

Monday's notes were included in last week's write-up. This week, station operation has been somewhat erratic again, especially at the weekend, but the better of the stations did manage to fill their whole announced schedule, and some even more than the announced schedule. While SCR are announcing that Telecom are cutting off the boxes used for "phone in" programmes, both North Coast Commercial had been announcing "phone-in" programmes, and judging by the number of requests and dedications that were read out, neither had any problems with the authorities.

NORTH COAST COMMERCIAL RADIO seem to have operated normally on each weekday, but the close-down announcement was missed on each occasion. At close-down on Saturday, the line-up was announced as Pete Henderson/Andy Davies/Kevin Palmer/John Freeman/Eric Monaghan/Tom Lodge, and that the same line-up would operate on Sunday. When checked, this information seems to have been OK. Note the absence once again of Steve Bishop, which isn't surprising, as he was busy playing "silly beggars" on 1125kHz.

1125kHz No trace has been found of MERSEYWAVES RADIO on this frequency, but on Sunday, Steve Bishop was heard at 11:45am, announcing "RADIO 266", with a mailing address of 41, St. Nathaniels Street, Toxteth, Liverpool L8 7RX. At 12:03pm, he played a track of a group called "Moving the Sky", after which he started ID-ing the station as "Moving the Sky Radio" or "MSK Radio", "for today only". During the course of the day, he interviewed Mike Campbell of Radio Veronica, who said that RV were not on the air because they did not have a transmitter or a location. They hoped to be back on the air soon, but people had let them down badly over promises to provide a transmitter. By 2:20pm Steve Bishop was relaying Channel 5. The relay was still in progress at 4:20pm, but the station had gone from the air when checked at 5:15pm.

STORETON COMMUNITY RADIO remain the most erratic and unreliable station in the area, in spite of having the best signal. Not so much "tomfoolery" has taken place this week, but operation has been more erratic and announcements unreliable. Many announcements made only minutes before things are due to happen turn out to be false. Part of the station's problems seem to be that many of the DJs operate mobile discos, and are not available for station duty in the evening and they don't turn up during the day-time if they have had a long, hard, "night before". Also, the station has often gone off the air early because parts of the "equipment" have been required at some of the discos! No doubt these things will eventually be sorted out, but in the meantime, announcements of 24 hour per day, 7 day per week must be treated as a bit of a joke. Another reason for the intermittent operation of the station will undoubtedly be the illness of Miss Chris Sinclair, who was always "Muggins" when it came to volunteering to stand-in for missing DJs. Over Christmas it was announced that Chris was "rather ill" but it has since been announced that she is in hospital.

Through the week the station seems to have operated all day and at least to late night, except on Friday, when the Jill Sinclair and John Sniff Shows were heard after getting home from work, but SCR had gone from the air by 8:20pm check. They were not heard at all on Saturday. New Years Day operation was erratic, and the station was not heard until 1:19pm. Regular checks showed the station in operation until 8:07pm, when just an unmodulated carrier was heard, although John Sniff was back on the air by 8:25pm. The station was again heard with an unmodulated carrier at 11:30pm, although the station was back on the air at 11:43pm.

CHANNEL 5 were another station whose DJs suffered the effects of the festive season. On Wednesday night I was just in time to hear Steve West closing the station down, saying that they would probably be "testing" during the week, although none of the "tests", if any, were heard. They were not noted until 1:03pm on Saturday, when Gary Smith(?) was in the chair. The Steve West Show was in progress at 2:19pm, and my observations would seem to suggest that he carried on until Nick Catford took over at 7pm, because Pete Williams had not turned up. Round midnight, when all the DJs sounded slightly worse for wear, I thought that they intended to sign-off just after midnight, but they went on and on. At 1:30am only an unmodulated carrier was heard, but the station was back in full-swing by 2am. On New Year's Day, Steve West was on the air at 11:10am. He was still there at 2:15pm, when he said that he was standing-in for Nick Catford, who had stood-in for Gary Smith. Gary Smith was heard at 5:15pm, but the station had gone from the air at 6:20pm. However, at 6:48pm, Steve West was back on the air to close the station down early, after they had been announcing 9pm close-down. Reason given was that some of the DJs had not turned up.

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RADIO ELEANOR were heard on Saturday with the Christmas 10am to 8pm line-up. On New Years day, their sign-on time was one hour late, and Tony Reeve was missing. The line-up was:- 11am Paul Rogers; Noon Nick James; 2pm Barry Cullen; 4pm Mark Wright; 6pm Paul Rogers to 8:07pm close-down.

STATION "M" INTERNATIONAL were first heard at 12:19pm on Sunday, although the signal was so weak that the station was not identified at the time. Shortly before 2pm, a "Jon Brand" feelaround was heard as part of the Phil James Show, and at about 2:08pm, Phil James, saying that he had been on the air for the past two hours, handed over to Dave Wilson. At 5:34pm, a DJ whose speech was very indistinct with a poor signal and high background noise level, signed off and handed over to Roger Dee, who was still on the air at 6:20pm and later, although the station had gone by 8:07pm check. Roger Dee apologised for poor signal, and said that the antenna at the present location could not be improved

Stations not heard this week include:- Central Radio International, Radio Jackie North and Merseywave Radio.

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BANK HOLIDAY MONDAY - 2nd January 1984

NORTH COAST COMMERCIAL RADIO opened up one hour late, at 9am, with Dave Walker standing-in for Tom Lodge. At Close-down, Tom Lodge announced the DJ line-up as:- 9am - 10am Dave Walker "standing-in for me"; 10am - Noon Dave Walker; Noon - 1pm Pete Henderson; 1pm - 3pm Eric Monaghan; 3pm - 5pm Kevin Palmer; 5pm - 6pm Tom Lodge: During the close-down announcement I understood that the "phone-in" was a regular feature between 10am and 4pm, but I only heard the telephone number once. This was picked up as (051) 675 7506, but I can not find exchange number 675 in the local directory, so I guess that I must have mis-heard something.

RADIO ELEANOR opened up with "spot on" time pips at 10:00am. Both Barry Cullen and Nick James were "at work" today, so announced line-up was 10:00am to Noon Tony Reeve; Noon to 2pm Mark Wright; 2pm to 4pm Paul Rogers; 4pm onward, anything was likely to happen. In the event, at 5:36pm Paul Rogers announced that the station would be closing down "in a couple of records time", so I guess that they signed off at 6pm. The telephone number announced for the "phone-in" on Saturday was (051) 652 4947, although I am not sure whether this was "one-off" or a regular number. Wisely, all phone-ins are confined to fairly short periods of time.

STORETON COMMUNITY RADIO were first heard at 2:12pm with the Uncle Ern Show. It seems that he had been waiting on the doorstep for ages to get in, but only a limited number of personnel have keys. He was on the air until 4pm, when Martin "C" came on with an important announcement. He said that Paul Woods would be on the air from 5pm to 7pm, but for the next two hours, "SCR would be operating on 1242kHz, with the full blessing of Steve Bishop, its owner". Strange, this, as 1242kHz has been occupied for a number of weeks by Channel 5, with Steve Bishop choosing to operate on 1125kHz. The SCR theme tune was heard on 1242kHz at 4:10pm, and Martin "C" said that he would let it run for 5 minutes to give people time to re-tune. When checked 10 minutes later, SCR had gone from both 1125 and 1296kHz. At 4:50pm, Paul Woods was back on the air, but on 1296kHz only, and saying that the transmission on 1242kHz lasted for only 5 minutes. At 7:30pm, John Sniff began to close down the station, until 2:30am or so, with the type of broadcast that is virtually guaranteed to bring out the authorities.

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