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WAVE



FREE RADIO
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Saturday
17th AUGUST
TRAFALGAR
Top Personal



*Maandelijkse
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VOORWOORD

Beste Lezers en Lezeressen van Freewave,

In de afgelopen 25 jaar hebben we veel met elkaar gedeeld in het Nederlands. En ik moet U vertellen dat onder onze abonnees een aantal Engelsen is dat de Nederlandse taal grotendeels machtig is geworden via de radio. Dus door het luisteren naar de zenders vanaf de internationale wateren die in onze taal hebben uitgezonden. Hulde daarvoor. Als blijk van dank dat ze onze taal zijn blijven volgen in dit nummer eenmalig een Engelstalig verhaal. Wij hebben deze taal allemaal geleerd op school en bovenal hebben we het bijgespijkerd via het luisteren naar de zenders, die in de Engelse taal hun programma's verspreid hebben. Ik weet zeker dat U het betreffende verhaal met veel plezier zult beleven gezien het iets beschrijft dat in de afgelopen veertig jaar nog nooit is beschreven. En laten we één ding met elkaar afspreken: Keep it going in our fight for free radio!

Hans Knot

die Hans Knot heet in het Engels

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Elke auteur en adverteerder is verantwoordelijk voor zijn/haar eigen publicatie. Zonder toestemming van de redactie is gehele of gedeeltelijke overname, in welke vorm dan ook, uit deze Freewave niet toegestaan.

FOTO'S

Indien niet anders vermeld zijn alle foto's uit het Freewave archief.

OMSLAG

Foto's van boven naar beneden:

1. Engelse politie escorteert demonstratie in 1973
2. Demonstratie in Den Haag, 18 april 1973
3. Trafalgar Square 1971
4. Merchandise van de Free Radio Association, 1970
5. Ronan O'Rahilly tijdens de Election Campaign 1970



Discografie

DI 1 JULI: Een nieuwe maand, die meteen begon met het door Martin ontdekken van een jingle die ik nog nooit had gehoord. Waarschijnlijk heel kort of misschien wel slechts één keer gedraaid. Het begin van 'She flies on strange wings' van The Golden Earring werd gebruikt op Radio Veronica als een promo voor 'Muziek Express'.



Bijnaam

DI 1 JULI: Tijdens het maken van het ontbijt had ik in de keuken deze ochtend een oude opname opstaan van Radio Scotland. Een deejay, waarvan slechts 45 minuten bewaard is gebleven is John Kerr (foto). Bij herhaling stelde hij: 'My name is Kerr and music is my game'. Maar er is er ook één die liefst twee toevoegingen had: Shaun Taylor. Hij werkte bij Caroline 558 als 'Young' Shaun Taylor. Op Laser gebruikte hij 'Young Shaun in the morning'.

Weer actief in radio

WO 2 JULI: Tijdens de reünie van mensen die actief waren in de zeezenderwereld in de jaren zestig en zeventig van de vorige eeuw, zoals vorig jaar in Londen gehouden, was onder meer Tommy Vance aanwezig. Ik had hem daarvoor voor het laatst gezien tijdens de opening van Virgin Radio, alweer 10 jaar geleden. Hij maakte toen bekend naar Spanje te emigreren, hetgeen inmiddels is gebeurd. Tommy, die zowel voor Radio Caroline als Radio London actief was, werkt ook weer binnen de Spaanse radiowereld en wel bij Spectrum FM. Hij is daar iedere zaterdagavond te beluisteren en het programma is uiteraard Engelstalig.

Heel ver weg

DO 3 JULI: Hadden we een paar maanden geleden Frits Mulder die in Azië ging wonen, en vorige maand Fergie McNeal die in dat werelddeel al lange tijd bleek te wonen, deze keer andermaal een voormalige zeezenderdeejay die in Singapore blijkt te wonen. Paul Lek, destijds bij Cable One actief en eerder als Maarten de Jong op Radio Monique is daar vertegenwoordiger van de onderneming die de Music Sceduling Software Selector op de markt brengt.

Leuke herinnering

VR 4 JULI: Andermaal een herinnering aan de glorie-

dagen van RNI, ditmaal van Hans ten Hoge: 'In de loop van 1971 kreeg RNI er weer nieuwslezers bij. Gerard Smit en Marc van Zinderen Bakker, zoals hij bij de ziekenomroep in Zaandam en omgeving bekend was (alias Klaas), stonden in een fikse bries op het achterdek van de Trip Tender. Die was toen nog groen/grijs/zwart geschilderd. Gerard kreeg een van zijn vele invallen. "Zeg, Marc, dat kan eigenlijk echt niet, hoor, die naam van jou". "Oh nee? Hoezo?" "Nou, dat moeten wij straks allemaal maar aankondigen - Marc-van-Zinderen-Bakker, daar ga je je tong toch over breken? En die zendtijd! En als dat in een jingle ingezongen moet worden? Want je wordt ook deejay. Stel je dat koor eens voor tussen al die korte namen van ons: Marc-van-Zinderen-Bakker. Dat moet helemaal opnieuw geschreven worden". "Ja, maar hoe moet het dan?". "Ah joh, we bedenken wel iets. Je vertelde toch dat die vriend van je in Amsterdam woont, in zo'n grachtenpand? Nou, wat dacht je van: Marc van Amstel?" Even later beklommen ze de touwladder en maakten de opvarenden kennis met: Marc van Amstel. Wat later in dat jaar tipte Graham Gill Marc over een vacature voor freelance nieuwslezers bij

Maarten de Jong en schipper Danny aan boord van de Ross Revenge © Leendert Vingerling





Marc van Amstel vaart langs de Trip Tender (2002)

© Jan van Heeren

de Wereldomroep. Hij ging langs, en kon meteen beginnen. Ik heb het nooit geweten, maar Marc was de ene week te horen op midden-golf, FM en Korte Golf, en de andere week, aan land, alleen op korte golf. Kortgeleden heeft hij tijdens één van zijn diensten bij de Wereldomroep (doorgaans op zondag) zijn dertigjarig jubileum gevierd.

Roger Day in 1970

Onbepaalde tijd

MA 7 JULI: Roger Day maakt zelf bekend dat met ingang van morgen er een dagelijks programma op werkdagen zal zijn via Radio Caroline, door hem gepresenteerd. Het zal worden uitgezonden tussen 11 uur in de ochtend en 1 uur in de middag, Engelse tijd. Het is niet duidelijk voor welke periode het geldt daar Roger het zelf heeft over een niet nader te beduiden periode. Toch heeft de man zijn gevoel voor humor niet verloren want in een tweede mail meldt hij dat het zal zijn totdat een Nederlandse tender de 'old lady'; zal wegtrekken. Tevens hoorden we vandaag dat Tom Anderson voorlopig geen tijd meer heeft voor het opnemen van zijn programma's. En nu we het toch over vertrekken hebben is Ferry Maat verdwenen uit de programmering van Radio 10FM. Reden is alsnog onbekend.



Communicator

DI 8 JULI: De afgelopen week zijn er verschillende personen aan boord van de Communicator geweest waarbij één hele grote fan me meldde er direct weer te zijn afgegaan daar het een enorme

vuilnisbelt was en het verschrikkelijk stonk. Het schip zal, voordat het vertrekt naar Engeland, nog naar een droogdok moeten en worden gekeurd voor de oversteek. Het zal niet als schip maar als sleepobject worden gekeurd door de scheepvaartinspectie. Daarna zal het ergens in Essex worden afgemeerd voor verder onderhoud.



Nog meer aanvullingen

WO 9 JULI: Zo, daar gaan we weer met een aantal nieuwe titels voor de discografielijst: The New Orleans Syncopaters met het nummer 'Hup Holland Hup' werd gebruikt voor het zingen van de jingle 'Hup Holland Hup' laat de leeuw niet in zijn hempe staan, vecht voor Veronica's voortbestaan' in 1973. Dan de formatie SWAT met 'Theme from Heritage' werd gebruikt door Radio Delmare en het programma 'De muziekfabriek'. Ronald Bakker gebruikte voor zijn programma 'Wakker met Bakker' op Radio Delmare 'Scotts on the Rocks' van Force Ten. Dan Jan Olienoot ofwel Leen Vingerling. Hij gebruikte André Brasseur met het nummer 'Joy' als tune op Radio Delmare. Tenslotte Kayak met het nummer 'Royal Bed Bouncer'. Dit werd gebruikt door Radio Mi Amigo voor een jingle.

2000^{ste} uitzending

MA 14 JULI: Deze week is het een opmerkelijke week voor de luisteraars van BBC Eastern Counties Radio omdat Keith Skues zijn 2000^{ste} aflevering van zijn avondprogramma presenteert. Eigenlijk is iedere avond dat Skues te beluisteren is een feest. Hij is namelijk de enige programmamaker die geheel aan de luisterwensen van de luisteraars voldoet. Skues kennen we allemaal van

zijn tijd op Radio Caroline en Radio London. Ook diegenen die later zijn geboren kennen de verhalen van Cardboard Shoes. Zijn programma is trouwens het meest beluisterde programma op de lokale stations van de BBC.



De bemanning van de Aegir (waaronder René de Leeuw) wordt gearresteerd nadat het schip tenauwernood gered was van de ondergang (12-11-1978)

Jaren '80

DI 15 JULI: RTL4 brengt andermaal een aflevering over de jaren tachtig met Reinout Oerlemans. In deze aflevering onder meer aandacht aan Radio Decibel waar met vele bekende radiomakers terug wordt gegaan naar de goede tijden van weleer. En zowaar zien we opeens René de Leeuw in beeld. 'Mayday mayday we slaan op de rotsen' was een paniekin die hij via Radio Delmare meerdere malen uitriep en die bij de aanhang in het geheugen zit vastgekoppeld aan zijn naam.

Bijnamen

WO 16 JULI: E-mail uit Canada van Mick Luvzit. Onder meer doet hij een opsomming van de bijnamen die door hem zijn gebruikt: 'Your Prez the Wild one', 'Your boss jock', 'Your Soul Brother' en 'Your mad dad with the groovy turntables dripping wax all over your radio'.



v.l.n.r. Mick Luvzit, Johnny Walker, Tommy Vance en Ronan O'Rahilly op een reünie in 2002
© Martin van der Ven

Ronan andermaal in het schotveld

DO 17 JULI: Zelf heb ik al een aantal malen neergezet dat Ronan al-

leen dan in de schijnwerpers staat als Radio Caroline op de een of andere manier 'gered' moet worden en voor de rest een ieder die in zijn omgeving komt, gewoon om de tuin leidt dan wel oplicht. Leen Vingerling is deze keer aan de beurt om zijn ongenoegen neer te pennen.

Herschrijven

De waarheid komt altijd boven water. Ik vrees dat het 'Genootschap der Grijze Goeroes' (de heerschappen Knot en Olthof voor niet-ingewijden) binnenkort veel 'herdrukken' of 'herpersingen' zullen moeten gaan uitgeven. Laten we Ronan eens kort onder de loep nemen. Ronan zorgde er altijd voor dat bij alle besprekingen, vergaderingen of bijeenkomsten de 'andere partij' de rekening betaalde. Of hij nu werd uitgenodigd of zelf mensen uitnodigde, Ronan zorgde altijd voor een smoes om niet te betalen. Daarnaast doneerden 'radiogeile' investeerders veel geld voor bijvoorbeeld de huur van zendtijd. Dat geld kwam nooit ten goede aan het schip, maar verdween bijna altijd in Ronan's binnenzak. Een voorbeeld:

Koffer met heel veel geld

Fred Bolland trekt nog steeds de haren uit zijn hoofd van de grootste vergissing die hij ooit heeft begaan. Hij overhandigde in 1984 Ronan een koffertje met 400.000 gulden cash als voorschot op de huur van Radio Monique. In die huur was ook bevoorrading etc inbegrepen. Ronan accepteerde met vol-doening het geld, maar voegde er aan toe dat er helaas 'geen' geld meer over was om te bevoorraden omdat er eerst allerlei 'rekeningen' betaald dienden te worden. Een leugen dus en Fred moest dus wederom de geldbuidel trekken.

Betrokkenheid

Dan de werkelijke betrokkenheid van Ronan aan Caroline. Dat was eigenlijk éénrichtings-verkeer. Ronan kon niet zonder Caroline, omdat het hem een zekere status of imago verschafte en een platform om ideeën te spuien (Loving

Awareness). Ronan was het symbool van Caroline. Met camera's in de buurt was hij de 'gevierde' man. Voor de buitenwacht is 'Ronan' bijna een God. Andersom kon Caroline wel degelijk zonder de Ier. Op het organisatorische vlak was hij een absoluut dieptepunt. Maar altijd stonden zijn 'waterdragers' klaar om de organisatie op zich te nemen (Tom Anderson, Simon Barrett, Peter Philips, Peter Moore etc).

Eigen herinneringen

Voor Caroline had het beter geweest als de 'levende mythe' O'Rahilly er niet was geweest. Het station zou dan zeker beter 'gemanaged' zijn. Ik vertel dit alles naar eer en geweten en uit eigen ervaring omdat ik Ronan diverse malen heb ontmoet en nog veel meer keren aan de telefoon heb gehad. Een gesprek van twee uur 'bullshit' was eerder regel, dan uitzondering.'

Veronica pakt weer uit met oude zeezenderdeejays

DO 17 JULI: Bart van Leeuwen, Ferry Maat, Kas van Iersel, Rob van Someren en Peter Teekamp zullen vanaf 31 augustus dagelijks te horen zijn op Radio Veronica. Via de etherzenders en de kabeldekking van Radio 103 zal Radio Veronica al vanaf 1 augustus starten met veel muziek uit de jaren '80 en '90. Vanaf 31 augustus volgt de definitieve gepresenteerde programmering. Het is die dag exact 29 jaar geleden dat Radio Veronica als zeezender haar uitzendingen moest beëindigen. Hiermee maakt Veronica een keiharde come back op de Nederlandse radio en is zij voor het eerst sinds 29 jaar weer 24 uur per dag in geheel Nederland te beluisteren! Bart, Ferry, Kas en Peter hebben een zeezenderverleden.

RADIO 103

DE GOUWE OUWE ZENDER



Peter Teekamp en Ferry Maat

© Jan van Heeren



Aanvulling

DO 17 JULI: Zijn we er weer klaar voor? Manfred Mann en zijn uitvoering van 'I got you babe' werd gebruikt op Radio London door Pete 'Dum Dum' Drummond. Mood Mosaic kan worden aangevuld met het gegeven dat 'A touch of velvet' ook door Rob Hudson werd gebruikt op Radio Mi Amigo als 'filler'. De Marinierskapel kan worden genoemd met het nummer dat als eerste officiële plaat (Stars and Stripes) ooit door Capital Radio werd uitgezonden in 1970.



Nog twee

VR 18 JULI: Vrijdag is sinds deze maand mijn definitieve vrije dag gezien ik gebruik maak van de 53+ regeling. Ontbijtje, krantje en muziekje en zo kom ik het eerste uur van de ochtend door. Vandaag stond er een oud programma op van Radio Caroline International met Glenn Adams en Herb Oscar Anderson. Glenn gebruikte in zijn show 'Long live love' van Ken Woodman als tune, terwijl Herb zijn tune 'Rocking Goose' van Johnny and the Hurricanes was.

Gert Jan Smit

VR 18 JULI: We kennen hem als één van de lieden achter de schermen van Radio Caroline in 1979/1980. Hij zorgde onder meer voor de enorme vloed aan religieuze programma's. Wel streek hij zelf de nodige procenten op alvorens het geld naar de organisatie ging, maar hij haalde het wel binnen. Verder heeft hij hier en daar zeer zwaar kwaad bloed gezet. Heden ten dagen werkt deze man, zo hoorden we vandaag van zijn voormalige partner uit Antwerpen, als beursmakelaar. Als hij dan maar niet zo slecht speculeert als destijds met Radio Caroline.



Nog meer titels

ZA 19 JULI: Te warm buiten en dus binnen luisteren is voor sommigen beter vandaag. Derhalve enkele ontdekkingen. Op Radio London was er op een bepaald moment een gesponsord half uur met Beatles muziek op de vrijdagavond. Kenny Everett maakte er een prachtige promo voor en gebruikte er 6 muziekstukken voor, waarvan we er alle zes hebben ontcijferd: 1 'I want to hold your hand', 2 'I'm down', 3 'This boy', 4 'Things we said



today, 5 'You can't do that', 6 einde van een PAMS Beatles jingle. Dan werd op Radio Caroline in 1977 reclame gemaakt voor de Radio Caroline Rock Record Collectors Guide, een spot ingesproken door Stuart Russell, Kraftwerk werd gebruikt met het nummer 'Ruck Zuck'.

Testuitzending

DI 22 JULI: Raakvlak met deze rubriek is dat het pretendeert het aloude geluid van London bijgesteld op de 21^{ste} eeuw te gaan brengen. Wonderful Radio London werd als testprogramma uitgezonden vandaag door Nozema en meer dan 180 e-mails kwamen bij me binnen. Van Noorwegen tot Duitsland, van Noord Engeland tot Frankrijk. Overal, uitgezonderd probleemgebieden Zeeland, deel van Vlaanderen en Londen, was iedereen tevreden.

Andermaal Roger Day

WO 23 JULI: Hij blijft maar gastprogramma's presenteren. Vandaag wordt bekend dat Roger Day zowel op zondag 27 juli als 3 augustus als invaller zal zijn te beluisteren op Radio Maldwyn in Mid Wales. Hij zal daar de oldieshow gaan presenteren.

Parlements lid overleden

DO 24 JULI: Op het eiland Man is vandaag Sir Charles Kerruish overleden. Pas recentelijk trok Sir Charles zich terug uit de Tynewald, het parlement van het eiland Man. Hij was het die het Parlement van het eiland opriep tegen het Britse regeringsbesluit te stemmen, waardoor het aannemen van de Marine Offences Act niet voor het eiland van kracht zou kunnen worden. Het afzetten tegen de Britse overheid zette destijds de internationale pers in beweging in de richting van het eiland. De Marine Offences Act kwam dan ook niet eerder dan begin september 1967 van kracht op Man. Dit kon doordat de Britse koningin zelf ingreep en een noodwet invoerde.

Dank aan: Rob Olthof, Martin van der Ven, Herbert Visser, Hans Hogendoorn, Jan Fré Vos, Leen Vingerling en Paul Rusling
Samenstelling: HANS KNOT



DI 1 JULI: De Raad van Toezicht van RTV Noord-Holland heeft Robert Zaal per 15 september benoemd tot directeur van de omroep. Zaal, die sinds 1997 directeur is van ROOS, het samenwerkingsorgaan van de regionale omroepen, is de opvolger van Huub Elzerman die aan het eind van het jaar wegens het bereiken van de pensioengerechtigde leeftijd RTV Noord-Holland zal verlaten. Zaal werkte na zijn studie fiscale economie en het vervullen van de dienstplicht (waarbij hij enige tijd voorzitter was van de vakbond voor dienstplichtigen VVDM) van 1990 tot 1997 als secretaris van de Nederlandse Vereniging van Journalisten. Daarna werd hij directeur van de Stichting ROOS.



DI 1 JULI: Presentator Adam Curry stopt per direct bij BNN. Hij wil met zijn ontslag een eerste bijdrage leveren aan de bezuinigingsplannen voor de publieke omroep. Curry stelde in een verklaring dat hij 90.000 euro per jaar ontving. Voor dit salaris maakte hij eenmaal per week een twee uur durende radio-uitzending met medepresentator Jeroen Kijk in de Vegte. Curry zegt met zijn daad de vicieuze cirkel van de publieke omroep te willen doorbreken: "Waarschijnlijk zullen de gemakkelijke oplossingen



als het opheffen van het Metropole Orkest en 747AM wel doorgang vinden. Maar ik

heb nog niemand met een kapmes bij de voordeur van de directie gezien."

WO 2 JULI: In het geheim waren de laatste dagen vertegenwoordigers van twee stations aan het onderhandelen over een eventuele samenwerking. Vandaag werd bekend dat de samenwerking niet doorgaat en Radio Nationaal geheel zal worden stopgezet. De andere onderhandelaar was Radio 192, dat nu andermaal op zoek moet naar een eventuele partner.

DO 3 JULI: De rechter die de zaak verdeling etherfrequenties in behandeling heeft in Rotterdam heeft de betreffende directies van de radiostations duidelijk gemaakt dat de overwegende bezwaren zijn verworpen en dat hij over een week nader in zal gaan op de redenen waarom. Verder het goede

nieuws vandaag dat Radio 192 een nieuwe financier heeft gevonden en wel een bedrijf uit de gezondheidsbranche. En dan nu op zoek naar een partner voor een AM frequentie.



Bruno de Vos presenteert 'Sangria' op een warme zondagmiddag (13-7-2003) © Hans Marijs

VR 4 JULI: Op de tweede verjaardag van Radio 192 ook het nieuws dat per 15 oktober Dink Binnendijk (44) benoemd is als directeur van Radio TV West. Binnendijk, die sinds 1999 directeur/hoofdredacteur is bij Omroep Flevoland, is de opvolger van Jeroen Soer die per 1 augustus directeur wordt van de VARA. Dink Binnendijk werkte, voordat hij bij Omroep Flevoland aan de slag ging, als programmaleider televisie bij Omroep Limburg waar hij in 1997 verantwoordelijk was voor de start en ontwikkeling van publieke regionale televisie in Limburg. Vanaf 1995 werkte Binnendijk in Hilversum, achtereenvolgens bij Studio Sport en Endemol Sports (Sport 7 en SBS 6).

MA 7 JULI: Slim is het van Ruud Hendriks om met RTL in zee te gaan voor de verkoop van de kabelfrequenties in Nederland voor 103 FM. En uiteraard zullen zijn voormalige collega's bij Veronica daar ook blij mee zijn als men straks van naam gaat veranderen in Veronica.

DO 10 JULI: Op advertenties, radiospotjes en televisiereclame komt in 2004 waarschijnlijk een kleine heffing. Met die heffing kan voortaan de Reclame Code Commissie worden betaald. Dat heeft directeur P. Ancion van de Reclame Code Commissie gezegd. Betrokken instanties, zoals de organisaties voor reclamebureaus en adverteerders, werken het voorstel momenteel uit. De heffing moet circa 900.000 euro per jaar opleveren. Het voortbestaan van de Reclame Code Commissie was dit voorjaar onzeker geworden. De stichting kreeg steeds moeilijker geld van brancheorganisaties, zoals het Nederlands Uitgeversverbond (NUV), de Consumentenbond, de Stichting Ether Reclame (Ster) en de koepelorganisaties voor lokale en regionale omroepen. De financiering van de Reclame Code Commissie is gestoeld op vrijwillige bijdragen van allerlei organisaties. Als het economisch slechter gaat, komt dat systeem onder druk te staan. De nieuwe reclameheffing moet het voortbestaan zekerder maken.

VR 11 JULI: Wat een genot vanavond ademloos te kunnen luisteren



naar twee presentatoren die we al decennia geleden met plezier beluisterden. Ze waren voor even terug op Radio 2 in verband met het NPS programma over het North Sea Jazz Festival: Vincent van Engelen (foto) en Co de Kloet. Wat een vaklieden, iets dat heden ten dage op de radio, qua muziekkennis, niet vaak meer voorkomt.

ZA 12 JULI: Hennie Stoel neemt afscheid van de kijkers en van het NOS - Journaal. Ze heeft 39 jaar voor de publieke omroep gewerkt, waarvan 18 jaar bij het Journaal. Ze besloot zelf eerder te stoppen om meer tijd te kunnen besteden aan haar privé-leven. Sacha de Boer gaat Henny's plek bij het Acht Uur - Journaal innemen. Samen met Philip Freriks zal De Boer verantwoordelijk zijn voor de presentatie van het 'belangrijkste nieuwsbulletin van het

Sacha de Boer © Leendert Jansen



MA 14 JULI: Roeland Stekelenburg is per 1 december benoemd tot adjunct-hoofdredacteur bij het lokale Amsterdamse televisiestation AT5. Hij moet een belangrijke rol gaan spelen in de uitbreidingsplannen van het station. Men wil de komende jaren ook in de regio buiten de hoofdstad gaan uitzenden. De 39-jarige Stekelenburg was de afgelopen vier jaar correspondent in Afrika voor de actualiteitenrubriek NOVA. Daarvoor werkte hij als verslaggever voor NOVA, RVU en de VPRO.

DI 15 JULI: Toch wel enigszins tegenslag bij de actie Etherflits van Telecom. Men maakt zelf bekend dat een aantal slimme piraten in het oosten van het land hun heil hebben gezocht aan de andere kant van de grens. Er dient nu overleg te komen tussen vertegenwoordigers van de Duitse dienst en de Nederlandse collega's om te komen tot een soort van samenwerking om alsnog deze piraten te kunnen oppakken.

ZO 20 JULI: Zoals iedere zondag vandaag een top 10 op Radio10 FM. Voormalig minister en heden ten dage commissaris van de koningin voor de provincie Friesland, Ed Nijpels, brengt zijn top 10 ten gehore. Vorige week was het Jan de Hoop, dan wel Frank van der Mast, die aan de beurt was.



WO 23 JULI: Zeer jammer is het te horen dat Talpa Radio, dan wel de organisatie achter onder meer Radio 10FM, heeft besloten de organisatie drastisch in te krimpen. Op Amerikaanse wijze werd men op straat gezet. Slechts 10 personen blijven in dienst van de onderneming. Men zal rond deze tijd gaan verhuizen van Amsterdam naar een studio in het complex van de Wereldomroep. Op een later moment komt er andermaal een nieuwe verhuizing naar een gebouw dat Talpa voor al haar activiteiten wil gaan gebruiken. Ontslag was natuurlijk een logisch gevolg van het verliezen van de FM frequentie en de daarop volgende enorme terugloop in adverteerders.

HANS KNOT EN MICHEL VAN HOOFF



De knop om

Meestal wordt de knop definitief omgedraaid wanneer een station dermate grote verliezen lijdt dat het daardoor niet langer kan bestaan. Maar het kan soms ook een andere reden zijn. SAC-FM in Saint Andrew op Granada was onlangs plotseling uit de ether toen de huurbaas ingreep. Het stuk land, waarop de gebouwen van het station staan, werd geconvisceerd door de eigenaar waardoor niemand anders het grondstuk meer mocht betreden. De reden was dat de huur al enige tijd niet meer door de eigenaar van SAC-FM was betaald.



Andere licentie is wel doorgaan waard

Enkele maanden geleden maakte ik bekend dat het bestaande commerciële radionet in Noorwegen, dat gerund wordt door P4 Radio Hele Norge SA, haar licentie gaat verliezen per 1 januari aanstaande aan Kanal 4. Direct nadat dit bekend werd is er een tweede inschrijving geopend voor een nieuw commercieel net. Op dit tweede net heeft de eigenaar van P4 Radio geboden en gewonnen en dus zal men ondanks alles in de ether blijven en alleen van frequenties gaan veranderen.

JELLE KNOT



Lokale radio

Een recent onderzoek wees uit dat in Beieren de gezamenlijke lokale omroepen de luisteraars boven de 14 jaar het meeste bereiken. Het berekende daggemiddelde kwam uit op 28% hetgeen neerkomt op 2,629 miljoen. Bayern 1 volgde met 24,6% hetgeen staat voor 2,307 miljoen. Antenne Bayern kwam op de derde plaats met 23,7% ofwel 2,226 miljoen.

INGO PATERNOSTER





Het bedrijf is aanzienlijk minder bekend dan PAMS, de legendarische jinglefabriek uit Dallas, maar creatief gezien toch op hetzelfde niveau. Gwinsound, een eenmansmaatschappijtje van drummer Tom Gwin. Hij begon in 1965 zonder één dollarcent in de jingles. De eerste klant moest zelfs vooruit betalen, zodat Tom Gwin er een studio mee kon huren, en muzikanten en een koortje. Een hele gok, maar die pakte goed uit - ten eerste door de muzikaliteit van Tom Gwin, die al jaren een veelgevraagde sessiemuzikant was bij PAMS en de andere jinglemaatschappijen: hij had dus in de keuken kunnen kijken.

En ten tweede door zijn hechte en zakelijke verbond met jinglecomponist Tom Merriman, de duizendpoot die al sinds 1952 jingles schrijft. En nu -51 jaar later- trouwens nog steeds. De Veronica-jingles uit The Power zijn van zijn hand, en de jingles van Radio Express en Winning Score, die de TROS zo'n massaal geluid gaven. Deze veteraan was het geheim achter het strakke geluid van Gwinsound. Tom Merriman schreef 27 van de 28 Gwin - pakketten (de 28ste werd gedaan door Euel Box, de schrijver van de Sonowaltz, die onder meer op Wonderful Radio London zo'n grote faam kreeg). Het wordt allemaal onthuld op de Gwinbox: maar liefst 12 CD's met daarop alle Gwin-pakketten, veel van de resings, de specialities, instrumentale backing tracks en commercials.

Ze werden uitgebracht door Ben Freedman (zelf ook een hartstochtelijk verzamelaar én de man achter de Jingle University). Ben Freedman zit inmiddels ook alweer 30 jaar in het vak. Hij maakte onder meer jingles voor Radio Luxemburg. Een man dus met een goed ontwikkeld produceroor. Buitengewoon interessant is ook het interview dat Ben deed met Tom Gwin, naamgever en grondlegger van de firma, die nu gepensioneerd zijn dagen slijt onder de warme zon in Arizona. Drummen lukt allang niet meer - zegt Gwin: de reumatiek heeft zonder mededo-

gen toegeslagen.

Eigenlijk biedt de Gwinsound-box twee voor de prijs van één: want behalve Gwin zijn er ook 4 CD's met CRC pakketten in de box opgenomen. Dat is niet zo vreemd, want Tom Merriman was oprichter van de maatschappij, het enige bedrijf dat er in slaagde om PAMS in z'n hoogtijdagen concurrentie aan te doen. En Tom Gwin drumde letterlijk op alle pakketten mee, en was ook nog CRC technicus en producer. De box is opgedragen aan Tom Merriman (79) - en dat is terecht ook. Want bij Gwinsound blijkt Merriman - de naamgever en grote man achter het legendarische TM) dus ook nog eens verantwoordelijk te zijn voor de jingles waarmee Radio Noordzee vlak na de start in 1970 zo'n goede sier maakte.

Eigenlijk waren ze gemaakt voor WLOF in Orlando, maar op het demobandje van Gwinsound (ze gingen als series 9 het leven door) werd de stationsnaam eruit geknipt en liet Robbie Dale als gelegenheidsproducer een koortje van 'Nederlanders op de lege plekken' 'Radio Northsea' inzingen. 'Dat deden ze niet slecht ook', vinden Ben en Tom Gwin, die pas dit jaar van het bestaan van dit roemruchte pakket hoorden. Vroeger kwam je met dit soort jatwerk mooi weg. Maar tegenwoordig is de wereld 'the global village' geworden, die Marshal McLuhan destijds voorspelde 'De wereld heeft nu veel betere jingle oren gekregen', zeggen ze.

v.l.n.r.: Marvin Montgomery, Tom Merriman, Clark Gassmann en achter de drums Tom Gwin (1958) - www.gwinsound.com



Uiteraard staan ook de RNI- versies op de Cd's, net als het echte uit het origineel: op topkwaliteit allemaal. Verder is het genieten geblazen: het geluid van Gwinsound was zo strak als maar wesen kon: geoliede trompetpartijen, voortreffelijke zang, goed drumwerk, natuurlijk verzorgd door Tom Gwin zelf, die destijds gold als een van de beste drummers in Dallas en ommelanden. Op alle paukenjingles die ooit door de jinglemaatschappijen werden gemaakt is hij te horen, want hij werd op z'n 18e al paukenist bij het gerenommeerde Dallas Symphony Orchestra.



Dat Gwinsound het niveau van PAMS kon evenaren had nog een andere reden: Gwin huurde de beste zangers als Marv Shaw, Brian

Beck, Jim Clancy en Abby Holmes in, die ook bij PAMS elke dag in koortjes zongen. Op het Radio Noordzee pakket is bijvoorbeeld Trella Hart te horen (bij PAMS bekend van haar snerpemde stem in de Swisze en Fun-n-n-jingles). En soulman Peyton Park: een blanke man, die kon klinken als Ray Charles in zijn hoogtijdagen. Wie van de 'classic jingles' houdt die in de jaren zestig en zeventig vanuit Dallas de wereld in werden geslingerd, doet voor zichzelf een goede daad door deze prachtbox te kopen. Goedkoop is de box niet, maar in prijs wel te rechtvaardigen, gezien het absolute topwerk uit Dallas dat er op is verzameld.

Wie nog nooit werk van Gwinsound heeft gehoord doet zichzelf beslist tekort. Bovendien, wie naar deze pracht-opnamen luistert, moet onder de indruk komen van de liefde voor jingles en de toewijding waarmee het allemaal is gemaakt. Te vergelijken met de PAMS box van Jon Wolfert, die vijf jaar geleden met algemeen genoegen werd ontvangen. De Gwinbox kost buiten de USA 130 dollar. Voor bestelinformatie en veel mooie Gwinsound-foto's:

www.gwinsound.com

JELLE BOONSTRA



Each year radio-addicted people in the Netherlands do remember April 18th. That's a very important day in the history of radio. It was April 18th 1973 that more than 150.000 people got together on and in the surroundings of the Malieveld in the Hague for the 'then' biggest demonstration ever held in the country 'behind the dykes'. During this demonstration, which was organised by people who loved the offshore radio station Veronica, the listeners were protesting against the plans of Dutch government to close down the watery radio stations, so well loved by million of listeners. From all parts of the Netherlands people came to the city where Dutch government rules Holland. Not only that, also from countries like Great Britain, Germany, Belgium and France the anoraks, as the offshore radio fans were mentioned, came to the Malieveld. From there on a walk through the Hague took place to handover petitions and signatures of all those listeners to a representative of Dutch government. The Dutch 2nd Chamber, after a hearing, decided however that a new law had to become in action. This one became active on September 1st 1974, which seemed the end for Offshore Radio. So everyone remembers this demonstration. Hans Knot invites you to make a banner and walk with him through memory lane.

18 april 1973:
people demonstrating
at the "Binnenhof",
where the Dutch
government was
accommodated



**R a d i o
Veronica:
April 18th**
Weeks on
forehand
promo's
were
transmitted
on Radio
Veronica
asking the
listeners to
come down
to the Hague
together
with family
and friends.
I can tell you
that 'play
hooky' was
a common
game that
day. The
staff and

deejays on the station knew on forehand that the demonstration would be a success as we talk about the amount of people. In 1971, after the station had a very bad press due to a few people in the organisation had decided that there had to become an end to a competitor. A bomb was thrown by three divers, who were paid by the Veronica people. Deejays decided a few weeks after the bomb attack to start a campaign in which they wanted the listeners to write down that they stood behind the station. The campaign was called 'Veronica blijft als U dat wilt' (Veronica stays if you want it). Of course this campaign was heavily promoted on the station. 53 Hours after the campaign had started a spokesman for Veronica told the press: 'We can announce some figures. 1 million postcards have been distributed all over Holland and already more than 200.000 have been received back by the post. The reaction of the public is fantastic. Dutch PTT (The Postmen) were so friendly to bring the cards with a special car. One of the things we asked the people to mention on the card is their age and I can tell you that the cards have been sent in by people in the age from 5 up till 93 years. But the most cards can be put in the age between 20 and 30 years.' And very proudly the spokesman finished with the words that the next million cards would be pressed the next day.

From that point on about 15.000 people all over Holland were working (unpaid) for Radio Veronica to provide as much as possible inhabitants from the special cards. School kids brought the cards to their friends, schoolmates and family. You could pick up the cards at the petrol station. A cigarette



company sponsored 20 girls who went into the big cities to distribute the cards in shop centres.

Also special concerts were held; cards could be received at the gates of the football stadiums. Thursday August 19th 1971 a total amount of 1 million cards had been counted, which were signed and sent back to Veronica at the Utrechtseweg in Hilversum. Everywhere in Holland you could find back stickers with the words 'Veronica blijft als U dat wilt'. But not everyone was happy with the campaign as there were also stickers with the words 'Veronica Rot Op Nu' (VRON), which could be translated nowadays with 'Fuck off Veronica'. A smear campaign, which was organised by some people. Names never became in the publicity and lucky enough within a few weeks everyone had forgotten the anti-stickers. And the tremendous success of the postcard campaign in the summer of 1971 was in 1973 reason enough to go for the biggest demonstration ever, as the organisers knew that the people of Holland wanted their favourite station in the years to come. And next to that a research had been made about the listening behaviour of the Dutch people. More than 75% tuned in to offshore radio stations. In 1973 next to Radio Veronica and Radio Northsea International. From that group 80% wanted the station continue to exist.

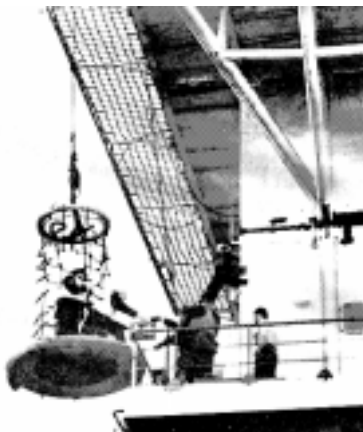


Campaigning at the entry of the Pier in Scheveningen, June 1973
© W. van Heeren-de Geus

Early protest

But were there more demonstrations than the one which is remembered every year? Of course there were. Through the years several demonstrations have been held. Also several organisations were set up. The first form of protest I could find back in my archive, was a leaflet from autumn 1964. It came from the VVRT, which stood for 'Vereniging voor Vrije Radio en TV'. (Society For Free Radio

and Television). They asked their members to send a letter of protest to the Dutch government against their plans to come with a special law, which should forbid the REM Radio and Television transmitting from a platform anchored off the Noordwijk Coast. In the next leaflet from de VVRT a report could be read, in which Mr. Cobet, the chairman, wrote about the results of the campaign. 'On the day of the first discussion in Parliament we've sent a letter of protest to the responsible Ministers as well as members of Parliament. This was followed by sending copies to 70 different newspapers. From 40 different cities letters were sent to members of the following political parties: VVD, PvdA, ARP, KVP, CHU. When I did attend the discussions several telegrams were brought in and the letter of protest was officially signed in as an 'incoming item'.



Police boarding the REM island

Reading back after so many decades the bulletin of the VVRT, which had their address at the Herenstreet 111 in Bussum, near Hilversum, it's very strange to read nothing at all about the contents of the discussions. Mr Cobet went on, like so many other organisations later in the history on Offshore Radio, to discuss with the readers the financial problems of the organisation and asking for as much as possible guilders to run the VVRT. For the year 1964 the foundation asked for 1 guilder a year for membership. But Mr

Cobet added that it would be very nice to sent in 100 guilders instead. Also he wrote about setting up local branches, something which would happen with other organisations related to the Fight For Free Radio in later years. Members would be mentioned real members if they would bring in at least five new members. For this aim they could get free transfers (stickers) with a drawing of the TV island. The only thing to do was sent an addressed envelope including a return stamp to the earlier mentioned address in Bussum. Also the organisation asked to sent in all newspaper cuts that could be find in the press, this with the aim to get a rundown of all the publicity around Radio and TV Noordzee.

Finally about this VVRT can be mentioned that they had also some problems with journalists, who wanted to make their own turn to the story. In Dutch biggest newspaper 'De Telegraaf' it was mentioned that the VVRT would end all their activities as soon the Dutch Parliament would decide to bring in a special law to make an end of all activities concerning the REM Isle. Cobet mentioned the serious failure, which would be the own view of the journalist. Instead of stopping all activities there should have been printed: 'We're going on with our aim to make the whole system of radio and television in Netherlands different to which it is nowadays'. After bulletin number 7, early 1965, we didn't hear anymore on this earlier fight for freedom in the air.

Marine Offences Bill

In England offshore radio was also often reason for conversation. The British Government came just before Christmas 1966 with the so called White Paper, in which their plans for the future of broadcasting. Next to the plan to start a National Pop Station (BBC Radio One) they also had the idea to start nine local BBC stations. Next the introduction of a Marine Offences Bill was announced. That should also make an end to Offshore Broadcasting off the British Coast. Of course the listeners of the many offshore radio stations were not happy and on January 29th 1967 the Commercial Radio Listeners Association (CRLA) was formed by Miss Catherine Baker to combat the Marine Offences Bill. Earlier, on October 24th 1966, The National League of Young Liberals launched their 'Save Pop Radio' campaign. After that nothing was heard anymore about their vague plans.

Free Radio Association

But the people of the CRLA were not alone early 1967, as another organisation was set up: The Free Radio Supporters Association. A meeting was held on February 19th 1967 to form an organisation representing all listeners of commercial radio, and which would have the full support of all the offshore stations. At the meeting most of the offshore stations had a representative. During





Sir Ian Mactaggart at FRA demonstration in 1967

© Franko Rosso

the meeting it was agreed that the stations should help the listeners association in every way they could, particularly by broadcasting free spots on air, to support all the organising things from the CRLA. However no representatives from the stations would get a chair within the organisation and also they would not finance them. Within weeks the two organisations became merged into The Free Radio Supporters Association. This name was dropped the next day when Ronan O'Rahilly, director and owner for Radio Caroline, announced that promotion spots for the new organisation only could be broadcast if the word 'Supporters' would be dropped. And from that day on the FRA could be active.

The new organisation needed a strong man, which was found in the person of Sir Ian Mactaggart. He was chairman of the National Council of the Society for Individual Freedom and also former Conservative member of the London County Council for Fulham. And for the Offshore Radio listeners the place 'Rayleigh' stood for Free Radio Association. Under chairmanship of Geoffrey Pearl the FRA was operated. The listeners could order, as their form of protest, all kind of small things like: stickers, leaflets, badges and petitions.

In one of the petitions could be read what the FRA was and where it stood for: 'The Free Radio Association is fighting for free speech, free enterprise and free choice. The government is trying to crush all competition over the air by silencing the commercial stations – thereby preserving the monopoly of the BBC and depriving us of the freedom to listen to the stations of our choice. This is a step towards dictatorship. If the Marine Broadcasting Bill becomes law in its present form, free speech will be suppressed, and the Free Radio Association will be partially silenced. We have pledged that we will fight until we win. This is more than a petition. It's a declaration

that we, the British people, will fight for freedom of the air as we have fought before when our freedom has been threatened. It is a declaration that we, the undersigned, support the Free Radio Association in its fight for the right of the public to listen to the independent radio stations. And it is a declaration that we the undersigned will use our votes to remove this government from power at the first opportunity, and replace it with a government which believes in free speech, free enterprise and free choice'.

Radio News

In the middle of January 1967 a four pages magazine was first published and it was free as a supplement with the National Advertiser. This magazine, called Radio News, had nine issues. Each represented a defence of a pirate station and it consistently urged the introduction of free, commercial radio in Britain. Just two months later, March 16th, the Radio News became part of the Time and Tide publication, an established news magazine. In the first combined edition they published an interview with Ronan O'Rahilly, the founder of Radio Caroline. He spoke about the plans from the Government to bring in the Marine Offences Bill: 'Most of the thinking people



in Britain are unaware of what the Marine Offences Broadcasting Bill will do to us. It will make Radio Caroline international; internationally recognised and legal. For the public however it does this: if a British shopkeeper sells cigarettes to a Radio Caroline announcer he (the shopkeeper) becomes a criminal. If the Archbishop of Canterbury or Cardinal Heenan or the Chief Rabbi gave a sermon on Radio Caroline, they would become criminals too. If a journalist writes a newscast or talks on Radio Caroline, he becomes a criminal. If a British advertiser advertises on Radio Caroline, he becomes a criminal. If, on the other hand, the Pope were to write a sermon for Radio Caroline he would not be a criminal, nor would any foreign figure who wanted to use the medium to voice publicly something he wanted to say. In other words it is stifling the freedom of speech of the British subject to speak where he likes about to speak.'



FRA demonstration in 1967

© Franko Rosso

Local branches

The FRA also tried to get their followers together in local branches and they organised demonstrations. One of these took place on May 28th 1967 in London. Some 2000 listeners from the radio stations came together to listen to their speakers and walk in a protest demonstration from Trafalgar Square to Fleet Street. In those hippie days there were a lot of so called 'underground magazines'. Those were

Rick Dane
© Keith Hampshire



spread around from people to people and could not be bought at a newsstand. One of the Magazines was The International Times, in which a report was made about the demonstration. It was written by Frank Fuchs: 'A sunny Sunday afternoon in Trafalgar Square, and a crowd of 2000 teeny-boppers gathered to support for Free Radio. Swaying slowly in the interval music (courtesy of Radio 390), putting their coppers in the collecting tins, giggling in the sun. Hello, what's your name? Where're you from? "Barbara (giggle) from Ilford. I'm fourteen." Why have you come? "To hear what they're saying and that". Have you been listening to the speeches? "mmm, yes, they're very good...". What did they say? "... (giggle)... mmm... well, they're very good though." Then there was Martin a serious 17-year old, From Sutton: "I'm interested in keeping Free Radio going, as an alternative to the Home and the Third.... it's something I enjoy, and something I don't want to be stopped'. On the question if this made him feel anti-government Martin answered to the interviewer: "Oh, it defiantly does, and I think it makes a lot of people feel like that. And they've taken it out in the Council Elections. My both parents listen to three-nine-oh and they both voted against Labour."

Interesting, by reading back the report in International Times was that the interviewer made a fast conclusion about how the people listened to the speeches: 'No one seems to be taking in what the speakers are saying: we all know we're are here because we just like to listen to the radio. Anyway the talking is just about over and everyone is forming up to march down to Fleet Street. Think I ought to interview some of the organisers.'. Radio Caroline decided also to delegate one of the deejays. It was Rick Dane who went to Trafalgar Square and who had some special comments on his boss Ronan O'Rahilly: 'Ronan really believes in Freedom. That's why he started Radio Caroline. He's serious about Freedom. He's a Kennedy-ite. He doesn't need to work.... his old man owns shipyards.' And about the competitor, Radio London, Dane had also his own vision: 'Radio London is only interested in making money. They couldn't care a stuff about Freedom, you can tell just by listening to the station.'

But who were the people who had organised the meeting? First of all there was a 17 year old guy, called Alan Clark who mentioned he was the treasurer of the FRA. Interviewer Frank Fuchs asked him if he saw any connection between the State putting down the Pirates and the State putting down smokers and trippers. The answer was: 'Not really, no. You can look at it this way: Free Radio isn't really harmful to health. And it's not likely to cause... er... national... er, people sort of running round raving lunatics and this sort of thing, is it? And when people take L.S.D., it's all you know, hallucinations and go around smashing things up and that sort of thing, but Free Radio is hardly likely to do that....it's a bit different really.'



FRA demonstration in 1967

© Franko Rosso

Next to Alan there was Sir Ian Mactaggart, barony and managing director of Western Haritalbe Investment Comp. He was also at that stage chairman of the Society for Individual Freedom. He explained: "This, amongst other freedom-defending activities tries to support 'trade unionists' against 'communist influence' and 'closed shops'. The third man of the FRA was chairman Jeffrey Pearl. The report ended with: 'The teeny boppers in Trafalgar Square really care about Pirate Radios, and the music they broadcast. Harold Wilson and his Victor Sylvester Formation Team had better face this instead of driving them straight into the ranks of the British Free John Birchers. Or could that be perhaps the whole plan? Who owns whom?' Not much later the FRA claimed herself that the demonstration was visited by 4000 people instead of the 2000 mentioned in the above report.

Efforts

But there was a real problem for the FRA: next to the promotion spots on the offshore stations it was difficult to get articles in the press. Pearl: "The press is playing down the efforts of the Association. They see commercial radio as competition for their advertising revenue." As mentioned several of the Offshore stations played special promotions for the FRA with regular intervals. In some of them the listeners were asked to write to their local MP. In spring of 1967 they were also asked to sent a letter to the Prime Minister, Harold Wilson in which they had to write down why they were disappointed that he and the Government were banning the offshore radio stations. All the letters, received at 10 Downing Street, were passed on to the Post Master General. It was Mr. Edward Short, who was on that position in those days. And he had a private secretary, Mrs E.E. Frankham. I can tell you she had a lot of work with responding all the letters.

There was a standard response letter sent to thousands of listeners all over Great Britain and even to Holland and Belgium. Here's what was written by the Post Master General: 'Many people have been very disappointed to hear that pirate broadcasting is to be stopped. It seems so harmless, and it is enjoyed by so many people. In fact, despite the repeated claims of the pirates, their broadcasts are far from harmless. The pirates are using wavelengths which we have undertaken to leave clear for the broadcasting services in other countries. By so doing, they prevent people in those countries from hearing their own domestic programmes. They also represent a danger – slight but ever-present to the radio services – on which safety at sea depends. Moreover, broadcasting from the high seas is forbidden, all over the world by international law, and the pirates make almost



unlimited use of recorded material, threatening the livelihoods of the musicians and the other performers whose work they use, without permission or payment. To date twelve European countries have complained to the Post Master General about the pirates' interference with their broadcasting services. And communications between ships and the shore have been seriously interfered with. If the pirates were allowed to continue unchecked, there would soon be so much interference that broadcasting as we know it would become impossible. This threat to the future of broadcasting has caused the maritime countries of the Council of Europe to agree to legislate on common lines to deal with it. The Bill, which is being considered by Parliament, carries out our obligations under the European Agreement. Many people feel that an easy solution would be to 'bring the pirates ashore', that is, to licence them to operate on land. That is just not possible. There are no unused wavelengths on which powerful stations like the pirate stations could operate without causing interference. In any case, if they operated within the control of the copyright laws, they could not transmit the sort of programmes that they have been transmitting. The Government's plans for the future of sound broadcasting, which have recently been announced, are designed to match our broadcasting services more closely to our needs without interfering with other people's rights. But the most pressing need is to silence the pirate radio stations, which are flouting international regulations, earning us such a bad name abroad, endangering shipping and threatening to make broadcasting end in chaos, not only in Britain but over most of Europe.



Radio 270

Most of the Offshore radio stations didn't want to be too political. One of the exceptions on this was Radio 270, which transmitted off the coast of Scarborough from the former Ocean 7 from Scheveningen.

The station carried political messages for all parties who wanted to be on the station. There was only one regulation, the messages were not

allowed to be inspiring race hate. Owner Proudfoot even claimed that the Communist were allowed to transmit their message over the Radio 270 transmitter. The very first political party, which bought airtime with Radio 270, was The Young Conservatives at York University. It was planned that their special broadcast, with a speech from MP Patrick Wall, would be aired on May 1st 1967. This, however, didn't happen as the recorded tape had a technical problem. It had to be rerecorded and was transmitted on another date. In the month of June, that year, another political broadcast was made by the same group. It was the same Patrick Wall who interviewed John Biggs Davidson, another Conservative MP, about the way government acted with the problems with and in Rhodesia, Israel and the Middle East.

Owner Will Proudfoot (photo) went further: not only free publicity for the political parties, he also invited MP's. On the ship The Shadow Post-Master General, Paul Bryan one day took a visit and also other local MP's took a day out to sea. Will also invited Mr. Short, the Post Master General, but he



never showed up. After his visit to the old fishing trawler Paul Bryan, a Conservative, stated: '20 million people have all the right to complain to the Government and protest against the plans to ban the stations without any real attempt to provide alternative programmes.' And the 'Fight for Free Radio' spots on Radio 270, which were also launched on Wonderful Radio London, may not forget to be mentioned. Proudfoot decided that also a booklet had to be published, in cooperation with the Institute of Economic Affairs. It was written by Dennis Thomas. In 'Competition in Radio' Dennis described the development of the radio industry abroad and in Britain and he brought the conclusion that the introduction of a legal commercial radio system was needed as soon as possible. However it would take up to October 1973 before the very first commercial (Independent Local Radio Station) went on the air.

On the stations, as told before, spots were transmitted in the Fight for Free Radio. On Radio 270 one of those was as follows: "Sir, in enforcing a state controlled alternative to commercial radio in Britain has it occurred to you that the people don't want to be forced to listen to

an alternative, but they want the real thing and freedom of choice? Before offshore commercial radio in Britain, radio was dying. Are you going to hand it back to its executioner – the monopoly? Think, more than half of the population listens to commercial radio. It must be what the people want. Is Britain a free country? (a second voice came in: 'Yes, of course it is, Don't ask me mate, I'm not Wilson') Well why doesn't it act like one? It's up to you to fight for free Conservative radio in Britain. Do not tolerate state controlled radio. Write to your Member of Parliament today." And this and other spots were transmitted on regular timeslots on Radio 270.

More political airtime

Another exception to mention is Radio Scotland. It announced in September 1966 that soon political airtime would be sold. Also Gordon Wilson, Secretary of the Scottish National Party claimed his Party would soon have airtime on '242', but nothing really happened. Also promises from Scotland's managing director, Tommy Shields, to go for a 'place' during a local by-election in Glasgow, came to nothing.

In April 1967 there was also some political airtime on Radio Caroline as well as Radio London. On April 13th the local elections took place in England and Wales. On forehand special spots were transmitted in which the question 'how many of your local candidates are in favour of Free Radio. Within the Labour Party 20% was mentioned. The Conservatives 98% en the Liberals 82%. Robert Chapman, researcher in Media Studies and writer of the book 'Selling the Sixties' comment: 'By pledging to close the pirates down, Labour by inference, was leading the electorate down a totalitarian road. In an increasingly hysterical campaign, the words 'police state' also began to enter the vocabulary of abuse. The results of the poll were featured extensively by both Caroline and London during the period leading up the elections. On polling day this coverage reached saturation point, with news bulletins making great play of the newly released monthly trade figures, which showed an overall deficit of 29 million Pounds. Caroline's campaign was particularly efficient. It's coverage of the election results began at midnight, as soon as the first results came in. The Conservatives did have the victory in those elections and in the morning of April 14th Caroline claimed it had some influence on the results.

Broadside Free Radio Movement

But there was another organisation, which name was mentioned on a couple of offshore radio stations in the form of promotional spots. It was the Broadside Free Radio Movement, which was headed by Peter Philipson. In April 1967 he recruited students, mostly from the Universities of Oxford and Cambridge. The latter was his home base. Radio Caroline did a lot of promotion for the BFRM and in June Philipson decided that his headquarters had to be moved to London. He did sent out a outline of what The Broadside Free Radio Movement should be:

'Broadside Free Radio Movement' is an independent movement, run by Peter Phillipson, objecting to the 'Marine &c, Broadcasting, (Offences) Act, which prohibits British firms placing advertising

OFFSHORE SID

A TALE WITH A MORAL BY ~~THE~~ ANON
This is a story all should know,
To learn a lesson from its' woes,
The tale of a foolish teenage kid,
The swinging onshore DJ Sid.

When Sid was twelve- translator mad,
His parents told him it was bad,
To have such music every day,
Respect to this he did not pay.

Sid was eighteen, you could tell
He knew of Broadside and Rig 1.
He wore a T shirt cross his spine
That said he wanted Caroline.

Then at College they did declare
Upon the state of Sidney's hair.
And of his voice, so smooth and round,
That had that certain offshore sound.

Meanwhile those in Government places
Used their hands to hide their faces.
For surely those who paid a fee
Would prefer their auntie BBC?

They passed an act at Parliament Square,
To end the reign of those who dare
From their ships and forts endow
Their Revived 45s and 'Music Now'.

"These popular stations- they must go,
We will start with three nine O,
Stations that dared compete
We will crush at Aunties' feet.

And so the crowded bands were free
For more harmonies of Network Three.
Although they call it Radio Four,
I'm told it's still the same old bore.

At this time Sid took an exam,
To sink to the depths of 'Radio Ham'.
Only of this he thought all day,
On bits of junk he spent his pay.

But when he took the Test in Morse,
They found his sending crude and coarse,
And little Sid did shed no tear
When they said: "Try again next year."

For Sidney got some odds and ends,
Kinky tetrapods, anode bends,
A coil of wire- a copper stake,
(from certain place that he did take.)

He knocked together a mighty shack,
Sprayed it blue, and brown and black,
To keep its' secret from all who passed,
He hung thin wire from hidden mast.

THIS sensual story is to be continued..

copy with offshore radio stations, and British subjects from working on them, with the intention of forcing them to close down. In order to do this, the Act incorporates the use of methods which are completely alien to the age-old, traditional ideals of British Justice, including a reversal of the adage 'a man is considered innocent until proven guilty'. Apart from that, this restriction on radio broadcasting which nearly half the population of the UK like to listen to, bears no resemblance to the concept of a democracy. We intend to establish a network of 'Action Centres', each responsible for voicing agitation is their area. This will be run by unpaid volunteers, who will hold

meetings, canvass, distribute literature, and attempt to persuade people to withhold their support from Parliamentary candidates and M.P.'s who back the 'Marine etc Act'. In this way we intend to stir up public feeling to such an extent that the 'Act' will fall in its objective.' The Broadside Free Radio Movement also did sent out a leaflet to the members claiming the organisation had some aims:

1* To give a coherent and visible organisation to the many millions of people in this country who are directly opposed to the Government's Marine Broadcasting Offence Bill.

2* To give to these people a framework within which their protest can take on a more unitary, and united form, and thus, it is hoped, a more effective one.

3* To expose what the movement considers to be the completely inadequate arguments that the Government has put forward to account for the action that they have taken, and are still in the process of taking against the pioneers of independent broadcasting in this country.

4* To support the whole concept of a free and completely independent system of sound broadcasting here, both on a national and a local scale, and thus by implication, to oppose any attempt to return to the air networks of this country to a monopoly control.

Just a month later he announced that his Broadside Free Radio Movement had a membership which has passed the amount of 80,000. He and his friends however had no idea of book keeping for in October 1967 the BFRM went bankrupt. That's where the FRA stepped in and took over the outstanding debts of the creditors of the BFRM. Of course the members of the former club became member of the FRA, which could claim, that way, more than 100,000 members. I will come back to that later.



Radio 1

The Postmaster General, Edward Short, announced on June 30th 1967 that the BBC would be opening their pop service on September 30th 1967. Radio One would be the name and it would broadcast continuous music from 7 up till 7.30 AM, followed by light music and entertainment until 2.00 the following day. But the question was if all those millions of offshore listeners were happy with the new station. It did try to copy the offshore radio stations. The BBC hired a lot of the former deejays after August 14th 1967 and even the jingles were copied, although overproduced.

Paul Harris, author and publisher, had his ideas about the FRA: 'It was too obvious that the FRA had arrived on the scene too late to exert any real or decisive pressure on events. In fact, by the time it was formed the most important reading of the Marine Offences Bill, the Second Reading in the House of Commons, had taken place and had been carried.'

Local branches were formed and in June 1967 there were 259 branches but only 1920 members, which was a very small amount compared to the listeners the offshore radio stations claimed together for the whole of Great Britain: 20 million.'

The FRA did organise in the summer of 1967, just before the MOA became law, 'The Free Radio Ball of the Year' at Alexandra Palace in London. Around 3000 people came to see 'The Move' and other groups. Deejays Johnnie Walker and Robbie Dale – both from Radio Caroline – hosted the show.

But also after the MOB became law people in Great Britain tried to remember that Black Monday, August 14th 1967, when the last programs, excluding Radio Caroline, from the stations were transmitted. A former Radio London deejay, Mark Roman, was carried around to the marketplace of his hometown Romford in a coffin. They were commemorating the first anniversary of the death of Pirate Radio on August



14th 1968. A day later he left England to start a new career in radio in his native country Australia. The same year in August another big demonstration was held on Trafalgar Square. One of the speakers,

there, was Robbie Dale (see above). He worked for Radio Caroline and was one of the deejays who went on working for Radio Caroline after the MOB became Act. After the Caroline ships were taken away from international waters by creditors, he started to work for Radio Veronica. A year later Free Radio London, a land based pirate radio station, was on the air for the first time to remember Big L, Wonderful Radio London – a station that closed down on August 14th 1967. And also in years afterwards the offshore radio stations were and are always remembered on several radio stations in England and Holland.

London in Groningen

As told earlier I will take you to some of the memories regarding the Fight For Free Radio. It would be too much to mention them all. Nowadays looking around for instant at railroad stations or alongside the road, you see everywhere graffiti. In the sixties the



© Jana Knot-Dickscheit

youth used real paint to express their favour for their Beat Group. Also they used the paint as a form of protest. And if they used good paint it can be found back nowadays. A few guys from my hometown Groningen took a paintbrush in 1967, when they heard that the Marine Offences Bill would become act. They painted on a shed in their fire corridor the words 'Radio London' and still up till today those two words can be seen. However nowadays with higher criminality, it can only be seen from the Gorechtgade (the street where the corridor is) from behind an iron fence. Again a small but very effective way of protest and above all a token to Free Radio.

FRA's Leaflets

But going back to the FRA they published many leaflets in which they became for a lot of members unreliable. Let's go to a part of the text of one of the leaflets from 1968: 'The Marine Offences Act is almost dead. Caroline plays on. A new 'sweet music' station (hush hush) is coming. The members of Broadside and the Free Radio Association have come together in a big new 100.000 strong Free Radio Association. We fought and now were are winning.' It seems with 100.000 members it should be a financial healthy organisation. But it was far from that: 'But, as you will see, we have some problems We must not weaken now, or we've had it, so please help in all the ways I ask you in this newsletter. Broadside had a debt of 800 Pounds, mainly because it had no membership subscription. Much of this debt has been cleared, but we are short of money and have had to take a temporary loan. Because all Broadside members became associate members of the FRA, there are now 4.500 fullpaid members, but 95.500 Associate free members. I'm sure you can see this put a terrific strain on our finances. This won't be a problem if you Associate members fork out five bop for Full Membership. This will give us the money which every big Association doing a big job must have! So, please, please fill in the below form.'

The above info sent out, probably to a few thousand people instead of the 100.000 mentioned, gave the supporters a lot to think about. Five bop for a membership of the FRA? What would we get back for it? Well, the people of the FRA England had a quick answer: 'Now we are so large, we only can write to members once a year. If you are a full member, and your subscription falls due any time in 1968, may I please ask you to renew now.' So payment in advance to make more and more money. Also



they promised members to be a partner in a Football Pools Syndicate. The FRA started a promotion to become 'a FRA Seller'. In other words sell the things (books, photo's recordings, stickers, buttons') we've in stock and get our free logo in display. '

FRA into difficulties

Years later it was Geoffrey Pearl who did write his own 'history on the FRA' and about the organisation, directly after August 14th 1967 he wrote: 'Almost immediately, the Association ran into difficulties. The subscription rate was adequate when free advertisements were being broadcast, but did not cover more than a fraction of the expense when this facility was no longer available. The FRA found itself losing money at the ratio of 30 Pounds a week. Unfortunately, the Committee had been infiltrated by an element who did not have the interests of the Free Radio Association at heart. They now seized their opportunity to strike when the Association was at it weakest. By disrupting Committee meetings, they prevented the decisions being taken which would have enabled the serious financial situation to have been dealt with. As the only possible means of saving

the Association, the Chairman personally made the necessary decisions. The disruptive element, who had by then gained the support of other members of the Committee, then formed an opposing group which made every effort to smash the Association. They persuaded the Association's bankers that a dispute existed, which resulted in a complete freeze of the Association's bank accounts. A bank freeze at a time when the Association was running a very heavy weekly deficit could have been expected to bankrupt the FRA within three weeks.'

The Association was saved by a merger and a loan from a bank. Pearl himself about the moves: "We were saved by two bold moves which the opposing group had not bargained for. Firstly, a large loan was made to tide it over the bank freeze. Secondly, an immediate merger was arranged with the successor organisation to Broadside Free Radio Movement. Backing up these moves was a total refusal to accept the defeat by those whose job it was to run the Association." However, Pearl forgot to mention that he stepped into the Broadside Free Radio Movement at the moment this company went bankrupt. He also forgot to say that the other members of his FRA stated that he used large sums of money from members of the FRA to finance other sources than where the FRA stood for.



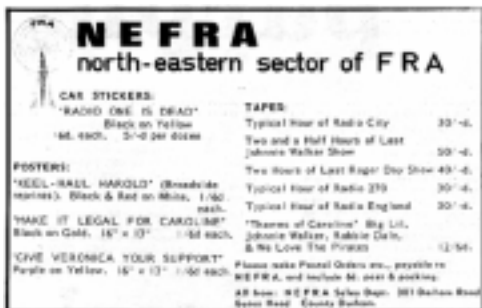
Geoffrey Pearl at a Rally in 1970

The opposing party however claimed also representing the FRA and tried to attack every move of the Pearl's Group. However in March 1968 both Groups came together and worked the problems out and the frozen bank account was re-opened. Outside the FRA the members of Committee still tried to make trouble to each other. This happened not only in words but also in written leaflets in which the members or former members wrote their own story of what did really happen within the FRA. It would be too much to write down as the title of this article surely would become reality. One thing is for sure that from all those so called 'members' a lot were non members as they had only written in for some information and even some had written in to get a free radio!

Big laugh

In those years we were young and every member was proud to be part of the FRA. Of course it was the time to protest

against everything possible. Reading back the leaflets from those days, 35 years later, it gives me a big laugh. For instant the target the FRA (read Geoffrey Pearl) made for himself: 'Now we have 100.000 members, we are setting ourselves a fantastic new target – ONE MILLION MEMBERS! Just think, suppose you, and every other member, send in the form overleaf and ask for 10 memberships forms and make 10 new members (it will be very easy), than we will become the biggest association in Britain. And the best! And the most powerful! And Free Radio will be guaranteed.'



But the FRA owners had also their questions about the meaning of the word 'Fight'?

* Fight the miserable little band of kill-joys who have tried to take away our freedom to listen to the friendly independent radio stations. All except Radio Caroline have been forced off the air. And the vicious Marine Offences Act stops anyone from giving details about Radio Caroline's programmes. Who would have thought that free speech would be suppressed in Britain?

* Fight the questionable devices used by the Government in its efforts to silence the fort based stations. When Radio City wanted help, it was refused because the station was outside British jurisdiction. But when the government decided to close the station, it suddenly became part of Britain. And why was Radio 390 prosecuted in two counties?

* Fight the Government which is trying to preserve state-control over radio by crushing all competition to the BBC. And fight the government which tricks the people by delaying the Marine Offences Act until it has majority of 97, and says nothing about its proposed legislation in its Manifesto. Its scheme is to get the whole issue over as soon as it can so that everyone will have forgotten all about it by the next General Election.

* Fight for the freedom of the air, as we have fought before for a free press and free speech.

Remember that without these freedoms a country becomes a dictatorship. Under the Marine Offences Act, the Free Radio Association is partially silenced. This is what the Government wanted. But the Government will never silence us completely. We shall fight until we win.

1969: Free Radio Times & Rallies

It seems Pearl had some strange dreams before writing his leaflets and of course not too many were pleased to sent the five bop directly to Raleigh in Essex. In 1969 the FRA sent out their official magazine 'Free Radio Times' to their members and former members. In the editorial they wrote: 'Free Radio Times is non profit motivated, our object is to build up a mass circulation so that we can make a significant contribution on the Fight for Free Radio. Also of course when we get free commercial radio F.R.T. will assume the role of programme guide and news magazine. The policy is to report all important Free Radio events and news, with articles of general interest.' There was, in the first issue not only news on radio but also on the music industry. Reading back the only copy in my archive it was most amusing to see the 'news' that Harold Wilson had send back the free T-shirt he got from the FRA. The editor asked himself if probably the colour of the shirt was wrong and had to be red. In 1969 also the FRA organised, in cooperation with the FRC the National Free Radio Week, which took place starting August 10th. On this day another Free Radio Rally. On Trafalgar Square it was Ted Allbeury, former director of Radio 390, who spoke pointing out the wide variety of music and light entertainment under a free commercial system and Jason Wolfe (Caroline) delivered a straight from the shoulder call for action and support.



Some days later protest took place in Newcastle. By 11.45 PM nearly 50 people with banners and plan cards had gathered for their vigil outside the Newcastle Civic Centre. Tony Rounthwaite reported on the demonstration: 'At 13 minutes to midnight a tape recording of the closedown of Radio 270 was played for all to hear two years after the official close down. On the last stroke of midnight, exactly two years after the Marine Offences Act had become law, the people

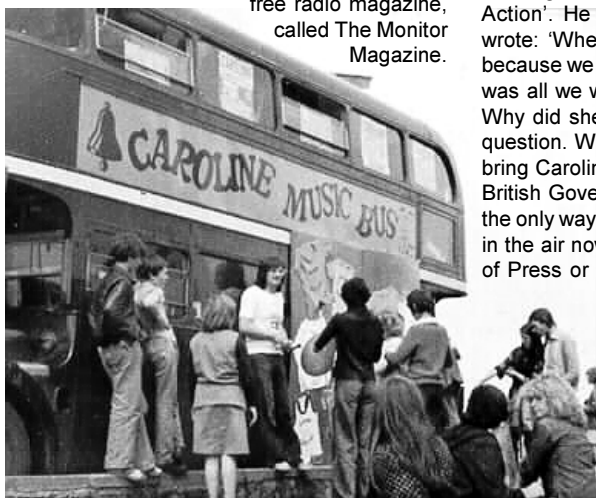
marched through Newcastle chanting 'Freedom died at August 14th'. The march with a suitable police escort worked their way down to the Region Press at 'Thompson House'. Here they were interviewed by a reporter. Next stop was BBC Newcastle Broadcasting House & Tyne TV, where a letter was delivered.'

And if nothing was enough another Rally was held in London on August 17th 1969. Some 4000 people demonstrated and it was on this day the earlier mentioned t-shirt for Harold Wilson was delivered on 10 Downing Street. Speakers at Trafalgar Square included Roger Day, Andy Archer, Jason Wolfe and Sir Ian Mactaggart.

FRC branches abroad

In 1969 the FRA claimed to have members in 23 countries, including Czechoslovakia, Denmark, Eire, India and Luxembourg. In several other countries people were asked to set up their branches of the FRC either the FRA and so it was the FRA in Holland, which was first run by J.J.L van der Meer from Rotterdam and at a later stage by Hans Verbaan. In Germany there was a local branch of the FRA, Freie Radio Assoziation, in Frankfurt and a FRC, which brought out the magazine Free Radio News from 1971. In Denmark there was the FRC Denmark, run by Paul S Hansen. Also in France there was a branch from which grew the France Radio Club which started the Offshore Echo's Magazine in the seventies of last century, a magazine that still consists. In the seventies up till the early nineties there was another

free radio magazine,
called The Monitor
Magazine.



Headed by the late Roland C. Pearson this magazine was grown out of the local Southend branch of the FRC England.

The Dutch scene

The organisation from Mr. Edward van der Meer in Rotterdam was set up in 1967 with a lot of promises to the members. In some interviews in the newspapers a lot of goodies, at low prices, were mentioned. Next to that the aims of the organisation, in those days the Free Radio Action, were mentioned. It was an own initiative from Van der Meer, who lived at the Kromhoutstreet in Rotterdam. He was just 17 years of age and mentioned himself also Edwin Lake. In one of the interviews he already knew that he was completely addicted to offshore radio and that he had gained 500 signatures from Dutch people. Those would be delivered to Harold Wilson together with a petition in which would be declared that also the Dutch people were dissatisfied with his decision to ban the Pirates.

Soon Edward came in financial problems and made contact with the people of the FRA in England. Following contacts an official letter, under the new name The Free Radio Association Department Holland, went out. It was already 1968 and Van der Meer promised again a lot of things, including each six weeks a news bulletin with real news, not the news on offshore radio which you would normally find back in the newspapers. All I can say, after paying my money for the first year to the Rotterdam giro account, is that I never ever received a bulletin.

Also Van der Meer wanted to make more money by sending out letters under the name 'The Caroline Action'. He wanted Radio Caroline to return and wrote: 'When this sound returns, depends on you because we can't do it alone, we need you. Caroline was all we wanted, it was good, and we loved her. Why did she have to go away was, and is still the question. Why???? When we, that means you too, bring Caroline back on the air it will be to prove the British Government, that we want her and it will be the only way to have Freedom. If there is no freedom in the air now, what will they do next? End freedom of Press or even freedom of Speech?'

You can guess what happened next in the letter. Yes, he asked the reader for money to get as much as possible to finish his dream: restart Radio Caroline. Something he also did not



Caroline Music Bus with Mike Baron © Kyp Kuomi

succeed in. Not much later Hans Verbaan became the new representative for the FRA/FRC in Holland. He was a very relaxed person who decided to organise not only boat trips to the offshore radio stations off the Dutch coast but also brought many nice products on the market. Next to that he organised that Radio Caroline, in 1973, brought in cooperation with the FRC the Caroline Request Show, which was presented in Dutch and English.

For me the membership for the Free Radio Association ended in 1968 and had to look for other sources in the Fight For Free Radio, which became – in 1969 – the Pirate Radio News. It was an English language magazine from the Netherlands which informed people about the developments in the world of Free Radio with a monthly magazine. Now and then I wrote some short articles and from 1971 on they asked me to become their final editor, which I took up until late 1976.



RNI shows up

To give another example of protest, I'd like to go to 1970. Two Swiss people, who made money with selling electronically equipment all over the world, came in 1969 with the idea to start their own radio station. They had first worked for a company in Germany in helping this to rebuild the former Radio London ship, MV Galaxy. The ship, which was moored in Hamburg, was owned however by a Greek Company which's owners had forgotten to pay a huge bill to the harbour authorities. This project did collapse but the idea of having their own radio ship was born for Meister and Bollier. Earlier I published on this subject in Soundscapes. (Volume 5).

Radio Nordsea International, as the station was first mentioned, started test signals on January 23rd 1970 from their radio ship MEBO II. Regular programs could be heard on 102 MHz FM, 6210 kHz SW and on 1610 kHz (186 metres) AM from February 28th. They were bilingual transmissions in German and English. As soon as the transmissions started a campaign against the station started in a couple of newspapers. And a day after the



official start the Dutch PTT (GPO) mentioned that complaints had been received from the Norwegian Government as the broadcasts on 186 metres were interfering with distress frequencies from Norwegian Navy. The newspaper Telegraaf knew more as it was also reported that research taken by their journalist learned that also the frequencies of the pilot service in Flushing had been interfered by RNI. In the weeks after the opening it seems that there was no room for a second offshore radio station off the Dutch coast. Radio Veronica was there already since 1960, transmitting a very successful format, which attracted a lot of advertisers. RNI also had the problem that their programmes were transmitted in foreign languages, so not interesting for the Dutch advertising world.

March 23rd 1970 the MEBO II left her anchorage off the coast of Scheveningen and it was deejay Carl Mitchell telling the British listeners; 'England, here we come'. However the transmissions on 186 metres caused severe interference to British Coastguard and different protests were sent from the Trinity House (responsible for lighthouses and light vessels), the Coast Guard Service and the Ministry of Post and Telecommunications. A few days later, March 27th, RNI ceased broadcasting on medium wave and not much later also on the other wavebands. On April 10th 1970 they were back and this time they used 1578 kHz (190 metres) for the AM output. The newspapers soon came with the message that the new frequency interfered with Italian and Norwegian Radio Stations as well as competitor Radio Veronica (192 metres). It was Minister John Stonehouse who announced that a jamming signal would be on the air soon to interfere and block the transmissions on AM from RNI. Therefore a 800c/s tone from the Beacon Hill Naval radio station, which was located in Rochester Kent, came on the air.

As a frequent listener to the programs of RNI I'll never forget the interfering signal

came on the air. In the middle of the record 'Spirit in the sky', from the American band Norman Greenbaum, an irritating whistle could be heard. After loosing more and more listeners RNI decided it was time for another change in frequency. First the 217 was used and later, on May 13th, the 244 metres became the new place on the medium wave band. This was very near to the frequency from BBC Radio One, the national pop station that was launched in 1967. As the 244 was official a free frequency the owners of RNI thought they would not be jammed as it was so close to the Radio One frequency. But it was false hope as the jamming transmitter blocked again the RNI signal.

Official protest spots were transmitted, on a regular base, on RNI. The very first I heard was from Larry Tremaine, an American deejay who called himself 'The gitour with the heather' on air: 'RNI apologises to you, our listeners for the interference heard on our transmissions. This illegal jamming is directed by the Labour Party and organised by the Post Office. This action is meant to discourage us from providing you with our normal service. However, RNI shall make every effort to continue programmes as usual. No free western country has ever jammed a free broadcasting station before, even in times of war.'

And it was not long after the first announcements that the deejays asked the listeners to utter a form op protest. They asked them to attend a demonstration which would be held on May 31st 1970 outside the Naval premises in earlier



mentioned Rochester. And around 100 people showed up, some of them trying to get on the premises but nothing serious happened. A day later it was Edwin Bollier who announced that when the General Election, which would be held on June 18th, would be won again by the Labour Party, RNI would be closed down. But that was not the only announcement to the press. He also told that the German Service would stop broadcasting.

Radio Caroline returns

What the listeners didn't know at that stage was that Meister and Bollier had made a massive deal with Ronan O'Rahilly, the former director of Radio Caroline, to rename RNI during the week before the General Election into Radio Caroline. As this station was, until March 1968, so popular by the youth, it would have a better impact. The British government had reduced the voting age and so the British youth from 18 years on could vote for their favourite Party. And as it was the Labour Party who had made the MOB into Marine Offences Act it was time for the youth to go to the voting box and vote for the Conservatives. Real anti propaganda for the Labour Party was put out on the air for a few days and Free Radio spots were again transmitted. In the streets of London a special double bus could be find with Free Radio Slogans on as well as posters featuring Harold Wilson as he was the Chinese leader Mao.



At a press conference O'Rahilly later claimed that more

than 5.5 million leaflets in the anti Labour Campaign were given away in the streets of London. He and former Caroline deejay of the first hour in 1964, Simon Dee, attended the tour with the special buss. In Clacton-on-sea Meister and Bollier installed special equipment, so that on ultra high frequencies contact could be made with the people on the ship to bring instant information on the campaign as well as on the results on Election Day. And that's where also the Free Radio Association, with Geoffrey Pearl, came round the corner again. The FRA's phone number was open 24 hours a day for listeners to give their idea on the elections as well as getting in contact with the station. Also the listeners were

asked to help the people of the FRA distributing the leaflets.

On the tune of the popular television program 'Dad's Army', which was called 'Who do you think you're kidding Mr. Hitler', new lyrics were written and after recording the song was played on a regular base during the days the name RNI was changed into Radio Caroline:



Who do you think you're kidding Mr. Wilson
If you think Free Radio's down?
We are the boys who will stop your little game
We are the boys who will make you think again
So, who do you think you are kidding, Mr. Wilson
If you think Free Radio is down?
Mr. Stonehouse starts to jam at 5.21
And he goes home at 2 am, his dirty work is done
So, who do you think you are kidding Mr Wilson
If you think Free Radio's down
If you think you can crush us
We're afraid you've missed the bus
So, who do you think you are kidding Mr. Wilson
If you think Free Radio's down

photo: Harold Wilson on board HMS Fearless

Together with the Campaign for Independent Broadcasting the FRA also thought it was time for another demonstration, which had gone into history as 'the Anti Jamming Rally'. On Sunday June 14th the March was held in London with 10 Downing Street as target. Starting point was The Hyde Park and on Radio Caroline from the MEBO II a special report was transmitted to guide the crowd through the City of London. More than 10.000 people got together and speakers at the Rally were Ronan O'Rahilly (who always showed up when news could be made), the chairman of the Campaign for Independent Broadcasting Mr. David Prewitt and others. Front man

on the walk to Downing Street was Ronan. Deejaays Simon Dee, Roger Day and Mark Wesley also joined the march.

And it looked like that Harold Wilson didn't enjoy at all the big demonstration of all those Free Radio Lovers against his government. Two days later he announced that he had given permission to use the most powerful transmitter (1000 kW) at the transmitter plant in Droitwich to use against the RNI signal on AM. This transmitter was far more stronger than the earlier one used at the Rochester plant. With giving permission Wilson also went into illegality. He was not only jamming a broadcast from a ship in international waters, officially registrated by a foreign country, but also it was interfering with regional and local radio and television signals in greater parts of the County Essex and other parts of the South East of England. And even the signal of BBC Radio One, the national pop channel, was interfered in certain part of the South East.

On June 18th all kind of local and regional results were given through, after counting, and at the end of the day it became clear that the Conservatives had finally beaten the Labour Party. Still, after more than 30 years, it is discussed whether the propaganda broadcasts of RNI / Radio Caroline had an influence on the results of the voting, but one thing is sure. The greater London region, with the many new voters (aged was dropped from 21 to 18 years) and the South Eastern regions really had a bigger amount of voters for the Labour Party than in earlier years.

The day after Election Day Caroline's name was dropped again in favour of RNI and the owners hoped, after winning, Labour would order to stop the jamming. As this didn't happen and even jamming was started on the 6210 kHz, the short wave frequency of RNI, it was time for talks. A meeting took place with people from the Conservatives but in no way the wanted to stop the jamming. One of the thoughts going around was that the contacts the owners of RNI had with governments in rebellion countries like Biafra, were the reason jamming wouldn't stop. Therefore it was decided to go back to the Dutch coast to see if the advertising market was better than earlier that year.

In the Election week on Radio Caroline the

listeners were also frequently asked to write and protest to the Prime Minister and their local MP's. A response was given with the following words in a letter from the Ministry of Posts and Telecommunications:

'Following the recent change of Government the Minister has carefully considered the problems of pirate broadcasting and has stated that the Government must abide by its international obligations in combating the illicit use of wavelengths. In order to force a pirate radio station, Radio Northsea International, off the air a transmitter has been activated, but not before its interference potential was tested. Tests with ordinary domestic receivers show no interference to Radio 1 beyond the immediate vicinity of the transmitter. Our action in opposing the pirate stations has been fully accepted by the International Frequency Registration Board of the International Telecommunications Union, which is the international authority on interference and the control of frequencies. If in maintaining our stand in defence of law and order we have caused interference to the reception of Radio One to a very small number of listeners it cannot be compared with the number of listeners who are receiving interference from the pirate by his own deliberate act. I am extremely sorry for any interference you are experiencing from our transmitter. But I am sure you would agree that it is essential to maintain law and order in the field of broadcasting and in the use of scarce radio frequencies and that is the sole aim of our action.'

RNI went on some other months, transmitting with ups and more downs off the Dutch coast and closed down in September 1970 for the first time.

Still in 1970 the FRA promised their members a regular magazine with news on the offshore radio stations. It was called 'Sound Magazines' and I don't know with others, but I did get only three copies, although I did pay for twelve copies.

Simon Dee and Ronan O'Rahilly in front of the Campaign Bus with posters of Harold Wilson in Mao style (1970)



A young lad from The Hague

Mobilise all Dutch and Belgian Free Radio Fans, was the idea in 1971 of a young lad from The Hague. Therefore he had formed the ISFRA, which stood for International Society for the promotion of Free Radio. Together with Hans Verbaan, who lived in Scheveningen in those days and who was the Dutch chairman of the FRA and FRC in Holland, he wanted to make a front. They wanted to make clear, with a written protest to the government, whereby it would be mentioned that the ratification of the Treaty of Strasbourg would make it almost impossible for the Dutch offshore radio stations to go on with their programming. And behind this young man was the driver, who in those days picked up the people at the RNI Naarden studio, to bring them to the tender in Scheveningen harbour. He told a journalist: 'We've to try to get more members. At the moment we've 1000 in Holland. In Germany and Belgium around 10.000 and this all has to lead to a total of 250.000 members. That would be fine.' Just like the spokesman for the FRA in England this guy had no feeling for numbers. Reading on in the interview he told that the FRA had only one goal: 'going on or not going on as legal stations.' You see, he couldn't count! Also the journalist and the young guy did chat a little about the fact that the Dutch national pop station Hilversum 3 got, in a then recent research, more listeners than Radio Veronica. It didn't do him a thing and he made also protests about the fact that there were no commercials in the programs on Hilversum 3, as this should be a part of the cosiness of a radio program. I can reveal that the man who was the RNI driver



Gerard van Dam

and front man of the ISFRA was non other than Gerard van Dam, also known as Gerard van der Zee. He worked for Ronan O'Rahilly bringing back the MV Mi Amigo back to sea in 1972, for Radio 199, Radio Caroline, Radio Atlantis and brought several ships at sea for his own Radio Delmare.

One remarkable appearance Gerard van Dam made in the press in July 1971, just after the MV Fredericia and the MV Mi Amigo were sold. The later one to Gerard and he tried to fool the press. Not only several newspapers brought the following, also VPRO radio made a nice small documentary about Van Dam's plans with the then former radio ship. Together with the late Hans Verbaan, former front man in Holland for the FRA and FRC, he did sent out a leaflet, in which the plans were revealed: 'After long talks with the owners of the former Radio Caroline South ship, the MV Mi Amigo, we have succeeded for a short time the ship is not going to the ship breakers yard. It will be possible during the next few months to visit the ship for as short a time as one day, or for as long a stay as is required. Food and accommodation on the ship are being arranged. Original studio guidance will come from a well-known deejay. In the event that the ship is not able to pay its way during the next few months, the owner is prepared to carry out his original plans and scrap the ship. This fate has already befallen Radio Caroline North. Make the most of this unique and possible last change to visit the first and last outpost of the golden age of British

Pirate Radio.'

It was followed by an extensive price list what the different stays on the Mi Amigo would cost. The fact that the Caroline North ship, Fredericia, was already scrapped, was not true. It would be on dry land for a long time at the Van Marel Ship Brokery in Ouwkerk, before the bell was taken away and the rest would be broken up. Gerard didn't get any paid visitor for his museum ship as the ship was towed into international water. Equipment stolen earlier from the ship in Amsterdam by Peter C and Spangles M were brought back on board. From that point on the MV Mi Amigo would bring back stations like: Radio 199, Radio Caroline, Radio Caroline 1 and 2, Radio Atlantis, Radio Seagull, Radio Joepie and Radio Mi Amigo. Those stations were all active somewhere between 1972 and 1980, when the ship finally sunk.

German's Fight for Free Radio

Then there was a Club called 'Nordsee Club' with an address at the Krefelderstrasse 60 in Aachen Germany. Wolfgang Meures, who thought that there had never been a better radio station than RNI, ran it. So his love for the station was put in a leaflet, which was put out six times. All the news he could get was mentioned and in issue number six, from November 1971 he wrote it would be better to stop publishing as it should be better in the Fight For Free Radio to work together with other people in one organisation. And so the FRC Germany started with their magazine Free Radio News (later renamed in Radio News). A beautiful magazine, which came out on a regular base for many years. Then it stopped publishing in the eighties. In the nineties some other issues appeared on irregular base. The strong thing on the German magazine that they had a photographer in house who went as much as possible to the offshore radio ships and above that was a super talent. Still the name Theo Dencker is marked with the name of Martin Stevens as the two best photographers of the offshore area. Of course there was a form of protest in the magazine, but talking about the magazines on offshore radio there will be once an invitation to read another article on this subject.

Fighting in the eighties

Also I'd like you to remember to a smaller demonstration held in September 1989. Yes, more than 15 years after the biggest demonstration ever in the Fight For Free Radio. Let's go first to the facts why the demonstration had to be held.

Radio Caroline and the other stations on board the MV Ross Revenge, the 5th vessel the Caroline organisation used through the years was raided on August 19th that year. People from the Dutch OCD, the authority responsible for acting against illegal broadcasting, asked for help from their British colleagues of the British DTI. The MV Landward and the Dutch vessel MV Volans went out to the ship to get most of the transmitter equipment from the ship as well as a lot of studio equipment and the record collections from Radio Caroline and the sister station Radio Monique. Of course, as I told the same evening on Dutch Radio 1, in the program 'Met het Oog op Morgen' it was the most illegal action made in order of the Dutch Government. Some 2,5 years later all the equipment was given back to the Caroline Organization and we all know that the raid in 1989 (more than 25 years after starting from the international waters) was the end as an offshore radio station for Radio Caroline.

But going back to the demonstration, which was organized by the Caroline Movement on September 17th 1989, it can be mentioned that this was held in London. Reason was to show support for Radio Caroline, itself and for those members of the crew who had remained on board after the raid on the Ross Revenge. In Holland and England anoraks (fans) were asked to send in as much as possible records and equipment so the station could restart as a professional radio

station. More than 600 people were attending the demonstration, which started near Victoria Railroad Station at the Waterloo Bridge Road. From there it went to Westminster Bridge and House of Parliament. It ended at Lambeth Pier. Here goods were donated to Caroline deejays including foods and records and vital replacement parts. From there on also a 'Caroline Legal Fund' has been organized in which the fans of the station could give one or more donation(s). So we now live in 2003 and still donations are coming in to keep the former transmission vessel of Radio Caroline in good condition as a token in the Fight For Free Radio.

No more offshore radio???

It would be too much to mention every action taken in the Fight For Free Radio but I want to end with the one Jan Sundermann did a couple of months ago, when writing the next article for the Caroline News Beat Magazine. Jan Sundermann replied on an article called 'no more offshore radio stations from international waters', which was published in an earlier edition of Caroline's Newsbeat.

'All these national laws mentioned in the article are based on the 'European Agreement for the Prevention of Broadcasts Transmitted from Stations outside National Territories'. The Council of Europe, based in the City of Strasbourg signed

Demonstration September 17th 1989 ©Chris Edwards/ OEM



of Europe, based in the City of Strasbourg signed that on 26 of September 1965. In the time since, all member countries of the council were requested to sign this agreement by introducing a national law reflecting the content of the Strassbourg treaty. In 1993, I got upon request to the council a list of the countries that have signed. At that time there were 17 countries where the treaty came into force, in between October 1967 (Denmark, Belgium and Sweden) and March 1988 (Spain). The Netherlands did this at September 27th 1974, Germany on February 28th 1970 and Great Britain on December 3rd 1967. So it was always quite a time past the national legislation against offshore radio.

A number of coastal countries did not sign yet, as Iceland, Finland and Luthenia, Malta and others. What will happen in the future. Will the new member countries of the EU have to sign that too? We now have the directly elected European Parliament. And we had non-commercial stations like Radio Brod and Offshore 98, operating from international waters. The EU even financially sponsored the operation of Radio Brod. And now, in 2003, even the Royal British Navy lost innocence when broadcasting to the Iraq during the war! All these facts show that it could be the time to withdraw the Strassbourg treaty. Would it not be a gesture to the stations and their listeners to declare that treaty as invalid from a certain date on?

Members of the European Parliament could do it. We all would have to tell our local candidates before the next election, to start such an initiative. It would show the public, that the EU is not an anonymous body, unwilling to move and governing over everybody's head. Such an imitative of the Parliament would cost nothing, but strengthen the trust into our common European future by canceling a law, that has no sense anymore. A commercial offshore broadcaster can hardly compete today with onshore stations. (Well not completely true as the ban of advertising for cigarettes, tobacco etc, could change that). And the argument that other radio services could be interfered is out of date, as ship to shore services on the medium to short-wave range have closed due to other modern and more reliable technologies.'

Sundermann worked several years in a committee responsible for some new European standards for products made from special steel: ' So, I mean it really serious with the European idea. And I think, that limiting the "lifetime" of law forces to think at a certain time about its real value or no-need-of. Now laws are produced like eggs, and it needs people to administrate them. The Strassbourg convention is only an example for a complete useless paper, and be sure, it even now costs the taxpayers money to administrate that. So we have a very easy win-win situation, when this

convention will be trashed. I am not really sure, if the parliament has the power to trash that, or if it needs a summit of all our presidents to decide: this is trash!'

And finally, weren't it not the offshore radio stations like Caroline and RNI, that brought us all a little bit more together in Europe?'

HANS KNOT



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