MERSEYSIDE FREE RADIO SCENE Week ending Sunday 30th March 1986

On Friday, Radio Mersey Waves announced that they were raided yet again by the IMM at approximately 9am on Tuesday morning. Fortunately, they were not broadcasting at the time and no-one was caught, but they lost all the studio equipment. Burt Williams said that someone "grassed" on them. The effect of this raid seems to have kept all the midweek FM stations off the air although I understand that both WFM and Mersey FM are off the air because of transmitter problems. Radio Julie were reported to have been on the air on Thursday evening, but were not noted here.

RADIO MERSEY WAVES 1242kHz: 9, Meadfoot Road, Moreton, Wirral, Mermeyside L46 7UW. Opened at 7am on Monday and schedule noted was: - 7am-llam Bawe Ibilins; llam-lpm Barry Noble; 1pm-3pm Tony Coltrane; 3pm-5pm Alan Bates; 5pm-7pm Peter Tromas; 7pm-9pm JEFF STARR(new DJ); 9pm-Midnight Tara; Midnight-4am KtC. As a recult of this early morning finish, the station didn't open at 7am on Tuesday and the DFN tost them to it! They were back on the air at 7am on Friday but seemed to be using make-shift equipment and the signal wasn't too good at the best of times. In order to try to preserve continuity if they are raided again, they intend to have a couple of stand-by transmitters available. This weekend they have had transmissions on 981kHz(305m) and 1188kHz(250m). The transmission spans of the broadcasts on the latter frequencies weren't noted, but the station seems to have tested 1188kHz on Friday and Sunday, with 981kHz tried out on Saturday. Heard Friday were: 7am-llam Dave Collins, llam-lpm DJC; lpm-3pm 977; 3pm-5pm Mark Newman; 5pm-7pm Paul Woods & KtC; 7pm-10pm Mark Newman; 10pm-Midnight Tara; Midnight-lam KtC: The Saturday line-up was: - 7am-10am Dave Collins; 10am-noon Mark Wright; Noon-2pm Jeff Starr(in for Barry Noble); 2pm-4pm DJC; 4pm-6pm KtC & Paul Woods; 6pm-8pm Fara: 8pm-10pm Mark Burgess; 10pm-Midnight Mark Newman. They appear to have closed down at midnight, Heard Sunday were: - 9am-11am Mark Burgess; 11am-1pm Wayne Scott; 1pm-3pm Paul Jay & Dave Collins; 3pm-5pm Burt Williams; 5pm-7pm Mark Wright (in for KtC). From 7pm the station had a few equipment problems. The line up was 7pm-10pm Peter Thomas and 10pm-fildnight Mark Newman. However the station was off the air when checked at 7:35pm but had reappeared by 8:17pm, and was off the air when checked at 10:15pm. They resumed broadcasting at 11pm with llpm-Midnight Mark Newman; Midnight-lam KtC and lam-2am Mad Mike, This station was featured in an article in the Wirral Clobe this week,

STORETON COMMUNITY RADIO 1026kHz: 91, New Hey Road, Woodchurch Estate, Birkenhead, This station have been overlooked on Monday, and were Merseyside 149 7NE. forgotten about till 3:30pm. Noted were: 3:30pm-5pm Andy Rogers; 5pm-7pm Kenny Gee; 7pm-10pm Uncle Ern; 10pm-Midnight close-down Brian "C". At close down, Brian "C" is believed to have announced that the station was closing-down till Thursday, but on that day nothing was heard of them and Friday also drew a blank. They were next noted at 5:36pm on Saturday after apparently signing on at 5pm. Heard were: - 5:36pm-7pm Danny "D"; 7pm-Midnight Brian "C" and Midnight-?? Andy Rogers. On Sunday, the carrier seemed to have been on the air by 9:15am but modulation (continuous music) vesn't noted till 12:16pm. Programming seems to have commenced at 1pm, and heard were: - 1pm-3pm Andy Sloane; 3pm-5pm Brian "C"; 5pm-7pm Jeff Jones; 7pm-10pm Kenny Gee; 10pm-Midnight Andy Rogers

CENTRAL RADIO INT 1404kHz: 18, Glynne Street, Orrell, Bootle, Merseyside L20 6DF. This station's carrier was noted on Friday from llam with the station "testing". The carrier was intermittantly on the air, sometimes modulated with taped music and at other times not modulated at all. Sign-on time for programming wasmat noted, but Phil Davies was into his show when checked at 2:43pm. Heard were: - 2:43pm-4pm Phil Davies; 4pm-6pm Jim Lowe (relayed on FM by Concept Radio). At 6pm during the theme tune before shill Davies' programme, the signal became intermittant and disappeared from the air within 30 seconds. They didn't come back on the air at the scheduled time on Saturday, and were not noted until 1:45pm, when the Phil Davies show was in progress. Heard were:-1;45pm-4pm Phil Davies; 4pm-6pm Tom Webb; 6pm-8pm Charles Brown 8pm-10pm close-down Jeff Thompson. Heard on Sunday were: - 8am-10am Charles Browne; Man-Moon Jim Browne; Noon-2pm Tom webb; 2pm-4pm Phil Davies; 4pm-6pm Jim Love. Pros Opm onwards there was some disagreement between the DJs from Central and Concept and it was disappointing to hear them making the disagreement public over the FM and MW bands, Workher station came out of it with any credit. Concept were to have relayed Contral Radio till Opm, when Central were due to relay Concept. However, due to one reason or another, Jim Lowe left the CRI studio at 6pm with the transmitter relaying Concept. At 7pm First Davies switched the MW transmitter back to "live" programming and did a show till Spm, when Jeff Thompson took over till llpm. From 8pm-10pm, Jeff featured the whole of War of the Worlds. At llpm,

Jeff Thompson said that Central Radio would be relaying Concept Radio, but in spite of calls on FM that went unanswered, the Central Radio transmitter remained unmodulated although the carrier was still on the air when last checked at 12:45am. I learned later that when the switch was thrown to relay Concept at llpm, the modulation amplifier was damaged to an extent where the station wasn't able to come on the air the following day.

CONCEPT RADIO 104-4MHz: 18, Glynne Street, Orrell, Bootle, Merseyside L20 6DF.
This station was first noted on Friday, but not till 4:50pm or so. They appear to have relayed Central Radio from 4pm-6pm then closed-down. They were noted on Saturday from 2:15pm with Jim Lowe till 4pm then with a relay of Central Radio till 8(?)pm.
On Sunday they relayed Central Radio from noon. They say that the late start was due to a breakdown of their power supply unit and that for the remainder of the day they would be operating from batteries at reduced power. They relayed Central till 6pm, when they began their own programming with a tape of KEITH's show from the previous weekend.
They veren't too pleased when the CRI transmitter came back with its own programmes at 7pm instead of relaying them, but from a listener's point of view, after an initial mis-judgement by Phil Davies, it was Concept who chose to keep the disagreement going by "live" comments for the rest of the evening. I still have a lot of difficulty in distinguishing Jim Lowe and Tom Webb's voices on the air, but the schedule for Sunday appears to have been:— 6pm-8pm Keith, with a lot of "live" interuptions; 8pm-11pm Tom Webb; 11pm-Midnight Jim Lowe and Midnight-2am(???) the Webb and Lowe show.

OF THE PROPERTY OF THE PROPERT

One serious omission has occured in the above notes. On Sunday 30th March, on CRI the Jim Browne Show was actually the Jim Browne/Mark Evans show. Mark was a long-standing member of CRI who dropped out of sight. Jim Browne welcomed him as a prodigal son and Jim Lowe on Concept has been announcing him as a "now" regular member of the CRI team. Mark's own brand of humour is badly missed on the local scene. For example, some time ago be was "in the hot seat" while everyone else on Merseyside was watching a Liverpool v Everton Cup Final on TV. He said "If you are watching in colour, Liverpool are in red and Everton are in blue, but if you are watching in black and white, Liverpool is the team with the ball". Half of the City has never listened to him since then, which is the real reason he dropped out of sight!