MERSEYSIDE FREE RADIO SCENE Week ending Sunday 2nd Feb 1986

The news this week isn't good, with Central Radio being raided by the DTI at 3:45pm on Friday. Radio Mersey Waves are now operating at weekends only, and have been off the air for most of the weekend due to DTI activity and technical problems.

WFM 90·3MHz FM. 3, Wareing Avenue, Birkenhead, Merseyside, L42 6QH.

Anoraks UK report that this station were on the air from 10pm to 1am on both Tuesday and Wednesday evening, but the broadcasts weren't noted here.

CENTRAL RADIO INT. 1413kHz: 18, Glynne Street, Orrell, Bootle, Merseyside, L20 6DF.

The station were on the air from 8am on Monday, with Charles Browne doing a marathon 4-hour session till noon, when Phil Davies took over till 3pm. Jeff Thompson was on the air from 3pm, but seems to have closed down the station shortly before 5pm. They were not on the air by 8:45am on Friday and after that time I had no means of listening, so the following comes courtesy of Jim Browne. They opened at 9am with Charles Browne to 10am, then Jeff Thompson till noon. At Noon, Jeff handed over to Phil Davies till 2pm. From 2pm, Jim Browne himself was standing-in for one of the other DJs till 4pm and was still operating the transmitter at 3:45pm when the DTI raided. The DTI took the transmitter, decks and Jim's record collection but left the mixer, leads and a lot of other bits and pieces. They took the format and station notices from the wall, but left all the correspondence and other papers. They also took nothing at all from the other room which contained Jeff's record collection and another set of decks. Maybe some of them are human after all!!. Needless to say, Billy Ball, the new DJ scheduled for 4pm-6pm wasn't heard. The station hope to be back on the air in about three weeks time and are already talking of increased power

RADIO MERSEY WAVES 1242kHz: 9, Meadfoot Road, Moreton, Wirral, Merseyside L46 7UW.

This station now appear to be operating Fri night and Sat/Sun all day only. They were not heard on Monday night, as on previous weeks. I am told that on hearing of the raid on Central Radio, they opened late on Friday, but they were on the air by 6:45pm, when I first had a chance to check the frequency. Heard were:- ??-7pm DJC; 7pm-10pm Dave Collins; 10pm-Midnight Mark Newman and Midnight-?? KtC. On Saturday, the carrier came on the air at 8:30am but had gone again by 8:58am. The station was not heard all day. On Sunday a very "noisy" blank carrier was noted, but the station didn't open till Noon. The signal was terrible. Music was distorted and speech was barely readable. Mark Newman said that they had been having tremendous technical problems, which is why they had not been on the air. The transmission cleared by 12:30pm, and heard were:- Noon-1pm Mark Newman; 1pm-3pm Paul Jay; 3pm-5pm Burt Williams and 5pm-7pm Keith the Chief. The latter didn't do his Top-40 show as the station experimented with a "live" phone-in. After a test call from KtC's "mum" and a few teething troubles with the equipment during Lorinda's call at 5:30pm, the live phone-in really took off. When they closed it down at 6:15pm, they had received calls from Prestatyn(3), Preston and Barrington in Cumbria as well as numerous local calls. They were obviously using a CB link, which was deliberately being interfered with at times. They say that they will have things sorted out by next weekend, when the experiment will be repeated on Saturday during the joint Paul Woods/KtC show. From 7pm on Sunday, Tony Coltrane was on the air. He was scheduled till 10pm and was still on the air round 8pm "theme tune" time, but when checked at 9:25pm, the station had disappeared lock, stock and barrel from the Medium Wave. Not even a carrier remained, and at the time of writing, it still isn't known whether the station broke down or whether the DTI were still in the area.

RADIO JULIE 104·8MHz

This station, often mentioned by Anoraks UK, were noted briefly on Saturday night. The announced frequency is 104·8MHz, but seems higher on my receiver. They were barely above the background noise on Saturday, and appeared to be using an address in the South of England, but a Moreton telephone number for their phone-in. They were also heard briefly on Sunday, with better reception, but not till shortly before 10pm close-down The mailing address wasn't noted, and the station said that they would be closing-down at 10pm due to DTI activity and the fact that they hadn't got adequate security arrangements. They say that they will be on the air again tomorrow, but tonight's early close-down of Mersey Waves may cause them to have second thoughts.