MERSEYSIDE FREE RADIO SCENE Week ending Sunday 17th November 1985

This week has seen most of the local stations with problems of one sort or another and WFM not heard at all.

CENTRAL RADIO INT 18, Glynne Street, Orrell, Bootle, Merseyside L20 6DF. This station was on the air from 10am Monday, with Charles Browne standing-in for Tony James. At 2pm, Phil Davies said he would be on the air till 4pm, or maybe 5pm. When checked at 4:15pm he was still on air, but had gone by 4:55pm. Due to activities elsewhere, the station wasn't noted on Friday, but "on air" announcements suggested that they were on air but opened late and closed-down at 4:50pm when something "blew-up". Initially, nothing amiss was noted on Saturday except for a change in schedule with Jim Lowe doing 10am-12:30 pm and Jim Browne doing just \frac{1}{2} hour from 12:30pm-lpm. From 5:45pm, the station sounded as though it was being very badly jammed, but rotation of the ferrite rod showed that this was actually the signal being put out by the station, together with a measure of Continental interference. On Sunday, they apparently opened at 8am, but at 11:45am or so, Jim Browne said that they had "changed frequency". It seems that the oscillator was wandering all over the band. An earlier telephone call had told them that they were on 1422kHz and that they were putting signals into the shipping bands. When I checked them out, they were splattering all frequncies down to 1340kHz and up to 1485kHz. Modulation was terrible, but clearest around 1404kHz, but with zero response from the S-meter. The peak S-meter reading was then on 1425kHz, but with poor signal. When checked a little later, the peak response was at 14272kHz. Around 2pm they went off the air for about \frac{1}{2} hour to get things sorted out, and came back on approximately 1418kHz, which, after a short length of time had drifted back to 1427kHz. Strangely, the best reception was on the cheapest receiver and apart from a very annoying heterodyne whistle, the apparent "jamming" effects of the previous night were not noted.

CONCEPT RADIO 104.8MHz: 18, Glynne Street, Orrell, Bootle. Merseyside L20 6DF. This station opened at noon on Sunday, with a relay of Central Radio. They say that the MW signal from CRI is filtered and re-transmitted by Concept Radio. This seems to be verified by the difference in signal between that transmitted by CRI and that put out by Concept They put out their own programmes from 7pm, but the schedule wasn't completely noted, The schedule is believed to have been Tim Lowe 7pm-8:30pm, Tom Webb from 8:30pm-llpm and Jim again from llpm to beyond 12:15am.

C-104, 104.0MHz stereo FM: No mailing address heard

This station opened at noon and operated to 6pm with Andy Davies/Paul Kay/John Dwyer doing two hours each.

RADIO MERSEY WAVES 1242kHz: 9, Meadfoot Road, Moreton, Wirral, Merseyside, L46 7NE. This station opened on Monday at 8am with the Dave Collins Show. He was followed at 10am by Barry Nobletill moon. Shortly after noon the station was not found and was still off the air by midnight. They weren't due on the air again till Thursday, when they opened at 8am with a very weak signal. Dave Collins was noted at 8am, but the station had gone from the air a short while later. Paul Jay said on Sunday that Dave had arrived in the studio to find the transmitter in "red hot" condition, and that a short time later it had burst into flames. The station were off the air for most of the day and weren't noted again till 3:45pm when they operated till lam close-down. At a time when the station are announcing 24-hour operation, they seem to be having problems with DJs not turning up for their programmes. On Friday they opened at 8am as scheduled, but Dave Collins "filled -in" from 11:am-11:30am when they closed-down till Noon. After noon, they operated normally till 3am off. On Sat, Mark Wright extended his show till 1pm to cover for the Dj missing from Noon, with Mark Newman covering from 1pm to 3pm and Paul Woods plus KtC doing an extra hour to cover 3pm-4pm. Tara also extended her 6pm-8pm slot by at least ½ hour, when Dave Collins took over till 10pm, when Mark Newman did the 10pm-Midnight slot. The schedule after Midnight was not noted. The Sunday schedule seems to have been as normal, but with one exception. Usually Martin Miller does 7pm-10pm, but this week he did 7pm-8pm, with Dave Collins filling-in for the extra two hours. It is not known whether they closed down at lam, after the KtC show, or whether they continued to 3am with Peter Thomas.

STORETON COMMUNITY RADIO 1026kHz: 91, New Hey Road, Birkenhead, Merseyside L49 7NE This station operated Monday through Friday with a full schedule from 8am to Midnight or beyond (normally 2am). On Saturday, however, they opened at 8am and after Joe Williams and Brian "C", John Snifff was heard to sign on at noon and was heard at later checks. By 1:20pm, the station had gone from the air and was not heard again for the rest of the weekend.

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At the time of typing, all postal services on Merseyside are suspended due to a strike at the GPO. All mail-boxes are sealed and letters are all held up.