

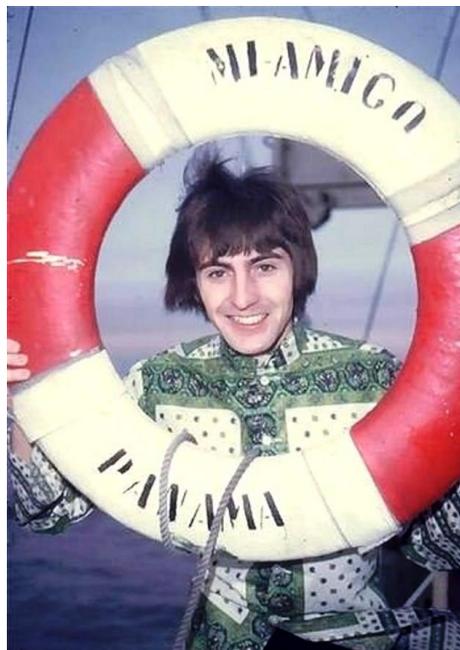
Hans Knot International Radio Report May 2016

Welcome everybody to another International Radio Report with a lot of thanks to all those who responded on last issue. Those with very interesting answers will be in this in next report, others have already had their personal answers in the mail. Let's start this issue with an e mail from Roger Day, who's working 50 years within the radio industry next month and started his career way back in 1966 on Swinging Radio England:

'Hi Hans Details of my party to celebrate this milestone. It would be fantastic if you can come. Tickets on sale here.

<https://www.dreamland.co.uk/events/listings/eventdetail/175/9/fifty-shades-of-day-with-roger-twiggy-day>

Best Wishes Roger Day'.



Roger Day in 1968 when he worked for Radio Caroline. Photo: Freewave Archive.

Well thanks a lot Roger for the invitation but coming over to England during that weekend is not possible due to other commitments.

Hopefully one or more of the readers will have a look at the above mentioned internet site and decide to book a ticket. May I wish you a lot of pleasure and hopefully many more years in radio!

Next one comes from Mike Terry who had sharp ears when listening to BBC Radio 2: 'Hi Hans. It was surprising to hear BBC Radio 2 Sounds of the Sixties show plays my request: 'I Love You Caroline' and mention Radio Caroline on April 9th.



As I expect you know this record is from the Pathfinders, a Birkenhead, Liverpool group. 'I Love You Caroline' was nearly the Caroline theme tune but was pipped by The Fortunes. It's not often the Beeb mention the station even after all the years! Always good! I think worth a mention in the International Radio Report? Cheers Mike Terry in Bournemouth

More info about the song: I Love You Caroline - Pathfinders Decca F12038 (1964). An acetate demo version of this track exists, that is believed to have been recorded in the basement studio at Radio Caroline's London offices. The demo, labelled only as **I Love you Caroline**, and sounding like the early Beatles, has less instrumentation than the released version.

Tony Aldridge (drummer): "I was the drummer with this Birkenhead group when '**I Love You Caroline**' was recorded. The other members on the record were: Tom Earley (rhythm guitar, vocals) Billy May (lead guitar, vocals) Roy Brockhurst (bass, vocals) Tony Aldridge (drums) Frank Hopley (piano).

We recorded at Decca's London studio on 13/11/64 (released 4/12/64) produced by Mike Smith. The B side was '**Something I Can Always Do**'.

Our then manager Barry Lloyd, had connections with the station, but in the event The Fortunes won! But we did get plenty of air-play on Radio Caroline North. The band split up in 1966 - but all that's another story!"

Again sad news as almost every month people from the radio community have left us. This is a message which came from Don Stevens:



Phil Sayer. Photo: Don Stevens

'Sad news for the broadcasting world, and, in Israel, for the Voice of Peace listeners. Phil Sayer has passed on to the next part of his journey; he joins many of our radio friends on the next road. Phil was a popular VOP broadcaster and was part of the team that made the Peace Ship the top radio station in the Middle East in 1975/76, with its 4GG Gold Coast format. Phil was one of the few British broadcasters who could handle the Australian format and became a big star with the rest of the team on the station. Millions of Dollars of advertising were generated by this team, and, no surprise, Phil

was headhunted by British radio, and departed to the UK in May 1976. This was part of the demise of the great days of the VOP. Phil Sayer will be a a fun addition to the boys who are gone, but, what a loss for us, to lose such a great man at such a young age. Phil, Big Hugs. Don Stevens.'

Indeed very sad news Don and here's more about Phil his career within British radio as well as his work as a voice-over.

<http://news.sky.com/story/1679244/voice-of-tubes-mind-the-gap->

More sad news comes from the Netherlands as Marcel Out died on April 12th at the age of 53. Marcel worked on the Ross Revenge in the eighties for Radio 819, but he was far more active on several stations like Focus 103, Stadsradio Rotterdam and Seaport FM in his hometown of IJmuiden. Erik was also the initiator behind the 'Muziek uit Zee' project, way back in 2001. He was already ill for a longer period.

Many of his former colleagues wrote him special farewell notes on his FB page: <https://www.facebook.com/erik.beekman.564>



Herbert Visser and Erik Beekman 2001. Photo: Martin van der Ven

Next is a recording which is worthwhile listening. It was transmitted earlier in April and it was John Piek who told me that in this program an interview can be heard with Alan Weiner, the man who was responsible for several radio-projects, including Radio New York International.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4tVVnoaho0A>

Recently I bought the book written by Dr. Nick Middleton 'An atlas of countries that don't exist. A compendium of Fifty Unrecognized and Largely Unnoticed States'. Macmillan, London, 2015

After reading I could only say that it's just a summary and scientific unworthy. Each unnoticed state gets only three pages each to tell their history. Of course I was interested in reading what Dr. Nick Middleton had to tell us about The Principality of Sealand.

He wants to believe us that Sealand was base for a radiostation by writing: 'Roy quickly took up residence to broadcast pop music, a classic sixties pirate radiostation, lying just outside British territorial waters, safe from prosecution.' Dr. Middleton, who was working at the University of Oxford while researching and writing the book at the School of Geography, wrote in his acknowledgements that he was thankful to some of his colleagues. I'm wondering of one of the mentioned person went into the real history of Sealand as there has never been a radio station from the Roughs Sand fort, the home of the Principality of Sealand.

Only a few times there were ideas to start such a station but they were never realised. Official amateur radio stations twice held a contest from the platform off Harwich but cannot be mentioned as an official pirate radio station.

<https://www.panmacmillan.com/authors/nick-middleton>

Here's an update about a station I visited in the mid-nineties of last century: 'EKR's history began when East Kent Radio Limited was formed to apply for the re-advertisement of the east Kent licence in October 1994, which was held by Invicta Radio Limited. Keen on

promoting Digital Radio (DAB) From October 1997 to January 1999 we ran an experimental radio service on the Astra satellite from The Maidstone Studios under the call sign of 'EKR' and 'Night Tracks'. The station was also broadcast with local programming opt-outs and commercials on a one-month trial FM broadcast to Maidstone in October 1997 and to London during January 1998. It could also be received on the experimental digital radio (DAB) multiplex across London. This provided us with valuable audience research and operational experience. Into the millennium we continued to lobby the UK Regulators for Ashford, Kent in the UK and the surrounding areas to be included in the new licensing programme, EKR Ashford was born.



EKR studio Maidstone. Photo: Hans Knot

The licence advertisement and application procedure was submitted in July 2004, and was won by another applicant. Undeterred EKR went online in June 2008 with four themed Rockstreams and continues to do so while promoting new UK DAB services. Our motivation and incentive has always been to give new and unsigned Rock Bands a chance and opportunity to promote themselves on our Rock Radio Platform. EKR is back with 5 themed Rock Radio Services at www.ekrdigital.com on the Internet and will include an Apple and Andriod App launching in the next few weeks.

Soon to be launched new website preview:

<http://ekr.designamite.info/rock-radio/>

Our main story from this issue comes from Stuart Clark who wants to share some of the many memories from his radio days:

Champagne Super Nova - the Pirate Radio days

A hardened heartbreaker himself, Stuart Clark recalls the glory days of Radio Nova and the other Irish pirates who waived the rules during the '80s. It had all started in 1976 with a landmark court ruling.

Charged with the illegal operation of a transmitter, Radio Dublin head honcho Eamon Cooke cited a clause in the antiquated Wireless Telegraphy Act 1926, the legislative equivalent of a chocolate teapot, which suggested that it wasn't illegal if said broadcasting equipment had an alternate use. "It gives off heat, so it could be a heater," Cooke argued. "It gives off light, so it could be a light..."

As preposterous as it sounded, the presiding judge agreed and for 12 wonderfully anarchic years pirate radio was legal in Ireland. Along with Radio Dublin, listeners in the capital soon had Capitol Radio, Big D, Radio City, Southside Radio, TTTR and ARD to choose from, while the likes of Boyneside Radio in Drogheda; KELO in Swords; Radio Carousel in Dundalk; CBC and ABC in Cork; Community Radio Youghal; Waterford Local Radio and near-neighbour Suirside Radio; Kilkenny Community Radio; Radio Limerick Weekly Echo and its arch-rival Big L, and Independent Radio Galway ensured that it was a nationwide phenomenon.

Their notable employees included Ian Dempsey, Gerry Ryan, Mark Cagney, John Creedon, Tony Fenton and an Afro-sporting Dave Fanning. Word of what was going on in lawless Ireland reached Robbie Robinson, an Englishman who'd served at sea during the '60 with the original Radio Caroline and who was keen to get back into the broadcasting game.



While most of the existing Irish pirates were using homemade transmitters and soaped up disco gear, Robinson made sure everything was pro spec when on September 9, 1980 he launched Sunshine Radio from a porta cabin next to the Sands Hotel in Portmarnock. The Sands was also home to Tamango (where the gang goes), a pick-up joint nightclub that made Copper Face Jacks look positively sophisticated.

Distinctly unimpressed by a Brit moving on to their turf, an old-school Dublin station owner decided to give Sunshine's giant mast the oxyacetylene torch treatment. "It fell across the overhead ESB power lines and crashed down onto a massive diesel storage tank at the rear of the Sands," Robbie recalls none too fondly. It did little, though, to halt the rise of what was hailed as the first 'super pirate'.

His co-conspirator was Chris Cary, AKA Spangles Muldoon who'd been part of Caroline's early '70s rebirth. "It was actually Chris who hired me for Sunshine," says Declan Meehan, now the morning show man at East Coast FM in Wicklow. "I'd been 'Comin'atcha!' for 18 months with RTÉ Radio 2 but didn't have my contract renewed, so he rescued me from the dole queue, which being the early '80s was a lengthy one."

Ruthlessly ambitious and not in the habit of taking orders from anyone, Cary - metaphorically this time! - jumped ship in order to set up an even more super than super pirate, Radio Nova, which made its bow during the summer of 1981.

"Chris asked me to come with him to Nova, but not wanting to be regarded as a station-hopper who flitted from job to job, I waited until July 1982 before making the switch," Declan Meehan resumes. "Robbie and I weren't seeing eye to eye over money - or the lack thereof - and my turning down of a Sunday shift in order to go and see Thin Lizzy and U2 at Slane, which earned me a week's suspension."



Declan Meehan Photo: Eastcoast FM

With their slick American jingles, proper news service and the emphasis on playing music rather than saying "howaya!" to Ma, Da, Rex the dog and the kids in Cabra - one of their USPs was 'clutter free' six-song segues - Nova blew the competition out of the water.

"If Sunshine was a seven out of 10 on the professionalism scale, Nova was an 11!" Declan laughs. "Chris was the polar opposite of today's focus groups in that if he had an idea - and invariably it'd be a good one - you'd be doing it five minutes later on air. Instead of being led by the charts or the record companies, he'd say, 'Is it a Nova song?' Tracks like Steely Dan's 'Hey Nineteen', Rick Springfield's 'Jesse's Girl' and 'Don't Talk To Strangers', John Cougar's 'Hurt So Good', Paul Davis' '65 Love Affair' and Al Jareau's 'Never Givin' Up' were hits here because Nova played them."



Stuart Clark. Photo Private Collection Stuart Clark

While all this was going on here, the teenage Stewie Clark was being arrested in the woods next to West Heath, the exclusive Kent girls' boarding school that a few years earlier had been attended by Lady Diana Spencer. The joke at the time was that she represented the cream of English society - thick and rich.

Before rumours of flasherdom start to circulate, I ought to clarify that at the moment of my arrest I was pushing a wheelbarrow containing two car batteries, a half-wave dipole aerial, a cassette player and the biscuit-tin sized transmitter used for three hours every Sunday by the not in any way super Radio Mercury.

I'd had to flee woods, fields and tower blocks before with the authorities in hot pursuit, but this was the first time I'd been read my rights, banged up in a cell for the afternoon and called "an annoying little cunt" by the weasly desk sergeant who didn't

appreciate putting his Sunday lunch on 'hold' while he took down my criminal mastermind particulars.

Despite escaping on a technicality and getting my gear and my Dad's wheelbarrow back - ha, take that Sgt. Weasel! - my enthusiasm for being chased by the Kent and Metropolitan Police Forces and their equally killjoy Post Office mates had evaporated.

It so happened that one of my old pirate pals, Kevin Turner, was home following a spell on the aforementioned Suirside Radio whose star DJ was Eddie 'Supersonic' Coady, an Elvis lookalike who, aping the Kirsty MacColl song, worked in a chip shop. Mention his name to Waterfordians of a certain age and chances are they'll quote Eddie's "Supersonic, he is bionic!" catchphrase back at you.

Taking Suirside and Waterford Local Radio on in their own backyard would at that point have been suicidal, but Kevin reckoned a zero-budget station setting up in Tramore in time for the holiday season could make a killing.

Roping in two more friends, Andy Ellis and Clive Derek, who'd just come back from working on Israeli offshore pirate, the Voice Of Peace, it was worked out that if we pooled together the gear we had and each chipped in £250, the project was a runner.

It was thusly that in January 1981 a red Mk 1 GT Cortina and a Morris 1100 containing four wannabe radio station owners and a junk-shop collection of old record players, tape machines, mixers and World War II-era transmitter parts rolled into Tramore.

Needing somewhere high on the hill above the town to broadcast from, we went on a scouting mission and spotted a rundown mobile home that Dick, the owner of the neighbouring Buywise Carpet Warehouse, rented out to holidaymakers whose circumstances were as reduced as our own.

With two tiny bunk rooms, we'd found somewhere to not only broadcast from, but also live in, for a mere £75 quid a week. No matter that the plumbing was confined to a cold tap outside, ABC Radio was in business. Incidentally, the reason for calling ourselves ABC was that we had a set of jingles from New York's famous WABC that it was possible to remove the 'W' from with the judicious use of an editing block and a razor blade.



By the time broadcasts commenced on March 3, the ABC boss jocks were dirty to the point of being biohazards and down to their last 20 quid. The Hunger Strikes having only ended in October 1980, we weren't sure how the good denizens of Tramore would react to a radio station run by four English blow-ins of dubious moral standing but, god bless 'em, they loved us.

Well, mostly. There, at the time, being a three-year waiting list for new phone lines, listeners had to walk up the hill and knock on the caravan-door if they wanted a request played.

This all went swimmingly until one day when I was presented with a little old lady who said, "It's great that the young people of Tramore have something to listen to. Just one little thing: why don't you play 'The Angelus'?"

I couldn't for the life of me fathom why my "I'm sorry, but we don't have any of their records" reply elicit such a negative response from the OAP in question. Daggers were also shot when I enquired in the local chemists as to where the condoms were. Asking an engaged DJ colleague of mine how he, you know, had sex with his girlfriend, I was told, "Clingfilm and rubber bands." Inspired by his plight, I became a

condom smuggler, bringing dozens of packs of Durex back with me every time I went home to Mrs. Clark in Kent. My mark-up on these bedroom essentials was minimal.



Stuart Clarke. Photo: Leen Vingerling

Kevin had given us a crash course in how to pronounce Irish names, but I still made complete first-day balls of Dearbhla (Dee-arr-ber-her-la), Siobhan (Sigh-oh-barn) and Caoimhe (Car-o-im-he). It's 34 years after the fact, but I'd like to apologise to renowned local tradsters Bodhrán for making an unintentional mockery of their name.

I must also hold my hands up and confess that my going out with several local ladies had as much to do with them living in gaffs that had baths, TVs, fridges, heating etc. etc. as it did their feminine attributes.

Despite having to find someone else's pot to piss in, Kevin, Andy and Clive's previous radio experience and having Nova to cadge ideas off, meant that ABC sounded pretty damn shit hot. We were certainly a lot more down with the kids than Waterford Local Radio whose

primetime presenters included Sister Eucharia, and more technically savvy than Suirside - who had some great DJs - but audio of the two soup cans tied together with string variety.

When towards the end of 1981 our mast was cut down, it was a DJ we'd sacked for stealing records that wielded the hacksaw rather than one of our competitors who had no interest in triggering a pirate war that would cost us all dearly.

Like Chris Cary, we were more interested in what sounded good on the radio than was in the charts, with John Ratcliff's 'Kerry Girl', Loverboy's 'Everybody Working For The Weekend', Michael Franks' 'Rainy Night In Tokyo', .38 Special's 'Caught Up In You', Toto's 'Africa', Auto Da Fe's 'November November', Wah Heat's 'The Story Of The Blues', Steve Miller's 'Abracadabra', J. Geils Band's 'Centrefold', Quaterflash's 'Harden My Heart' and Bertie Higgins' 'Key Largo' ("We had it all, just like Bogie and Bacall...") among the 7" singles we wore smooth.

One of our stranger A-List picks was The Wolf Tones' pain to the Irish founder of the Argentine navy, 'Admiral William Brown', which was played during the Falklands War to demonstrate that we weren't flag-waving Little Englanders. Had Margaret Thatcher found out, I'm sure we'd have been done for treason.

In addition to my weekday 7am-10am breakfast shift, I bagged myself the Wednesday night rock show, which organised a mini listeners' outing to Dalymount Park in August 1983 for Black Sabbath's Kings Of Rock gig with Mötörhead, Twisted 'Fucking' Sister and Anvil whose 'Metal On Metal' was a caravan favourite. On the Irish front, we couldn't get enough of Sweet Savage, The Mama's Boys or Neuro, a Waterford outfit with a penchant for Bowie's Berlin trilogy who Phil Lynott took a shine to.

At first I was fastidious about getting up at six o'clock to ensure that I was in super-chirpy waking the-Southeast form, but after a few months I'd leave it until two minutes to seven before semi-

nakedly crawling out of my bunk, and had to wait until Andy read the news at eight for the chance to stick a pair of trousers on over my Y-fronts. Thank God there weren't studio webcams back then...

I left Tramore in 1984, but ABC kept broadcasting right up until June 1988 when the new Radio and Television Act - boo! - spoiled the party. By then they'd moved into Waterford city centre, bought themselves a motherfucker of a medium-wave transmitter and joined Nova, Sunshine, South Coast, ERI, Coast 103 and Q102 as one of the aggressively commercial super pirates who didn't win a license because they didn't have any church, GAA, Macra na Feirme or Chamber of Commerce members on the board. Yep, it's nearly 30 years later and I'm still bitter! Chris Cary pulled the plug on Nova in March 1986 following a two-year row with the National Union of Journalists over working conditions that became increasingly nasty.

Deeply unimpressed by Nova's record-breaking 62% share of the Dublin audience, RTÉ unilaterally started jamming their transmissions, but were ordered to stop by Taoiseach Garret FitzGerald who realised that pissing hundreds of thousands of listeners off wasn't going to help Fine Gael's reelection chances.

What happened to Cary after leaving Ireland is infinitely stranger than fiction. Having always been a computer buff, Cary devised a way of pirating the smartcards that unscramble premium satellite television stations. Selling them for £450 each - a fraction of what was charged at the time by the likes of Sky - he was pocketing £20,000 a day until arrested in 1996 by British police.

Not impressed with the four-year term given him by the courts, Cary absconded from Ford Open Prison just four months into his sentence and fled to New Zealand. An equally unimpressed Rupert Murdoch - who'd been stung for an estimated £30 million - sent private detectives to get him back. They successfully tracked him down and Cary was handed an additional 15 months.

His woes continued when, still serving time at Parkhurst Prison, he suffered a major stroke. Chris, recovered sufficiently to return to Dublin in 2007 for the Hot Press Music Show, but suffered another stroke the following year whilst in Spain on business and died aged 67.



Chris Cary in the background Johnnie Walker.

Photo: Martin van der Ven

A controversial figure, yes, but also a visionary one who gave the likes of Colm Hayes, John Clarke, Bryan Dobson, Ken Hammond, Anna Cassin, David Harvey, Gareth O'Callaghan, Greg Gaughran, Chris Barry, Aidan Cooney, Martin King, and Scott Williams their big breaks.

Eamon Cooke sadly turned from hero to zero, with the Radio Dublin boss found guilty in 2007 of 52 counts of indecent assault against two girls during the '70s. Having lost his latest appeal against his 10-year sentence last July, Cooke remains in jail. Of course, Chris Cary wasn't Irish pirate radio's only maverick. Billy Connolly was among those who couldn't believe what they were hearing when John 'The Man' Frawley came up with the money-making wheeze of reading the death notices out on Radio Luimni. The likes of Charlie Cloud, Sammy Sunshine, Ronnie Rain and Willy Wind starred in his weather forecasts, and a member of the Garda Síochána was left shame-faced when Frawley live reported on him going into a pub at 9am on

"urgent business" and not emerging until midday, by which time he was inexplicably wobbly on his feet.

From the cute hoors and the crooks to the future stars and comically bad no-hopers, the Irish pirates of the '80s make what came after them seem awfully tame at times!

Well Stuart thanks for these fascinating memories from the Irish Pirate Radio days, most appreciated. And for everyone who wants to share her or his memories, feel free to send these in:

Hknot@home.nl

Next Ingo Paternoster from Southern Germany who wrote about Radio Dead: 'There is now a station only playing songs by dead musicians. Playing the likes of: Elvis, David Bowie and Michael Jackson. The past few months have been desperately sad for the music industry with the loss of the likes of Motörhead's Lemmy, David Bowie and The Eagles' Glenn Frey.

To 'celebrate' their lives, one man has set up a radio station that only plays hits by dead musicians. The criteria to be played on the online-only station called Radio Dead, is for one member of the group to be deceased. According to Sky News, former Capital and Virgin Radio DJ Steve Penk is behind the 'joyous' station.

"The immediate perception of this radio station, before listening to it, might be that it's in bad taste, but the reality is a joyous radio station celebrating the music of so many brilliant artists who are sadly no longer with us," he said.

"I want listeners to enjoy and remember the incredible music these artists have left behind; it's a great, positive listen." Penk went on to describe how the succession of recent high-profile deaths in the music industry led to the idea. "When I sat down to put the radio station together I was amazed at the list I was slowly building of dead music stars," he continued, "and so many of them never get played on the radio anymore, how sad, what a tragedy."

The DJ has done started niche radio stations before, having created one dedicated just to prank phone calls. However, Radio Dead is no prank.

"There is nothing negative or depressing about Radio Dead, it's a positive, joyous celebration of amazing artists who've all left behind wonderful music, let's not forget the great music they gave us."

<http://tunein.com/radio/Radio-Dead-s265523/>

Next our monthly e mail from California and the Emperor. In last issue I brought a picture from Rosko on a motorcycle. 'Hans, another bit of history sorted! I flashback continually with the report, bravo. The motorcycle in the picture was a Norton 750 that was customized for me, it was stolen in Kensington before I could even break in, it has 600 miles on it! It was a great bike. Whoever stole it please return it to me! Ran in to Georgie Fame awhile back and he was very nice to me on stage and he told the crowd I helped him get started! I was chuffed. I wanted to know if you had any further info on his involvement with Radio Caroline and their jingle services, Brian Auger, Madeline Bell and several blues luminaries of that period were all together with Ronan in some studio in which was consumed. And now things get funny and vague, so question is: 'Who, when, where and all the juicy details on the making of the Caroline sixties jingles? Have I given you some homework stay well, EMP.'



Champagne dinner collection Rosko.

Well EMP We're working on getting contact with Madeline Bell through our good friend Young Paul Rusling from Caroline seventies days and far much more. So maybe next time I can tell you more but I think Georgie Fame was not involved. Anyway tell us more about the above photograph. It looks like a blonde French lady. What was the occasion?

There are a few readers who bring in, always each month, interesting information and one of them is Herman from Belgium who told me that there's nowadays a station transmitting from Tenerife in Spain called Radio Atlantis. The station is on FM in Spain but also receivable in a big part of Western Europe on 6205 kHz. 'Yes it's the same frequency as used by RNI in the early seventies. I think the transmissions come from a location in Italy and they've a power from around 2 kW. In Belgium my reception is really strong, sometimes with fading.

They bring a format of pop music mixed with oldies. Only the pop music they're playing is not really my taste. A bit to disco as well as to much commercialized music. The station used Sky News as informative part, which is transmitted on the hour in English.'

Thanks Herman for the info as well as for providing the next links:

<http://websdr.ewi.utwente.nl:8901/?tune=6205am>



<http://www.atlantis.fm/listen.html>

<http://www.atlantis.fm/contact.html>

Now something more about the main topic from last Hans Knot International Radio Report: Ronan O'Rahilly and Georgie Fame. I did

make a big mistake to mention the backing group 'Blue Fames' instead of 'Blue Flames'. Sorry for that one.

Peter Herring reflected on the story with: 'That was a very interesting read, regarding Ronan and Georgie Fame. Funny as I have always doubted whether he ever managed Georgie as I have never seen it mentioned anywhere else.'

Also John Ross Barnard wrote: 'A 'bravada' edition Hans, what a read. Well several reads actually with the links you provided to the very interesting other websites. Er Bravada? I know you like and enjoy older cars :) Happy Daze John RB.'

And from one of our female readers: 'Another great issue of your International Radio Report, Hans! What an interesting article regarding Ronan O'Rahilly and George Fame. Interestingly, I never heard of Ronan as being Georgie's manager...only promoter. As usual, my bestest to you.' Sherri Lynn.

A longer reflection came from Stephen Raidle: 'The item in your newsletter about Georgie Fame and Ronan O'Rahilly was of great interest. I always had the impression that Ronan was not the manager of Georgie Fame and The Blue Flames despite many books and publications saying he was. Clearly there was some sort of business connection but I was never sure exactly what the relationship was. It was always said that because Ronan could not get any airplay for Georgie Fame on the BBC nor Radio Luxembourg he decided to start his own radio station.

Quite true but I could never fathom out what Ronan was doing trying to get airplay for Georgie Fame. Your latest article puts everything into order so thank you very much. May I just point out one very small correction? You refer a couple of times to the 'City of London' which is not quite correct. The phrase 'City' really refers to the financial district where all the banking and insurance companies have their offices. This is the original 'square mile' that was London, well before it was a city. The area, west of London where all the theatres, night clubs and shady businesses set up shops became the

City of Westminster. London is, of course, two cities, the City of London and the City of Westminster. reference to 'London' refers to the whole area and now even includes Greater London, so vast is the place it is well over 65km from one side to the other but if one refers to the 'City of London' it really means the original city area of banking, commerce and business which still measures a square mile and even has its own Lord Mayor who has privileges over the Mayor of London, Boris Johnson. I know it's a bit odd but you know what strange ideas and traditions we British (especially Londoners) have. I hope this helps but if it has confused you - my apologies.

Please don't consider this a criticism of your article, it really was revealing and explains a lot about the pop scene in London in the early 1960s. My thanks to your continuing series of International Radio Reports, which continue to amaze me with the stories that you collate from the great days of radio. As for today's radio - I've largely given up with most of it - no spontaneity, no excitement, no imagination, in fact it's all very bland and predictable - such a shame.

With best wishes Stephen Raindle'.



Thanks Stephen also for your remarks on using incorrectly the word 'City of London'. Of course I had to know as I've visited the city more than 90 times in my life.

And from Lanzerote it's Robbie Dale: 'Dear Hans, As far as I know Ray Clark was right about Ronan's connection to the Scene. Ric and Johnny Gunnell also opened the basement club 'The Bag o Nails' in Carnaby Street. 'The Bag', as it was known, became the 'in' place after the Speakeasy and Revolution Club. Georgie Fame, Bill Wyman and members of Amen Corner were regulars at the 'Bag'.

Greetings Robbie.



Next is Alan the Soulman back in Manchester again: 'Hi Hans. Interesting report, as always, especially the section on Georgie Fame and Ronan O'Rahilly. I can hardly say I know Ronan well, having only met him briefly on a couple of occasions. Without being unkind, I get the impression Ronan has what we call 'the gift of the blarney' and an ability to charm the people he comes into contact with. It's not inconceivable that he 'spun' the exact nature of his relationship with Georgie and also his role at the Scene Club.

Which brings me onto another snippet of information, which was doing the rounds when Radio Caroline started in 1964. That of how the station gained its name. The oft repeated claim relates to the photo of JFK in the White House with his daughter Caroline playing on the floor.

A few years ago, though, I heard an alternative version, but I'm not sure whether this has been discussed in these pages before. When Radio Caroline first started, they were based as the offices of 'Queen Magazine', whose owner was Jocelyn Stevens, who happened to be one of the station's original backers. I'll let Wikipedia take up the story with his excerpt relating to Queen Magazine:

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Queen_%28magazine%29:

"Queen focused on British "high society" and the lives of socialites and the British aristocracy from 1862 onwards. In the late 1950s under the editorship of Beatrix Miller it was restyled to serve a younger hip readership that was defined by Miller in a style-sheet. According to Clement Freud, who wrote for the magazine, Beatrix Miller's targeted reader had long hair, was named "Caroline", had left school at age 16, was not an intellectual, but she was the sort of person that one ended up in bed with.

"When London became the focus of the Swinging 60s Jocelyn Stevens embraced designers including Mary Quant and embarked upon a project to reverse the U.K. Pilkington Report that denied any demand for commercial radio in Britain. Stevens helped to finance a pirate radio ship project that was also named Caroline with the initial intention of extending the targeted reader as the targeted listener. When Radio Caroline first went on the air (from a ship that was also renamed Caroline), it operated from the editorial offices of Queen.

"The Beatrix Miller style sheet for Caroline was given to contributing writers to the magazine because it gave authors an idea of whom they were writing for. Miller left the magazine to edit Vogue shortly after Radio Caroline went on the air and although the station changed its format when its original plan to reverse the effect of the Pilkington Report failed, the station did not change its name. Originally the radio station sounded similar to the output of the BBC but with some commercial advertising. The magazine retired the Caroline style sheet under the direction of its new editor Jocelyn Stevens himself. When the radio station moved from the Queen magazine offices, a new explanation of how and why the name "Caroline" came to be used by the station was offered to the public in order to divert attention away from its original source. By that time there did not seem to be any chance that the station would get a license and that the Labour Government then in power would seek to close it down as a "pirate radio" operation."

This tallies largely with the alternative version I read about concerning the origins of the station name, but with one exception, that Caroline was the name of a girl friend of Jocelyn Stevens. Of course, it is possible that the magazine's "Caroline" was named after the girl-friend!

I guess that there are only a small number of people who would know the true story and they would have been involved with Caroline at the very start, even before she came on the air. I wonder if the community out there has a connection with that select group?

Oh, by the way, please pass on my best wishes to Graham Gill on his upcoming 80th birthday, I always loved his presentation style and thought his voice was superb for radio. On a cold and wet Easter Saturday here in Manchester, I wish you, Jana and everyone out all the best. Alan Milewczyk.'

Thanks Alan for your reflections, and yes I heard this version to before. On the other hand talking about the photo of JFK with one of the children beneath his desk at the oval office we once showed the real photo. On the cover of that American Magazine never a photo of JFK was published however there was a cover with one of the children playing: John jr.!

Thanks all for the many reflections on the article and I hope to bring more like these in the future. Everyone can send in their own memories, photos and more to me at HKnot@home.nl

Next it's Dave Porter: 'Hi Hans, please find enclosed the link to the next edition of the Signal series regarding offshore radio, including the best info we have so far on the antenna system(s) used on the Olga Patricia.

http://bbceng.info/additions/a/25-29_G4OYX_Signal_Issue_37.html

Offshore (Signal 37)

Tricks of the Trade. This article by David Porter and Alan Beech was first published in Signal, the quarterly publication of The Vintage and Military Amateur Radio Society.

Regards, Dave Porter.'

Next mail from the USA and Rick Crandall who we know from Swinging Radio England: 'Some very nice memories in your April Radio Report, Hans. Especially I enjoyed seeing the picture of you and Graham Gill. He was and is a real gentleman, and a great friend when I was with Radio England / Britain Radio. I also loved the photo you included of the mast being raised on the Olga Patricia in Miami, almost exactly 50 years ago. As I was there on that day, and later sailed the Atlantic on the ship before we began broadcasting from the North Sea, I could conceivably be in that photo, but no way to tell for sure.

This photo also comes at a time when I have just completed hoisting the mast for my new local FM station in St Petersburg, Florida. A photo is attached for your archives. As I'm taking the picture, I'm not in it. We are on the roof of a downtown high-rise building. You can see a few buildings in the background to give you some perspective. As a matter of fact, we are beginning on-air testing this week. This project has been more than 2 years in the making, applying for permits, navigating numerous government agencies, hiring engineers, buying equipment, and so forth. There are a couple more photos and some comments on my website,

www.MusicTampaBay.com

Thanks for keeping the pirates alive in our memories, and our hearts.
Rick Crandall.'

Well Rick of course your e mail was most welcome and very good to hear from you again. Of course I listened to some of the test programming which gave me a good idea and I advise every reader to take a listen too! Good luck with the station and keep us informed.



WMTB building the mast. Photo: Rick Crandall

Next a plug from and for Kevin in England: 'Dear Hans, I thought you might like the link to my website <http://www.kevinstewart.gg/> which features footage from my past at Radio Jackie (as Tony Bond, I'm the one with the catapult) and Radio Caroline (where I was David Brown) with a piece of production I did with Tony Allen. Best wishes, Kevin Stewart.'

And Kevin has done very well as nowadays he is Minister for Commerce and Employment a States of Guernsey Government Department



Above is a surprise from Andy Archer who wrote: 'I've just found this poster and bought it! It features Chris Sanford who was a dj on Caroline North in 1965. Thought you might like to see it. It's a bit cheesy! All the best Andy Archer.'

Well really a big surprise Andy as I've never seen this before so thanks in name of all my readers. Another surprise is a visit I recently became from our reader Luuk Meuwese. He brought his personal archive to me, in which are many surprises. For instant there were many photos he once got from Martin Green who worked on Shivering Sands for Radio City. This series will be soon on the Flickr Photopages

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/offshoreradio/sets>



Martin Green going on the fort (collection Luuk Meuwese).

More than 200 photos have been uploaded this week taken by Richard Kinch in the seventies and are easy to find on the next link:

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/offshoreradio/albums/72157667666807385>

Next an e mail from John Percival: 'Hello Hans, you mentioned cable radio and TV in the UK. Here's another link:

<http://www.meargreen.co.uk/britishrelay/> about a company which operated in the Midlands and also in South-East London where I lived in the 50's and 60's. It also mentions how Radio Luxembourg was relayed which I definitely remember. Still faded though! Perhaps you

could pass on the information to Jan Sundermann.

Here's another comment on your excellent report. This time it's concerning the beaching of the Transeuropa Ferries Ostend Spirit (formerly known as P&O Pride of Calais). What you may not know is that the link you posted was of the second attempt at beaching the ship. The first did not go exactly as planned!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IKeZTycCllc>

Finally, the second attempt again, this time viewed from the ship:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6agTJDB5lno>

Best wishes. John Percival.'

Thanks a lot for this additional information and yes Jan Sundermann is very happy with this new links.

From Germany we heard from Christian Bergmann: 'Nice to know Keith Lewis is doing well and has intentions to return to the radio again. I met Keith twice in the 1990ties - at European Klassik Rock and Merlin Network One. He was a very professional DJ in my opinion and I enjoyed his shows always very much.

There was a lot of work at home too, because we started to renovate two rooms of our house, which will become our hobby rooms - Martina calls them "offshore and Radio Caroline rooms" - any idea? Some weeks ago I obtained the message that one of my favourite DJ's of the German Service of Radio Luxembourg - Jürgen Ebner alias Jörg - passed away. Because the reception quality of the offshore stations was not reasonable in the afternoon, I often tuned into Radio Luxembourg's German Service in the sixties. Especially Jörg's show 'Hits aus aller Welt' was always very interesting for me. His nickname was the 'Hit Professor' and he died at the age of 73!



Greetings to you and Jana. From Christian and Martina.

Thanks Christian for the information, he had a long career in radio. Also we wish you a lot of pleasure in the hobby rooms! Hopefully with nice decorations from our beloved radio stations too!

Good to hear from Ian in England again too: 'Hi Hans, many thanks for the latest Report. Caroline's actual launch date - whether it was Easter Saturday or Sunday - is something that's bugged me slightly over the years. Johnnie Walker's 'fight for freedom' includes the words "...since we've been doing since Easter Sunday 1964." It also includes the words "...Monday, August 14th, 1967" - maybe a simple reference to the fact that Sunday was the 1st full day on air. Over the last couple of years nearly every time I've heard the same recording the word Monday is omitted; a trivial point really but I'm wondering if it wasn't in the original recording. This morning I listened to the regular Radio Ship feature; this week on the launch of Caroline, including the well-known words from Chris Moore "...A very happy Easter to you all," etc.; unsurprisingly many people probably interpreting this as Easter Sunday. A lot of broadcasters seem sure that the launch was on the Sunday but, as the Saturday marked the 48th anniversary of the so-called Easter Rising, Ronan must have been pretty keen to get the station on air on that day. I'm pretty sure I've read, at least in a couple of books, that Caroline

actually opened at midday on Easter Saturday; quite logical as they'd started testing a couple of hours after dropping anchor on Good Friday.

Until I moved from the last flat I had every copy of Monitor; having been really excited by Caroline's relaunch, in September 1972 - and the press coverage in the previous few weeks. I've always wondered whether Buster monitored the original launch. If I'd seen his logging of the original I doubt if I'd be writing this!

The program also included Simon Dee mentioning that in his opinion they started on the wrong frequency. Maybe he felt that they should have been on 259 from the start; or maybe he had another in mind; possibly the original Radio Nord frequency. Understandably the program included a lot of material which crops up whenever there's a key anniversary. Whenever I hear 'man's fight for freedom' or the last hour of Big L I tune elsewhere and it's so easy to lose sight of what they each represented.

I am a bit selective though, as I'm happy to listen to Ronan's accounts of sitting in a Fleet Street office, and trying to hear Caroline's launch, and taking the radio outside, hoping to improve the reception. I can identify with the enthusiasm, as I've always had a real buzz on hearing about and logging the offshore stations - from the late 60s and still have a similar reaction now to news of some Internet and DAB stations.

There will probably always be a bit of uncertainty about Ronan's input in the launch of *Georgie Fame*. His account of taking the acetate to Radio Luxembourg is probably exactly as he recounts it. I've also read that the decision to use the name *Caroline* could well have been influenced more by his infatuation with the Chancellor's daughter. For me, I'm sure it's the Intrigue and speculation that help to keep me interested and why I get a buzz whenever I hear mention of any of the offshore stations - even on hearing the names

Caroline and Veronica! The key thing is that Caroline was launched mainly to crush the BBC and record industry monopolies.

And finally, When reading the e-mail from Benny Brown, and that his wife Marlies was quite understanding about his radio interests, I noticed that her name is an anagram of realism - maybe quite appropriate! Regards, Ian Godfrey.'

Thanks again Ian for your reflections and the only answer on your question possible is Easter Saturday 1964 at noon was the official opening from Radio Caroline and in the first hour Simon Dee and Christopher Moore introduced the station officially to the listeners.

An update on EKR came in just for closing this issue from Mark Stafford who wrote: 'Hans, as you are going to mention Keith Lewis and put the picture of Keith in the EKR studios, could you also give a mention to some interesting news: As you probably know, Peter Leutner and myself were the co-founders of European Klassik Rock back in 1997. In fact I built the original EKR music library and came up with the original European Klassik Rock music format.



Keith Lewis in EKR studio, photo: Mark Stafford

After EKR closed its service on the Astra satellite back in 1999, I went off to work for Radio Caroline, taking the core of the EKR music format with me and that was the basis for Caroline's early days on the Astra satellite. I've been with Caroline in one way of

another for most of the time from 1999 to today. In the meantime, Peter has continued to run EKR as an internet radio service working in conjunction with other people.

For the first time since 1999, the original founders of European Klassik Rock are now back together to launch a new era in the life of the EKR brand. This is the new EKR Digital Network. European Klassik Rock will be one of the stations on the platform along with my two internet stations Easy Rock Paradise and Oldies Paradise. A further two EKR branded stations will be joining these in the very near future.

The first three stations are currently operating on the service. The website is www.ekrdigital.com There is also an EKR App available for Apple devices (Android will be coming soon). I'm sure that, whatever your taste in music there will be something to interest you on the EKR Digital platform. All the best Mark Staford.'

On April 27th other sad news versus Mike Terry: 'Radio Hauraki co-founder Chris Parkinson has died at the age of 74. He was one of the four original directors of the country's first pirate radio station, which broke the government monopoly on radio broadcasting in the 1960s. Broadcaster Chris Parkinson was a co-founder of pirate radio station Hauraki. The original Radio Hauraki broadcast from a boat moored in the Hauraki Gulf outside the three-mile territorial limit. Its popularity eventually persuaded the government to relax the regulations around radio broadcasting, allowing other private stations to begin transmission. Chris Parkinson went on to become involved with talk station Radio Pacific, and worked in the Australian radio industry. His voice was regarded as the one of the best in broadcasting. He was the recipient of many awards during his career, including the Pater Award for the Golden Voice of Australasia in 1987. Mr Parkinson was also the well-known continuity voice for TVNZ News and Current Affairs, and other programs throughout

the 1990s. He died in Auckland.'

<http://www.radionz.co.nz/news/national/302539/radio-hauraki-pirate-dies>

Finally Martin van der Ven and I made a visit to Graham Gill in Amsterdam last Saturday to celebrate his 80th birthday and so we took him out to his favourite Chinese restaurant to have a really good meal. And believe it or not soon he will present another program on RNI Internet radio: Hello Good People! Some other photos of our meeting and far much more other information on other interesting subjects can be found at the Radio London Tribute Page

www.radiolondon.co.uk



Well that's all for this issue of the Hans Knot International Radio Report for this time. Some 15 pages filled with questions and information had to be saved for the next issue somewhere late May or early June. Best wishes Hans Knot.