it is like the old days with Buster when you awaited his Monitor newsletter. A very busy spell is coming up on the red wreck, having said that I have done ten weeks this year on the Ross Revenge. Now getting a bit like r/r bad joints and worn round other bits. Regards to you and yours. Peter Clayton engineer Ross Revenge.'

Of course I went back to him with: 'Peter thanks for the mail and also for the hard work on the Ross Revenge. If you've any photo to share for next issue would be wonderful. And Peter came back with: 'Hi Hans, the rest of the team did not get paperwork through in time to do the towers, so there was no follow up work for me. My next trip is to sort some contaminated tanks out, so insurers can inspect inside them. Most of my work is not of interest to anoraks, so not many photos of jobs. I will send when something interesting comes along. I am usually on by myself as I can get more done, and not worry what others are doing. One could say grumpy old man.' Peter C.

Well Peter once again thanks for writing and above all thanks for the hard work you've done and will be doing. I'm sure a lot of readers are happy that the Ross Revenge is still there, although another group thinks it's not interesting at all to have the ship still in a harbour. And as we think you're doing as volunteer quite a lot and hard work we publish a photo which was send by Theo Bakker and taken by one of the other volunteers Fleur Nootboom.



Peter Clayton

January 2nd the very last, 2 hours, program from Norman Barrington was transmitted on Radio Seagull, which is really a pity. I met Norman for the very first time way back at the Delta Diving office in Tweede Binnenhaven Scheveningen, way back in 1973. A day the tender was going out to the Mi Amigo. He was and is a very nice chap and also a relaxed and very good broadcaster. And I must say, almost 40 years later, it was still a pleasure to tune in into his program. So after the last show I wrote him:

'Hi Norman, I just listened tonight to your 'very' last program on Seagull. As always, I enjoyed this show as the other ones. I followed you as one of the invisible friends, with love for radio and good music'. And who knows we will see or hear from each other again. With good memories to forty years ago at the Mi Amigo and more, greetings Hans Knot'

And Norman came back twice: 'Thank you Hans, it was very kind of you to email me. Lack of time, and other pressures forced me to decide to stop on Radio Seagull. It was a very minor moment in radio history, but quite an emotional one

for me! But we can never be sure of the future, once radio is in the blood, it never quite goes away. Yours, Norman Barrington.'

But he had more: 'Hans, I have decided to sell off my full collection of KENR CDs, a few have already gone but there are still around 350 different CDs left. I can provide anyone who is interested with a full list of what is still available, complete with detailed contents. These are one off, private sale, once they are gone - they are gone! Can you help in any way to make this known to your readers? I thought some of them are likely to be interested. Yours Norman Barrington.'

Well as you see I've published the information about the sale and anyone interested can contact Norman Barrington at: nb@normanb.net

As shorty from Clive, who gave me once a wonderful nighttime round tour at the Capital Radio Studio's at Leicester Square in London. 'Thanks for another great report, Hans. Next year (2012) I am hoping to make the reunion, finance permitting. There's also a reunion for those on Masirah Island between 73-74, and possibly one for those of us who started Capital Radio in the first year of its existence. All three events are about the same time of year. Best wishes. Clive.'

Well thanks Clive and I hope you take the choice to go to the reunion you were involved the most and there will be of course another RadioDay this year, but also in 2013.

Then time for Ian Biggar: 'Hi Hans, thanks for the most recent International Report. I noticed the chap who is interested in the final movements of the MEBO 2. As you know I have been trying to do some digging over the last year. Well from a contact in Malta I am told that in 1978 the MEBO 1 bore the colours of the General National Maritime Transport Company, which was a government body. This was run in later years by one of Ghadaffi's sons, but now is operating under the NTC. I do intend to contact them to find out if there are any details of the ships, but as you say they have more to worry about at the moment so will wait a while! Regards, Ian Biggar.'

Well Ian thanks a lot and by personal contacts between us we're some steps further in research and hope to bring more on this subject soon.

From one Ian to another we come to Ian Godfrey. As I told earlier in the report Ian is one of the people who almost every time reflects in one or another way to

the latest issue. Ian, who is visual handicapped, has so many memories about his own links to offshore radio, which is always for me a lot of pleasure and some fun to read. This time the main topic is about all the trips he has made to the Mi Amigo through the years. So relax and let's see what he has to tell. 'Hi Hans,

Many thanks for the latest Report; it's the longest one I can remember; it took me about one-and-a-quarter hours to read through, courtesy of the 'Guide' speech-reader. The most interesting aspect for me in the current Report was part three in the feature on Carl Mitchell. I feel that the first nine months of RNI were arguably the most momentous of the whole offshore period. I was in hospital during the test transmissions and tuned in whenever I could and would occasionally fall asleep with the radio on - nothing's changed in that respect! What excited me initially was that, particularly on hearing Roger Day on some of the later tests, it sounded like a direct follow-on from Caroline and later in the year I felt that this was probably how Caroline would have evolved. What I remember most about Carl Mitchell is listening to him on the night when the 'MEBO' crossed the North Sea. The following day I was discharged from hospital and was eager to get back home to Southend on Sea, where I could hear RNI loud and clear, with the volume knob at the lowest position! The first full record I heard was, appropriately, 'Catch Us If You Can' by the Dave Clark 5.



MEBO II on tow to England. Photo: Carl Mitchel collection

Although the charts of those days could include anything from easy listening to the Rolling Stones, I was really impressed with what I heard played. The letter

from I. Williams of Scarborough was interesting; I wonder how many others made this sort of observation about the playlist. He may have found it predictable but it was probably no more so than any other Top 40 station and less so than that of Radio London. I was excited at hearing Dutch artists, such as Earth and Fire, Focus and The Dizzy Men's Band, and album tracks throughout the day which, apart from Radio Veronica, no other station was offering.

1970 was such a key year in the development of rock music, which was covered very well by RNI, particularly by Andy Archer, who always sounded interested in what he was playing. I was 19 at the time and 1970 was the first year I could vote. RNI had got me interested in politics, courtesy of the Election campaign, and it didn't take me long to know where I was going to put my cross!

I also have memories of four trips to the 'Mi Amigo' in 1976 - all eventful for a variety of reasons. They were all organised by Dave Hutson, a stalwart supporter of Caroline. I would catch a train from Liverpool Street to Colchester and catch a bus to Brightlingsea (for the transport enthusiasts amongst us it was an Eastern National Bristol FLF, probably the best provincial half-cab bus at this time) and I always stayed at the 'Anchor' hotel, as did most of us. After seeing the advertisement at the back of Record Mirror I made a booking for 28th March, Caroline's 14th birthday.

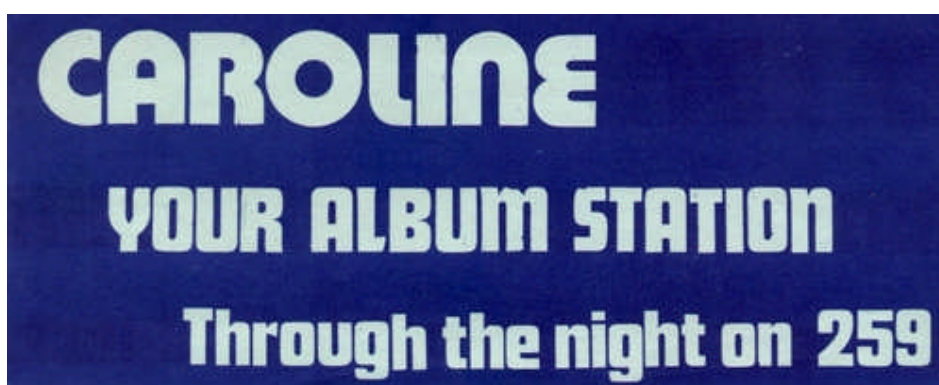
Around 08.00 that morning, and after a wholesome full English breakfast, about a dozen of us congregated near a breakwater, surrounded by the metallic sounds of masts and other rigging swaying in the light breeze. Suddenly Dave came running towards us, saying that Radio Caroline had been on 199 (1520 kHz) that morning although no-one else in the group had heard it; when I discovered Caroline on 192 (1562) a couple of weeks later I felt sure that Dave had made a mistake but I read in 'Monitor Magazine' much later that Dave was right after all!

A few minutes later Arthur Ord, our skipper, arrived and led us up the slimy seaweed-covered breakwater, into a rowing-boat, and after about ten minutes we clambered aboard what seemed quite a large fishing-boat. The sea was fairly calm and after about two-and-a-half hours one of the group announced that he could see the 'Mi Amigo's mast; I scanned the horizon with binoculars but it was another 20 minutes before I could see it, still a minute vertical speck. Another hour elapsed before we reached the ship and did one circuit, briefly stopping alongside. Soon after we left the Mi Amigo somebody revealed that there were two guys who'd travelled up from Plymouth, to see the ship on

its 14th birthday but didn't see it, having slept through most of the trip!

My 8th May trip was eventful for different reasons. I walked with one crutch at this time and had a bit of difficulty transferring from the rowing-boat - I think it was a case of having to use both hands to hoist myself up the step-ladder. I passed my crutch to Paul Southgate, one of the group. At that point I fell backwards, briefly touching the water but fortunately resumed my grip on the ropes!

The predicted temperature for most of the south-east for that day was 28C and as is often the case in these conditions in early May the sea was like a mill pond but was enshrouded in dense mist. Our progress was quite consistent until the engine started to run down and we came to a standstill, in the middle of nowhere, with zero visibility! I heard Arthur Ord say that he didn't know where the spare oil-can was! My first reaction was that he was winding us up but it was about 20 minutes before the engine suddenly sprang to life again and we made it to the Mi Amigo in about three-and-a-half hours. A woman called Valerie, who lived in the same building as me, came with me on that occasion. We had nothing in common apart from the offshore radio interest and I saw her more of a millstone than an asset but felt that I couldn't make a trip to Caroline and leave her behind. Valerie was pretty useful on this trip as, when we approached the Mi Amigo, it was clear that Arthur Ord intended to merely do a circuit and return to land (probably due to interceptions on previous trips) but after some emphatic pleading from Valerie we drew up alongside for a few minutes, had a chat with some of the DJs and, due to the Mi Amigo being so low in the water, Valerie managed to embrace a couple of them!



One of our group was the Liverpool DJ who was arrested for displaying Caroline car stickers on the windows of his van. We made no reference to this but somehow spent several minutes talking about girls in school uniform! My third trip was on 18th September. The only thing which stands out about this trip was that it was the first time I saw the notice warning against supplying the radio-

ships and was amazed that I hadn't seen it before; I hadn't heard anyone make any reference to it on previous trips; I wonder if it's still there!

My final trip of that year was on 14th November. The outward journey was pretty straightforward but the return was quite dramatic. Dense fog had descended quite rapidly and at about 19.00 that evening we suddenly grounded on a sandbank - I think it was the Long Sand - and there we remained till 02.15 the following morning! During that time, to relieve the boredom, Paul Southgate and a couple others had a 'kick-around' on the sand with a couple of beer-cans, while I sat below deck and had a chat with a girl called Christine Smith - I wonder where she is now. At about 01.30 I could hear a gurgling sound, similar to the sound of water running out of a bath, and a few minutes later, everyone clambered back on board as the gurgling gradually got louder. It suddenly occurred to me that we may only have had a 50-50 chance of being refloated.

At about 02.30 the Walton lifeboat suddenly appeared out of the fog and drew up about 20 yards from us. There seemed to be life belts, ropes and large guys with parka type jackets everywhere! One of them yelled out: "Where the bloody hell have you been, we've been looking for you for hours?" They escorted us back to Brightlingsea. We were told that the Police would be waiting for us although I was pretty convinced that there wasn't anyone there at all as we climbed out of the rowing-boat! Dave Hutson gave me a lift to Basildon where I caught one of the first trains to Fenchurch Street Station in London. I fell asleep soon after switching to the Central Line and didn't wake up till East Acton (for those familiar with the area.) I rang work, saying that I had a dodgy stomach, suggesting it was the Chinese meal I had the previous evening! We later discovered that, probably due mainly to the fog, Arthur Ord really hadn't a clue where we were; he had no operational navigational gear on board, plus we were at least a decade before the invention of mobile phones. Health and Safety would have a field-day with this sort of scenario!

My next trip was of a completely different nature. It was on the fairly well reported 'mystery tour' on the 'PS Waverley,' from Southend Pier, which had hardly recovered from the disastrous fire of nearly two years before. The walkways leading to the landing-stage seemed unsafe. I clearly remember the captain's voice bellowing through the tannoy, advising us not to surge to one side as we circled the Mi Amigo.



PS Waverley Archive Freewave Media Magazine

It felt a bit bizarre,, sitting round a TV watching the 'World in Action' programme on the start of Caroline and Atlanta and surrounded by OAPs looking perplexed! I wondered afterwards whether, as the trip was billed as a mystery tour, someone had persuaded the organisers to re-route the paddle-steamer to the Mi Amigo!

When I started this email I was listening to the English Top 40 show, one of three very listenable shows on Veronica 192, which weren't there when I was admitted to hospital a few months ago. This show is preceded by an album show which, a couple of weeks ago, included a fairly dubious version of 'Jambalaya (On the Bayou)' by Shocking Blue. Recently I've been trying to find a classic rock station which sounds similar to Arrow Classic Rock before their playlist change of about six years ago; hopefully someone can help with this. Best Wishes, Ian Godfrey'.

Well Ian, once again lovely memories and I'm always surprised how exactly you remember the dates and facts. Thank you in the name of all readers. I hope someone of the readership can advise you a radio station which is to compare to the early Arrow Classic Rock. You can write in at: HKnot@home.nl

Radio Extra Gold, the internet station, has started a special series in which Radio Luxembourg is highlighted. First program was transmitted on Sunday 22nd of January and all kind of people involved, in one or another way, with the station will be guests in the monthly shows. Appearing will be from the Dutch Service Felix Meurders and Peter Koelewijn. In the lineup of guests from the international service, among others, will be Tony Prince as well as The Emperor Rosko. In the first program Radio Luxembourg related songs were transmitted with as guest in the studio Dick Offringa, an avid listener to the station who has collected all kinds of recordings and photos as well as own memories, which partly can be find at: www.offringa.nl/radioluxembourg.htm



So keep your eyes frequently on the information given by the station at www.extragold.nl and I can already reveal that yours truly will also appear in one of the programs this year to tell about Radio Luxembourg from a point of view as radio historian.

On the age of 83 Piet Römer, a very famous actor in the Netherlands, passed away on January 17th. He played in several movies, on stage plays, television series and hit the charts several times with songs from the television series. He was very famous for his role as a detective in a long running program called 'Baantjer'. But Piet Römer also was, for a period, a presenter with the Dutch service of RNI, where he had his own program on Sunday afternoon between 4 and 6, called: 'With Piet in Zee.'



RNI Archive.

Well talking about RNI and Caroline, here's another chapter in the series about Graham Gill:

Graham Gill Archive Volume 18

In the years after his offshore days, when Graham Gill went to work for Radio Netherlands, he still tried to get in contacts with former colleagues from offshore days, which we saw earlier in this series. It was in 1976 he wrote a letter to Steve England and also tried to phone him. Steve took some of his expensive time to write a letter to Graham from the offices of Piccadilly Radio, one of the first ILR stations after Capital Radio and LBC started in London. Steve was responsible for the commercial production department of the station

in Manchester. One of the things he mentioned in the letter was that his department was reduced from 3 to 2 persons, as his personal assistant, Dave Owen had left the station to work for Beacon Radio. Well Graham and Steve worked together on Radio Caroline in 1973 while Steve England and Dave Owen earlier worked together on Radio Atlantis in 1974.



In Rainham it was Nigel Martin, who wrote on March 21st 1973 a long letter to Graham, which opened with: 'I have been listening to RNI since it started way back some years ago. I find the music very good. I can always tell when you're on the air by your accent. As I have been listening for this past few years, I have always wondered why some deejays only stay for a short while, then leave. I particularly liked Mark Slate. I was used getting listening to his shows when he left. Do you know why some leave? I think the longest serving deejay is Mike Ross.'

Mike Ross indeed did a few stints in 1970 and was, next doing shows, also technician aboard the radio ship MEBO II. He also did long periods between 1971 and 1974, including - together with his wife - Sheila. It were very relaxing

shows for family entertainment. The last time I met Mike Ross was at the Driftback 20 Convention in London. After that I never saw him back or heard anything from him. It seems I'm not the only person who isn't anymore in contact with Mike as in the past several readers asked where Mike Ross is living nowadays. So the big question to you the reader is: If you know something about the present whereabouts of Mike Ross, please let us know at HKnot@home.nl

Another letter was written on June 22nd 1974 when Graham was working for a while as program director on Radio Caroline. It was the 18 year old Allan Pennington who wrote some wise words for his age about the Loving Awareness: 'I appreciate you there with Loving Awareness on the Mi Amigo, but I think it is impossible for the whole world to be at peace and practicing 'LA'. Well it is better than none, so keep plugging 'LA'. As a shortwave DX'er I listen to all parts of the world and receive literature from many countries. From this I've discovered now completely different the attitudes and ways of life in some countries are. Each country has its own ideals and aims and through selfishness and ignorance they harm other people in trying to achieve these aims. I think wanted unity is impossible but I think everyone should respect and appreciate other people's aims however different they are.'

Instant listeners to RNI should remember the names of those who wrote the deejays almost weekly or more. Two names to be mentioned were Peggy Sheldrake in Stowmarket, Suffolk and Robert Tidmarsh from Tamworth in Staffordshire. They were regularly mentioned in the several programs on RNI and although both lived a long way from each other, it seems they were terrible 'in love', which they spread around in writing letters to the deejays on RNI and tell in their letters their special feelings for each other, letter after letter. Many of those I found back in the Graham Gill archive. And I think the very first written to Graham Gill by Robert was on March 26th 1973, welcoming Graham to the station.

Radio Nordzee
P o Box 117
Hilversum
Holland

KINGSBURY
TAMWORTH
STAFFORDSHIRE
ENGLAND

26th March
1973

Dear. Grahame

First of all welcome to
RNI and in fact Grahame I can
remember you as far back as 1966
when you joined Big 4 and then
Radio 355 with Tony Windsor.

I must say that your
choice of music is good and I enjoy
your programs very much

When talking about tunes and mentioning Graham Gill on RNI and Radio Caroline in the seventies everyone would say immediately 'Way back home - instrumental b - side' performed by Junior Walker and the All Stars on Tamla Motown. Well Graham used on RNI another tune for some time. It was an instrumental version of the song 'Day by Day' a song from the 1971 Musical Godspell, written by Stephen Schwartz and John-Michael Tebelak. Also on the use of this number listeners took pencil and paper to make him compliments. However we still don't know after so many years who performed this instrumental version. Everyone who knows please contact me HKnot@home.nl

101 Great North Road,
Skegforth,
Newcastle-upon-Tyne 3,
England.
14th April, '73.

Dear Graham,

Several weeks ago I sent you a postcard to say how much I enjoyed one of your shows when you were working for "Radio Caroline," but as reception over in these parts was pretty bad --- I was very pleased to hear you again coming over loud and clear on the more powerful station R.N.I.

I would just like to wish you all the best and say how much I enjoy your choice of music (a goodly mixture) of quality and popular music.

Your theme music that you play out with "Day by Day" is good and sometime could you possibly play on one of your shows the "Hotley Sherwood" version --- as I think she makes a very good job of it.

Once again Graham, best of luck, hope you stay with R.N.I. a long time --- not many quality D.J.'s around just now.

Yours sincerely,
Jan Sanderson.

When digging in the boxes I also found a letter from Lothar Pinno from Germany, who directly after he tuned into RNI and the Graham Gill show, for the very first time in June 1973, wrote to the station and he had a very special reason for that: 'It was the very first time I tuned in to your show and I was delighted as I missed your kind of music for a long time. I just returned home after a two year spell in the Middle East, particular Persia and Israel, where I worked for that time as an irrigation and hydrogenation specialist. Understandable, that I am raving about your show, after all that Arabic stuff down there.' Next he wanted Graham to read out his letter as he wanted 'girls, girls and girls after his long stay from home.

A remarkable amount of letters, about the same subject, was written to RNI in October and November 1973. The reason was that 'The Sunday Times' had a long article about several radio stations, including RNI. I quote from the article: 'Radio Northsea International, 275 medium wave. Pirate ship operating off the coast of Denmark for more than three years. Danish Government trying to get it closed down, so could disappear any week now. Nobody could possibly miss it. In the style of Radio Luxembourg, only much worse.' Of course, a lot of readers of 'The Sunday Times' got angry and some of them wrote a letter to the editor at the newspaper, pointing out the various mistakes and telling how popular RNI was. It was for instant a letter sent by Mrs. J.W. Wyndham-Kaye from London who wrote the next letter:

The Editor,
The Sunday Times,
200, Gray's Inn Road,
London, W.C.1.

17 October 1973

Dear Sir,

I had been enjoying reading The Sunday Times Magazine until I came to the 'Radio Close Up - Calling The Tune' by Gordon Burn. I was with interest that it included Radio North Sea International, but was infuriated when I looked more closely. I could forgive the dogmatic arrogance of Mr. Burn if he were at least correct in his facts. For his information and that of your readers, I should like to tell you that Radio North Sea International broadcasts on 220 metres and not 275 (approx.). (Surely a careful writer takes the trouble to verify facts such as wavelengths? Either it is 275 or it is not.)

Furthermore, R.N.I. broadcasts off the coast of Holland - not Denmark. It is true that the government of the Netherlands is intending to close down R.N.I., together with the enormously popular Dutch station Radio Veronica and Radio Seagull, which Mr. Burn finds more to his taste. The three stations are all anchored a few miles off the coast of Scheveningen.

It is quite maddening to be told that some will miss R.N.I., when I for one have been greatly saddened by its imminent closure. In my opinion, Radio North Sea International is the most enjoyable station for evening listening.

In conclusion, I shall add that I find it very worrying that such inaccuracies are present in what - until now - I would have called a responsible newspaper and hope that this is not typical of your normal standards.

Yours faithfully,

J.W. Wyndham-Kaye.

Some days after the letters came in at the desk of the editor, one of them was published and rectification of the errors was made.

Some artists got more attention than the others and Graham Gill, who in the sixties worked on several stations, including the middle of the road formatted Radio 390, was into the music of Ray Connif and his singers. It was Lois Hollands who wrote Graham as secretary of the International Ray Connif Club: 'Thank you so much for your dedication to play so much of Ray's music in your shows. Seems we have the same favorite track from the new Connif Album: 'It never rains in Southern California', a really knockout number. I will give you a mention in my 'round the radio' column in the Fanclub Magazine in April.'

There were many listeners who followed the offshore radio scene instantly and wrote to the stations about what they knew as well as what they wanted to know. Let's take, for instant, a letter from Anthony Carrick in Harrogate, Yorkshire. He wrote in July 1974 how happy he was to hear Graham back on Caroline 259: 'I have been an ardent follower of the offshore scene since the beginning of 1964. My favourite station of all time is of course Radio Caroline. Although I did prefer the original broadcasts between 1964 end 1967. Today's sound on Caroline are a totally different format but remain very interesting. Am I right in saying that while you worked on the MEBO 2, you were also doing the news on Hilversum shortwave service? My wife and I used to listen to RNI last year and one of her most valued possessions is a couple of taped request we have from the RNI Request Show, which you were kind enough to play for us. I keep on reading articles that the 389 service will reappear soon. Are these rumours true? Or is it really impossible to broadcast two medium wave transmissions from one ship? Last year, when Radio Caroline restarted, the program was really good with an alternative pop/progressive program on 259. At the moment the signal is really quite good. Daytime is excellent and from ten till midnight there's some fading. Unfortunately that's your time slot at the moment. We have a baby daughter seven weeks ago and of course this means waking up into the middle of the night. I find that whilst my wife is feeding baby Elisabeth I can enjoy the sounds of Radio Caroline in the early hours.'

Just one other item for this issue of the Graham Gill archive brings us to the Record and Radio Mirror from June 15th, 1974. In that issue Robb Eden, who did a lot of things for the landbased operation in England, told to a journalist of the

weekly that the Caroline ship, MV Mi Amigo, would be going to the British coast before the Dutch law came.

Caroline poised

RADIO CAROLINE is poised to sail back to England for 24-hour English programming as soon as the Dutch Marine Offences Act goes through — probably on September 1.

At present the organisation — based in The Hague — is searching desperately for a motor torpedo boat to use as a high speed tender.

Robb Eden would not confirm a specific date for the switch to England but said the Mi Amigo would anchor off the Frinton / Clacton area because of the favourable conditions there.

Meanwhile the disc jockey complement on board has been upped to 11 with three Americans coming in recently following the departure of old stalwart, Norman Harrington.

Eden said: "We are also ready to start broadcasting news on the hour and our English service has been extended by an hour, now starting at 6.00 pm.

"Things have never been better on board. Radio Mi Amigo's advertising space is fully booked and when Ronan O'Rahilly brought George Harrison and Jonathan King to Amsterdam to hear the station recently, they were all impressed."

Eden says political troubles in Holland may prevent the Dutch MDA from going through in the next couple of months but September 1 is considered "the absolute deadline."

Beeb bulletin

RARE public airing this week for one time Stones' manager Andrew Oldham who will be revealing all and perhaps more to Brian Matthew on My Top 12. Wonder if there'll be any Stones' tracks or there again whether it'll just be a narrated performance of Let It Bleed? Also amid the football from Munich take time off on the Saturday before to catch Camel and UFO in concert.

June 15 John Peel — Bob Sargent, Global Village Trucking Co, and Henry Cow; 15 Beach Boys Story Part 6 — Making Waves Again; In Concert — Camel and UFO; 16 My Top 12 — Andrew Oldham; 17 Bob Harris — Jesse Colin Young, Blue, Winkies.

Well another time more from the Graham Gill files in Amsterdam. Let's go to information about the update of Bob LeRoi's internetpages: 'A real mix, beginning in 'ScrapBook' with more pictures of the devastating Sealand Fire. We take a look round the Isle-of-Thamet, popping into Academy FM on the way, before wrapping up with a Red Sands Radio update. The 'Personal Pages' goes under water at the Royal Navy Submarine Museum at Hasler. We check out a couple of Choice Locals welcoming your suggestions and reviews. The feature on the Peter Cushing prompted lots of interest so in follow up we publish photographs of the Oxford in former times, before racing off into the night at Brands Hatch. 'One Subject One Link' wars of the dangers of selling on-line. Finally, we've an original signed copy of the Loving Awareness Album and the original Radio Jackie LP up for grabs. Thank you for your interest and support in 2011. Enjoy your visits www.bobleroi.co.uk

Next there's an e mail from the Netherlands: 'Dear Hans, a couple of years already I'm an enthusiastic visitor to your website with the monthly updates at www.HansKnot.com

Every time those memories to the beautiful years of radio. I lived, from my birth up till 2008 in The Hague in Holland, just behind the dunes and most of the offshore radio stations were very well received. Even Radio Scotland was, after dinnertime and around midnight, reasonable to follow. However my big time favourite was Mike Raven. I listened to him when he was on Radio Atlanta, where he already played R&B music like 'Uncle Willie' from Zoot Money. When Mike Raven went to Radio 390 I started to write down those songs he played in his Blues programs on Sunday evenings. Not too long ago I found back those annotations. One of them I've attached. It's difficult to read as a sign of the time and my 'English' wasn't just that in those days. But I also made a translation.

Radio 390 177 - 1901
 Blues V. regret you
 net to you the wet
 and window has water
 5 June!

Piercing my hand, 1932
 you got that thing
 removed let it
 in my

Hounding Wolf out
 worried about by belt
 on Amber h p Big City Blues
 eyed rain in Kent
 vigorous

!! Roosevelt signs
 with p van signs

929 For West at all Blues
 under and the rain of women

± Blind led by Johnson

936 god don't never change
 outside account of her style

Playlist: Mike Raven R&B show
Radio 390; Sunday July 17th1966

Reconstruction: made after the original notes taken during the program
by Hans Klomp in The Hague, The Netherlands

- Picaninny Jug Band You got to have that thing, 1932
- Howlin' Wolf Worried about my baby. Ember LP
- Roosevelt Sykes Fire detective blues, 1929
- Blind Willy Johnson God don't never change, 1930
- Son House Sundown, LP Legendary Son House
- Bessie Smith Alexander's ragtime band(with Coleman Hawkins)
- Big Joe Williams Ain't gonne be your lowdown dog
- Lightnin' Hopkins How long ..., LP Fontana Penitentiary blues
- Barrelhouse Welsh Dying Pickpocket blues, Chicago 1929
- 'Scrapper' Blackwell Rambling Blues, 1931
- 'Mississippi' Fred McDowell Drop down mama
- Robert Johnson Traveling riverside blues
- 'Doctor' Ross Cat Squirrel, LP Call the Doctor, Bounty/Electra
- Charlie Patton Running wild (December 1929)
- 'Jelly Roll' Morton London blues, April 1924

Enjoy yourselves!



Next I've a question; I think to remember that in the Caroline days after August 15th 1967, that during the deejays on the station also mentioned an office address at the Honselersdijkstreet in The Hague. Later, in 1972/1974, they used the Van Hoogendorpstreet office and this wasn't in a too good neighborhood and the Honselerdijkstreet was even in a worse area. I never found this address back in articles about the history of Radio Caroline, neither in books written about the station or on internet. Could someone else remember if this address was used for a short time? Hans Klomp, Antwerpen, Belgium.'

Thanks a lot for those memories to Radio 390 and I hope someone does recall something about the address in The Hague. I asked around and no one remembers it. I've listened till the very last day in March 1968 but never heard it. So I did sent the question to Andy Archer, who worked on the station during that period and he came back with: 'I'm sorry Hans, but I have never heard of any Radio Caroline connection with this street. In 1967/1968 our tenders came from IJmuiden (food and crew change) and Vlissingen (oil). There were no connections with Radio Caroline and Den Haag during this period. Best as ever Andy Archer.'

Let's go to big accumulator Martin van der Ven: 'Dear all, I have produced a new webpage containing 175 missing and unknown tunes which might be of interest for you. It would certainly be great to hear from you having recognised a few themes and thus letting grow our common collection. The URL is:

<http://www.offshore-radio.de/missingtunes/>

All the best for 2012, Martin.'

Ferry Maat, who started his career in radio at RNI, became 65 years of age in January. Next to be a famous radio personality in the Netherlands, he's a very famous jingle producer. The Foundation for Jingles and Tunes presented Ferry with a special cd on which many of his productions can be heard. Here is a photo collection of the presentation of the CD:

<http://www.jingleweb.nl/index.php/spotlight/ferry-maat-65-jaar-en-nieuwe-cd/>

Also I will ask to have an intensive look at the next internet site where a very interesting article can be read about radio ships, many of them you've never heard of and written by Adrian Peterson.

<http://www.broadcasting-fleet.com/>

Another update for Jon: 'I have just updated The Pirate Radio Hall of Fame. New for January - and for 2012: 'Terry Bate, who worked for Radio Caroline in the sixties, has sent us a great photograph of himself and the station boss Ronan O'Rahilly visiting the Radio Caroline ships in Amsterdam; David Gibson, who edited Radio Scotland's 242 magazine, has provided a rare copy of the first issue; Britain Radio's Jack Curtiss and Johnny Dark (alias airtime salesman Harry Putnam) recently met up again; and it is congratulations to Dave Cash on his recent wedding and to Roger Gale on becoming SIR Roger in the New Year Honours. The Pirate Radio Hall of Fame www.offshoreradio.co.uk

Next again it's email time. 'Dear Hans. A few years ago I wrote to ask you if you knew the song that Tony Allen used to play on RNI. He said it was his favourite record. It ended with the chorus "baby must have been a magician". You wrote back to me and said it was probably the Marvelettes, but that wasn't it. Well, I'm writing to you to say I have found it! After years of searching I now know it's called "You Sure Look Good to Me", and it's by a singer called Jody Purpora. You probably know the song, but if not, it's on YouTube -

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Hi1CQx8icvQ>. Just thought you'd like to know! My best wishes Bernard Webber.'

Well Bernard good to see you find the searched for song after so many years. Congratulations! Well more about singing as here are some recent recordings showing Keith Hampshire, known from Caroline days as a deejay in the sixties and as famous singer in Canada in sixties and seventies:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZegP9d59A5Y>

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wdvnJHOYvss>

It was Martin who did provide me with these links, but also many related to Radio Mercur in the sixties.

<http://www.jstor.org/pss/20689618>

<http://homepage.ntlworld.com/bdxcuk/radiomercur.pdf>

<http://news.google.com/newspapers?nid=2507&dat=19620817&id=75tAAAAIIBAJ&sjid=l6MMAAAIIBAJ&pg=1952,6111253>

[http://agent.dril.dk/agent/style/kroeniken_1950erne/?7758'](http://agent.dril.dk/agent/style/kroeniken_1950erne/?7758)

<http://www.scandinavianoffshoreradio.com/default.asp?page=tekst.asp&id=59>

<http://www.scandinavianoffshoreradio.com/default.asp?page=tekst.asp&id=62>

<http://www.dr.dk/kroeniken/tiden/radio/radiomercur.asp>

<http://www.radio-mercur.dk/>

<http://www.cwgsy.net/private%2Foffshoreradio/mercur.html>

Next it's Peter Agate: 'Hi Hans, I hope you had a good Christmas. The reference to 'Frankie' by Sister Sledge in the December issue reminded me of the time I took the family, wife and three children, to Arabian Sands in Morocco for two weeks in July 1985. We went purely because of the advertising on Radio Caroline, and a very good time we had too. I can't recall who the deejay's name that was at the Sands during the holiday, but I do remember him playing 'Frankie' by Sister Sledge and my 9 year old daughter dancing around the disco floor enjoying herself. Ah... happy days.
Best wishes Peter Agate.

<http://www.messandnoise.com/articles/10344>

The above link takes you to an interesting story when Peter Agate was looking for 1111days film of Radio Hauraki. Next it's another e mail, this time from Australia:

'Dear Hans, I vaguely recall your newsletter having once stated that RNI had been more popular in the UK than in the Netherlands. Do you have any market research about the offshore radio audiences? For example, demographics and countries? In grammar school in Manchester (UK), I learned Latin, French and English. But on RNI at home, as well as English, I heard Dutch and German! Perhaps my school had a peculiar idea as to what Europeans spoke. Can you comment on the effect of unifying European people that the offshore stations had? I wondered why the DJs had stage names, and changed them? Could you do a review of the nicknames used, and how they came to be? I had better write to you, before I go to bed at 3 AM on Thursday! Thank you for your historical work. Whereas in grammar school in England, history had been one of my worst subjects!

And music also, I dropped at the age of fourteen. Though when I had been in primary school, all the children had enthusiastically sung all the pop tunes, when riding home on the back seat of the school bus! Yet the high school teachers didn't know anything about pop music. And I remember a priest who taught religion, going on as if the transistor radio was the work of the Devil! I have been following up your Web suggestions (URL) and listening to old recordings. I had been using Systran to roughly convert Dutch and German pages.

<http://www.systran.co.uk/> Yours appreciatively, Bryan in Canberra, Australia.'

Thank you so much Bryan for your reflections. I don't recall any serious research related to countries as we talk about listening figures. Next to that I've serious doubts if the research figures, given by the Offshore stations in the sixties, related to their listenership, were honest ones. I think, regarding the broadcast staff - when there were more than one service on a radio ship, they were working very well together. Never forget for instance that Dutch people also learned four languages at school. And when we are talking about the crewmembers it was a bit different. What I learned through the decades researching radio is that the crewmembers were 'living apart' from the broadcasting staff as an own group. Later in the seventies and eighties it became common that broadcasting staff was also doing the work a crewmember officially ought to do and more and more it was one group. About the nicknames I advice you to go to www.hansknot.com where they are all listed.'

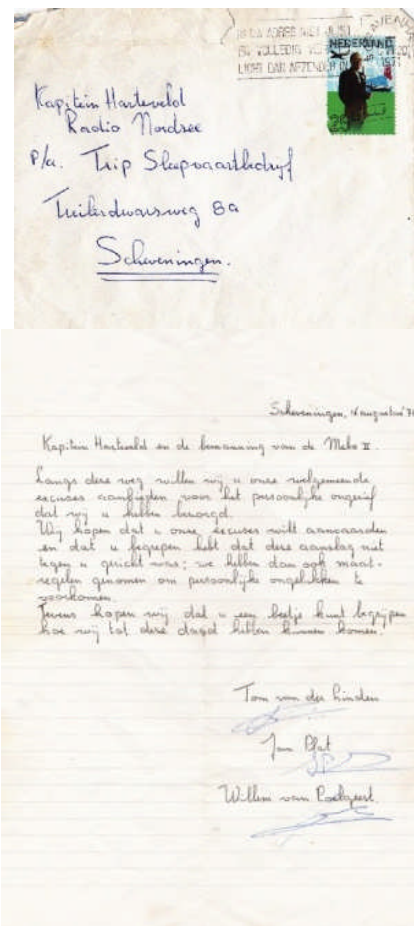
Roger Gale, former Radio Caroline and Radio Scotland DJ and programme director, has been knighted in the 'New Years Honours' for his services to politics. Roger has been Conservative MP for North Thanet since 1983. He is the only former offshore radio disc-jockey to become a Member of Parliament. He joined Radio Caroline North in August 1964, where he stayed until January 1965. In June of the same year he joined Caroline South, before becoming programme director at Radio Scotland. He also worked as the personal assistant to the general manager at Universal Films for nine years from 1962, before joining the BBC in 1972 as a reporter for Radio London, becoming a producer of current affairs in 1973. He became the producer of Radio 1's Newsbeat, then the producer of Radio 4's Today programme from 1973-6. In 1976, he was appointed Director of BBC Children's Television. He left the BBC in 1979 and joined Thames Television as a senior producer on children's television where he remained until his election to parliament.

On December 22nd 2011 another person related to the MEBO II and so to RNI, died in a hospital in Ostend, Belgium. Tom van der Linden was related in other

ways too in offshore radio. First, in the second part of 1970, he was relieve captain on the radio ship and could be heard, now and then, in the International programming. The second time, he came into the news in Holland, he was arrested and jailed for a year as the main responsible person for the attack on RNI's radio ship MEBO II. He and his two co-divers put explosive material in the machine room of the radio ship and the ship went on fire. The story on RNI can be found on www.soundscape.info

But after coming out of jail he started Delta Diving, responsible for many tendering trips to the Mi Amigo and also towing the Mi Amigo, in late August 1974, to the British coast. Tom died at the age of 67.

Of course I informed some of his former shipmates as well as people who were on the MEBO II during the fire. I got an answer from Captain Harteveld who was a bit shocked about his death as he knows him from the time he worked on the MEBO II together with Tom van der Linden. In our e mail contact Harteveld mentioned me that he still had an excuse letter in which the divers made apologies to captain and crew:



This letter was written by the divers, while they were in prison. Hans ten Hooge (Hoogendoorn) was one of the persons on board the MEBO II on May 15th 1971, the day the ship went on fire. He wrote me he never heard anything about this letter and asked himself, all those decennia, why the divers didn't had an excuse. Hans ten Hooge: "A miracle that this has been done, although posthumous. Now this unfortunate incident has really come to an end."

The next text shows what was written in Dutch: 'Tom and his two companions apologize for any personal inconvenience done to captain and crew of the radio ship. They "hope you will accept our apologies and understand that this assault was not directed to you in person; we did take measures to prevent personal harm being done. We also hope, you are able to understand just slightly the reason we were brought to our doing." Signed Tom van der Linden, Jan Plat and Willem van Poelgeest

The son of the late Van der Linden, named after his father, also got from me a scan of the letter: "I really am grateful that you have sent me this document, it's very unique and what a coincidence.

After another e mail 'conversation' between former Captain Harteveld and me I learned that the letter was held back by the people of the 'Trip' office, responsible for the tendering of the radio ship. First they wanted to give Meister and Bollier, the Swiss owners of the MEBO II, the opportunity to read the letter. Some weeks later the letter was taken to the radio ship and Harteveld did read it aloud to those who were on the ship at that moment. Also the letter has been in the mess room for some time. Well after almost 41 years we can close this subject.

Well another person related to offshore radio died in December. Some years ago it was Jeanne Hendricks who asked me about the then 'present where about' from Eddy de Boeck. He was one of the persons responsible organizing the main things on land for Radio Atlantis in 1973 as well as for Radio Mi Amigo in the first months of 1974. I only could answer her at the question that I had seen Eddy only a few times in The Hague in 1974 and that I did had any contact afterwards. Well, early January 2012 Jeanne Hendricks wrote me again: 'Remember me I found you, looking for Eddy De Boeck. I never located him but just today heard that he passed away December 10 after a year in the hospital. Thought you would like to know. Jeanne.'

I did inform some of his former colleagues about his death and I would like to publish two of the reflections. First of all one from Ad Petersen (Ad Roland) who wrote: 'Eddy played, although for a short time, a notable role when working

for Radio Mi Amigo. He was for director Sylvain Tack, at crucial moments a very precious line cousin. Eddy loved the chess he played with Sylvain, Ronan O'Rahilly and Adriaan van Landschoot. He loved the game and played once a game of bluff poker, with as bet a big mast, and he was the winner! Eddy organized everything, even when one would think he could not succeed. Eddie was amazing creative. When there was nothing anymore to organize he left Mi Amigo and took his special skills with him. I asked myself once if Radio Mi Amigo had become a radio station if Eddy de Boeck had not joined Sylvain Tack in 1973.'



Eddy de Boeck with thanks to Douwe Dijkstra

Someone who was a lot in the Radio Caroline office at the Van Hoogendorpstreet in the Hague, where also the first studios for Radio Mi Amigo were housed, is Cornelia van den Berg, aka Elija van den Berg: 'Eddy was a very friendly and generous person. He was always there for the people of Radio Caroline and was like part of our Caroline family, although he worked for Radio Mi Amigo. Also he was in for a drink or took us to entertaining places. A very fine person with whom I didn't had the luck to get in contact with after Mi Amigo days. R.I.P. Eddy!'

Well also in this issue of the report some nicknames. First I heard Don Allen talk on RNI about presenter Louise Kirk 'the collectable swinger'. In 1979 it was on Radio Caroline Rob Hudson who talked about Tom Anderson as Tom 'LA' Anderson. The long list of offshore radio nicknames can be found at www.hansknot.com

On January 21st, at the age of 56, Jeroen Soer died after he got an heart attack. Jeroen came on board the MV Mi Amigo in August 1979 and stayed only a few days as his impression of the old Lady was zero. From that point on he started recording his programmes for Radio Caroline in his own studio, using the name Jeroen Woelwater. He had a long career in radio, including the public broadcasters KRO, VARA, TROS and he was one of the founders of Radio Tien, which later was renamed into Radio 10 Gold. During the years he was also director of the regional radio and television station RTV West as well as public broadcaster VARA and in Belgium he was involved in Radio Flandria. During the

last years he was involved in Radio Efteling in the Netherlands as well as running his own media advice office.

Earlier on I mentioned the internet site concerning the 'Missing Tunes' and during the Christmas period Martin van der Ven had many contacts with various people about the missing ones including the next e mail exchange:

'Hello Woolf, you may remember me from two pirate reunions in London. Along with Hans Knot and Rob Olthof. I'm still organising the annual Radio Day in Amsterdam (see link). For many years, we have been looking for all those theme tunes that were used by the offshore radio deejays. Some people refer to "Oh what a beautiful morning" by Bert Kaempfert as your tune, but it seems that Kaempfert has never released that title. Do you still remember which was the one (or maybe it were different ones) that you used? Many thanks in advance for helping us. Best wishes for 2012 and hope to hear from you soon, Martin'.

'Hello Martin, It's very nice to hear from you, yes, of course I remember you from our meetings in London. It all seems like a long time ago now though, doesn't it? You're right in assuming my theme tune was not by Bert Kaempfert, but I'm going to need a day or two to work out what it was that I was using. (There were several). I do remember using a Herb Alpert track first, when I joined Radio City, but changed to one of Andre Brasseur's records after a short while. I don't think I ever used that at Britain Radio. And I can vaguely remember a tune that I did use, but the title just won't come to me at the moment. On Radio 390 I don't believe that we had our own themes, just those of each programme which had already been established. Sorry that I can't be more helpful at the moment, but I'll be in touch soon, when I get a flash of returning memory. All the Best, and my wishes to you and your Radio Day colleagues, Hans and Rob, for a very happy, and prosperous New Year. Woolf.'

And not too long afterwards Woolf came back once again: 'Hello Martin, Further to our recent correspondence, I've found most of the details. When I first started on Radio City my theme tune was Herb Alpert's 'The Third Man Theme', but after only a short time I switched to Andre Brasseur's 'Special 230'. I used this again fairly recently on a broadcast I did for BBC Radio Kent. When I moved to Britain Radio I had a change, but cannot find the details. It was an instrumental number (obviously) which I vaguely thought I remembered as being called 'Honey Badger'. It was by a British studio orchestra, but neither Google or Wikipedia seem to know anything about it. I hope this helps a little. Regards, Woolf.'

And next on January 5th the next mail was sent by Martin: 'Dear Woolf, today, I got that interesting mail from Jon Myer. Is that your Britain Radio tune? Best wishes Martin 'There was a single called 'Honey Badger' by The Harry Roberts Sound released in April 1966 (Philips BF1484).

It is on YouTube: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wHk_1ZuSIx4

And of course Woolf came back with: 'Martin, that's brilliant! I could not remember the name of the band, and was not even completely sure if I had the correct title. That really is the one though, so I can confirm that Honey Badger was my theme for the time that I spent on Britain Radio. My thanks and kind regards to Jon. All the best, Woolf.'

And so you can see that there's still international cooperation to bring answer to questions. Once again the missing tunes can be found at:

<http://www.offshore-radio.de/missingtunes/>

Let's see who's next:

'Hi Hans and happy new year to you and your family. I occasionally receive mail about my time on Radio Caroline and as such copy to you an email received about the tragic death at sea. Perhaps the family of this person may be offended if published but perhaps not, I don't know. Personally I did not know of such an event. Sheridan Street. This is a segment of the received e mail: 'Just wanted to say how much I enjoyed your Radio Caroline page. Brings back good memories although I was still at technical university at that time, I was an apprentice with Decca Radar. Seems like quite a few hams were involved in those activities but for one it ended tragically - Martin G3SDP drowned in a foggy collision going out to one of the forts in the Thames estuary, some said it wasn't an accident, who knows. Phil G3OUV was on a platform, operated as NS1A. When I first came to Dallas in 1971 the most popular Top 40 station was KLIF, and the jingles were very familiar, turns out same folks were behind Radio London! So, happy new year and greetings from north Texas. 73, Paul N5PG / G3RRF.'

Hans did you know of such and event? Best regards Sheridan Street'

Hi Sheridan, all best wishes to you and your family for 2012 and thanks for sending the other e mail. Paul means the following info:

'In March 2004 The Pirate Radio Hall of Fame was contacted by David Featherbe. His father, Harry, also known as Tom Pepper, had been the boss of Britain's fourth

offshore station, Radio Invicta. This station was launched in June 1964 but tragedy intervened only a few months later. Just before Christmas, Tom, DJ Simon Ashley and engineer Martin Shaw all lost their lives when the station's tender sank. David Featherbe asked if we could provide a copy of the tribute to his father that Ed Moreno had broadcast on Radio Invicta. We were happy to help and, during the ensuing correspondence, David mentioned that he had some of his father's old photos. These date from 1964 and, as far as we know, have never been published anywhere before. One of the bodies was found 3 years later at a south European beach and they could identify the body as it had an Invicta radio tape on the body.'

'So yes people died in offshore radio days due to accidents. Thanks for the information from the Pirate Hall of Fame.

Norbert Dengler's update: <http://www.offshore-radio.de/wikipedia.htm>

In the meantime Martin has found some French entries as well:

http://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Radio_pirate

http://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Eaux_territoriales

http://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Voice_of_Peace

http://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Abie_Nathan

http://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Radio_London

http://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Radio_Caroline

http://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/President_Rosko

http://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Radio_Veronica

http://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Radio_North_Sea_International

http://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Principaut%C3%A9_de_Sealand

http://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Paddy_Roy_Bates

And there's another Rosko video on the web:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UVOf09DK3-k>

Well that ends up another long edition of the Report. Due to heavy workload in the forthcoming weeks I presume the next report will be around the end of the first week or start of the second week of March. I hope you have enjoyed this time and for all your memories and more just mail me at: HKnot@home.nl

Greetings Hans Knot