

Shambles at Hyde Park Corner

THE centre of attention, obviously, is the rowing / disaster of Sunday.

Only some 500-600 people arrived due to the abyssmal public efforts. No-one could actually claim responsibility for organising anything. Dave Johns, Dave Owen and Roy Brooker made valiant attempts to fill in time until someone in authority arrived - they never did.

Another thing that hindered the rally was a group attempting to profiteer illegally from the crowd. Fortunately many of their wares were distributed evenly over the ground of Hyde Park. As Alan West told me: "These things kept hitting you. You kept

getting assaulted by rolled up magazines - it was terrifying."

An equally unpleasant sight was that of several people waddling across the road with piles of these things - do my eyes deceive me or did I actually see the managing editor trying to flog a few copies without the police noticing?

The Caroline people were complaining bitterly - quite rightly they denied all knowledge of the organisation of the event and were very disappointed in the total shambles. A spokesman said "Let's face it, it wasn't much good. Let's hope something better can be got together soon - we're thinking about it. We had nothing to do with the organisation of this rally. We just got the letter a week or so before telling us about it and naturally assumed it had been arranged properly - we're very sad things turned out the way they did."

Later a group went to Capitol and LBC and someone ranted on over the air of both about Capitol deliberately jamming Veronica.

All the stations want to emphasise that the views he expressed are not theirs.

The total chaos of Sunday just goes to prove that individuals cannot organise rallies. Please, in future leave it to the FRC and the stations. Plans are being considered and you can contact the Free Radio Campaign by asking at one of the information service numbers.

We understand that not only are there disgruntled dee-jays aboard Caroline, but also on Atlantis.

One reason is a gentleman called Ivor Stamp. He was meant to go out to the ship recently. Half an hour before he was to leave someone from the station rang him up and was told he was in the bath - needless to say, he didn't go out and thus caused havoc for all the dee-jays aboard.

The London representative of Atlantis has tried 21 phone calls, eight letters, and two visits, but cannot as yet contact this gentleman. In reading this maybe he would like to get in touch with the station. I'm sure that they have many sentiments to pass on to him.

As you know, Atlantis as such is to close. The full details of last week's mind

changing and general havoc, which the listeners never knew about, are reported elsewhere. Adriaan Van Landschoot - the owner - has now decided to close the station. Atlantis could well continue, though, as other plans are being prepared. It would certainly be a pity to see such a superb station go.

On Caroline a move from the Dutch coast is generally expected after the act, although there are no definite plans yet. All that is certain is 'Caroline continues,' and that it would stay somewhere in North Western Europe.

Work on the 389 transmitter is going ahead to schedule and we are promised an all day English service within months of the act - I hate to say it, but promises, promises.

Informed sources say that the voice of peace is at present resting in Marseilles and will soon set sail for Cyprus - Israeli waters. Peter Chicago was there last week with Graham Kay and Robb Eden. Even Ronan himself paid a fleeting visit. The ship should set out within a month.

This column is compiled in co-operation with the independent Broadcasting Information Service on 01 599 2886, 24 hours over the weekend until 7 pm Sunday, and Tuesday - Thursday 7 pm to midnight - 061 773 9149, 7 pm to midnight every evening 0782 617714, Sunday 10 am to 11 pm - Arbroath 4180 / 0752 35605 from 8 pm to 11 pm and 0865 21745 from 9 am to 6 pm.

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12.09.2008 14:22

25.10.74

TONY TAKES IT EASY

AN INSPIRED Tony Allan is in London at the moment, living it up while on shore leave from Radio Caroline.

He told R&PM in an exclusive interview: "I must admit that I'm pretty tired of working out at sea, especially after the rotten weather we have been having recently. I think I'm also rather tired of having to pretend that I'm not coming in and out of the country. I appreciate that I'm breaking a statute law, but I am prepared to accept the consequences if they do decide to haul me in."

BY
DAVE JOHNS



world and use it, which is exactly what I have tried to do. I started life with Radio Scotland, and then moved on to commercial television where I was a continuity announcer. I enjoyed the work there, but radio is what really interests me. So, when RNI came along it was a great opportunity, though even there I became

unstuck. There were several of us out there who were real professionals, and being perfectionists as Andy Archer and I are, we both

fight because we are both trying to do one better than each other."

So, what does the future hold for Mr Allan? "Life for me is a gradual progression, regression and digression to all points until they touch. I love radio, but I suppose if I hadn't got into it I would have been a social worker. I haven't really got any ambitions or aims, but I would love to be a radio drama producer. Mind you, unless anyone comes up with any offers to work for one of the commercial stations I shall probably stay with Caroline, or perhaps I'll go to the States. You never know."

"I do feel I owe my listeners something. When I'm out on the M1 Amigo, the only thing I really care about is my programme. From the way I look at it, if I do a bad show (10.00-1.00 am) Andy Archer will have

only two listeners when he follows me."

Tony started in radio simply because he knew he had a good voice. "It was like the Bible says, if you have a talent you should go out into the

**2 NORTHSEA IN-
[ATIONAL] quits
'waves for good at
the end of the month to
return in a clever new
guise early in October.**

Operating as Radio Nova International, the ship will push out a new all-powerful 105 kw signal from its new home in the Mediterranean.

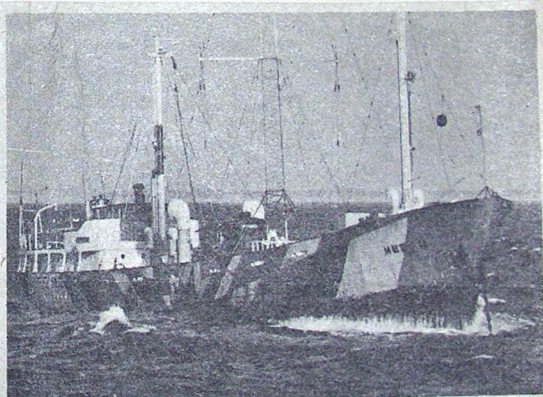
Test service

For two weeks prior to the start date - provisionally October 13 - the Mebo will transmit a 24-hour English test service on the new wave length of 186.190 metres Medium wave.

Brian Mackenzie, an RNI jock for three years, told RM this week: "The Mebo will cease broadcasting on August 31, then it will be on the sea for two days before putting in for a complete re-fit. Vital work will be done to the transmitter, bringing it up to full power and during the journey to the Med the ship will broadcast in English."

Brian is not remaining on board, explaining that the three-weeks on, three-weeks off system devised for the future would not suit him. He is entering into a sauna restaurant business in North London and plans to marry very soon.

English transmissions from the Med will be restricted to



Off for a re-fit . . . Radio Nova International.

the hours between 7.00 pm and 3.00 am with the Italian service operating between 6.00 am and 7.00 pm. The question of all-day religious programmes was discounted by Mackenzie.

Italian base

"Only 20 minutes per day is envisaged," he told us. "An American evangelical company has bought that time."

The ship has opted for Italy because the country does not, contrary to popular belief, have a Marine Offences Act.

An Italian company has been operating for several months now, from offices in Milan. Mackenzie said the station's owners, Meister and Bollier, had named the new

service after Bollier's Hotel Nova Park in Switzerland.

He added that the musical format of the new station would remain basically the same as it is now. Transmissions would go out on 390 metres medium wave (10 kw) and also on short wave.

Disc jockeys remaining will be Roger Kent, Robin Banks, Bob Noakes and possibly Don Allen. Two new disc jockeys are to be appointed.

Exit RNI, enter Radio

Nova International

12.09.2008 14:23

It's the end - rally Sunday

A MASSIVE free radio rally is set for London's Speaker's Corner on Sunday, following the Dutch Government's decision to outlaw offshore broadcasting from the end of the month.

Already Radio Caroline has lent support to the event by promising to have at least four disc jockeys present.

The meeting, which starts at 3.00 pm, is expected to produce the biggest demonstration by radio supporters since the British Act was passed.

It is unlikely that any positive resistance to the Dutch move will materialise though the rally is seen as a show of strength and

solidarity in the free radio movement.

The passing of the Dutch Marine Offences Act becomes effective on August 31 and was announced on Dutch television this week.

An immediate reaction from Radio Atlantis was the dropping of its daytime Flemish service in favour of an English 24 - hours - a - day format adopted on Sunday.

Response to this has reportedly been over-

whelming with letters and telegrams of support flooding into the offices of station owner Adrien Van Landschoot - a clothing millionaire.

At the time of going to press REM understood the station would however return to its Flemish daytime service on Wednesday.

The other ships affected: Radio Northsea International, Radio Caroline / Mi Amigo, and Radio Veronica, have still to announce their future plans. It seems likely that Veronica will bow out on August 30 and possibly RNI too. Caroline's future seems a little more secure since this week they were advertising for a new engineer.

Since the close of messers Atlantis and RNI the deejays have all been doing their own thing(s). Don Allen has just moved house to the other side of his road. Dave Rogers spent some time resting at home, but is now up in London searching for work. Dave Owen is also having a chance to put his feet up, but he tells me he has his finger in a project due off the ground in mid-November. Alan West, who

made fervent attempts to join Atlantis just before it closed, is just about to start working for the GPO. Derek Jones, formerly an engineer and jock on Atlantis is now working for the company who tendered the Jeanine.



What now for Veronica? Station programme controller Rob Out said in a television interview this week: "We don't know what we shall do but we won't break the law."

Stonehanged

POLICE estimates put the number of people attending Caroline's Love and Awareness Festival near Stonehenge at almost 3,000.

Caroline disc jockey and organiser of the festival Mike Hagler commented: "It turned out just the way I wanted it. Three thousand people came ready to give as well as take and to really participate. On Friday night we camped on army property. Authority was faced with a dilemma. There was nothing they could do. It was all so peaceful."

He went on: "I think it's gotten us a little bit nearer that day when the World will say 'What the hell are we doing?' And when enough people say that, Caroline's job is done."

Boss Ronan O'Rahilly was reportedly "very pleased with the response to this mid-week event by Caroline listeners - many of whom could not attend because of exams."

ALTERNATIVE VOICE

YET AGAIN I've been got at over the air. This time, Tony Allen on Radio Caroline. I won't go into all the sordid details.

Still with Caroline the pressing subject is "Political or no?" at the next election. Many of us would like to see Chairman Harold; Comrade Benn; Komissar Foot, etc. . . . removed from Number 10. I think that Caroline boss Ronan O'Rahilly would too. However, will he dare to use Caroline?

It's tempting. In 1970 Caroline International, alias RNI, had an astounding effect on the general election.

At that time one Labour seat with a majority of 15,000 fell to the Conservatives. Many think that these and other marginals only fell to the Tories because of the ship on the North Sea. Undoubtedly, Caroline could have the same or even greater effect this time.

There are disadvantages though. Firstly, the station would almost certainly be jammed (ie have a government transmitter creating nasty noises all over the programme). Secondly, the Belgian radio Mi Amigo might also be jammed - and then there would be a big shortage of money. Caroline could probably survive - but only just.

By the time you read this, Ronan will have decided. You could well be hearing adverts for the Conservative party again or you could be hearing very little because of a megawatt Navy transmitter.

Finally, either way if you want the commercial radio stations to continue, more to come on the air, and, at least, a more favourable attitude towards the off-shore stations, there is something you can do. Go and offer to help your local Conservative candidate as soon as possible. Look in the phone book under "Conservative" or see a new monopoly in broadcasting under the Labour Party.

MARKLETT

12.09.2008 14:23

4375 Caroline . . . peace and

SWANSEA Sound d-j Crispian St. John, formerly with RNI, Caroline, and Atlantis, has replied to Mickie Mercer's attack printed two weeks ago.

He says: "I felt that Mercer's letter was most unfair to Caroline."

"Back in the summer of 1972 Radio Caroline was no more than a legend. All that remained was a rusty hulk in Amsterdam, a ship that we all believed would never sail again. Then, after a lot of hard grafting, a small group of people managed to purchase the ship, and over a long period, more or less re-build it. From a rat-ridden vessel in the middle of Amsterdam, it

became a floating radio station fit for a queen!

"Radio Caroline faced more problems than any other radio station has ever had to face. The people involved went through hell to achieve what there is today. I know a lot of us moaned a lot at times, but looking objectively at the past, it's been worth every minute of it."

"How can anybody expect a life of luxury when the station is outlawed by so many governments, when tenders have to travel so far? — It's just not on!"

"Caroline is making headway for album format radio, it's promot-

ing Loving Awareness, and it's constant, against all odds. Let's try and realise this, and I for one hope that the Mi Amigo stays on the air, and that Roman O'Rahilly's dream about peace and awareness is understood by more people daily. There are already signs that Caroline has support and that she has a future."

"And let's not say dreams cannot come true, for before '84 the whole Caroline project was no more than a dream. Who cares about all the hard times in the past, when you can turn your dial and hear such a warm station?"

Thank you Crispian.

good music

TWO WEEKS ago, I mentioned that Tony Santos was in the middle of his attempt to break the world record for non-stop playing of singles and albums at Gullivers discotheque in London. Well, last Wednesday, May 14, Tony turned off his decks after 720 hours playing discs!

He was entered in the Guinness Book of Records as the world record holder for non-stop singles playing — 208 hours between March 13 and 21, 1973. Stephen Williamson of Australia set the record for playing singles and albums at 555 hours in December, 1973, but a week after Tony started his latest marathon, the record was raised to 630 hours by a DJ in Denmark, so Tony went on to beat that by 90 hours.

Radio Luxembourg sponsored him, and progress reports were broadcast every night at 9.15 on 208. His thirty-day stint was also covered by Capital, Radio London and Thames TV.

Tony has been the resident DJ at Gullivers for over three years now. As it all took place there, Tony had to include a normal show between 9.00 pm and 4.00 am every night. I asked Tony how he felt.

"Absolutely worn-out! I'm glad it's over and I'm now looking forward to my bed and having a good long sleep. It's definitely my last marathon. I'm going to rest for about a week and then start work again here. I also want to concentrate more on my girl friend's career."

His girl friend is Patricia Ebighwal, who used to be a member of the Flirtations, and is now currently appearing in The Black Mikado — an updated version of Gilbert and Sullivan's famous opera. Tony manages Pat, and is presently negotiating a record deal for her.

"As well as Pat coming

DJ PICK OF THE WEEK

Our disco top ten this week comes from Ron Orme, who is the resident disc jockey at the Foresters Arms in Chesterfield. He operates a disco called Sounds Fantastic and works there on Fridays, Saturdays and Mondays. He uses S.A.I. Mark 5 decks powered by an S.A.I. Column speakers with bass horns.

He has over 1500 records to choose from as he plays a wide range of music in the pub starting off with chart sounds and then some oldies. Later on in the evening, he features half-an-hour of slow records like The Rolling Stones' Move On and Cliff Richard's The Next Time.

- 1 Out of Time — Chris Farlowe
- 2 Locomotion — Little Eva
- 3 Let's Dance — Chris Montez
- 4 Yesterday Man — Chris Andrews
- 5 Black IS Black — Los Bravos
- 6 Pied Piper — Crispian St. Peters
- 7 Baby Love — The Supremes
- 8 Landslide — Tony Clark
- 9 Higher 'n' Higher — Jackie Wilson
- 10 Hey Girl Don't Bother Me — The Tams

down here after her show every night, people like Cliff Richard, Hot Chocolate, The Drifters, and the Tymes popped in to say hello," he went on.

"I'd also like to thank Dave Street of Soundout, and all the DJs and staff of Radio Luxembourg. I mustn't forget Phil Tibber of Gullivers for providing the food during my 'exile'."

On the subject of food, I wondered what Tony's diet was. "I had steak and salad every evening, oysters during the day, and tea and honey four times a day. I also had a medical check-up every other day, as it can be dangerous. You see, I'm only allowed to sleep while albums are playing, and that averages about twenty minutes at a time. I wasn't allowed to use tapes, and the content had to be 50 per cent singles and 50 per cent albums."

"The worst thing was the flashing lights in the evening. They tend to make your eyes really burn. I found the most difficult time of the day was between 3 pm and 7 pm. This is when I play mainly albums."

"In case anyone gets the wrong idea, I did have a shower once a day. It was one of those pumping types — not very comfortable. Since I

started, I've lost a stone and a half, and have grown a beard!"

Tony has some very good advice for would-be DJs.

"One of the most important things is good equipment. It's advisable to have both treble and bass controls for your microphone, and this should be separate from the music sound system. I also think that DJs shouldn't shout, because there's only one Rosko and he's really the only one who can get away with it."

Throughout the marathon, Tony used a Soundout Series III disco console, in conjunction with two Soundout DL3 cabinets. During 720 hours of playing the only thing that went wrong was a small bulb in one of the flexlights. Not bad for 30 days continuous operation.

To finish with, I'm sure everyone is with me in wishing him hearty congratulations and I'll let the world record holder Tony Santos have the last word. "I'd like to thank everyone who was involved in the marathon, and all the people who came to see me. I'd like also to particularly thank the security team of Dino, John and Tony who did a great job of looking after me."

FOUR WEEKS NON-STOP EARNs TONY THE TITLE



TONY SANTOS: day two of the marathon

12:09:2008 14:24

RNI — the pirate radio ship impounded by Dutch authorities for the past six months — will be released this weekend and should be broadcasting to England within a month.

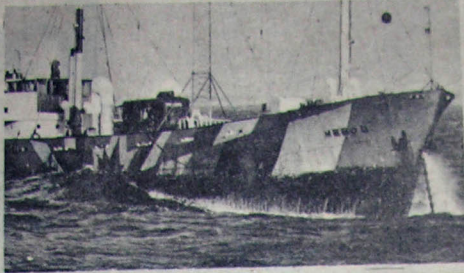
Owners Meister and Bollier have had to pay a massive £40,000 to the Dutch Government as a security against the ship broadcasting again off the Dutch coast. Yet the pirates could go one step further and sail the ship back to the Thames Estuary where Radio Caroline is already operating.

This week British DJs Robin Banks, possibly Don Allen, Bob Noakes, and Graham Gill, were all understood to be preparing to return to the completely re-fitted boat.

Originally the plan was to sail the boat to Italy or Spain, broadcasting a local service in the daytime and an international service (in English) at night. Now a full English service — in competition to Caroline — seems possible.

The ship was originally impounded while undergoing extensive re-fitting in Slikkerveer harbour (Rotterdam) because under Dutch law a ship with

RNI READY TO RETURN



a radio transmitter is illegal. The owners successfully argued that since it was registered Panamanian, where the law allows transmitters as cargo as long as they are disconnected, they

should go free.

Pirate spotters should hear some signal soon, signifying that Radio Northsea — or Nova as it was to be called — International, is back.



POLICE raids in Belgium have led to the entire Radio Mi Amigo staff leaving their farm house hide-out in favour of plush offices and studios in Playa de Aro.

Playa has been the hiding address for the British and Dutch services on the Mi Amigo since last September when the

Dutch ratified their Marine Offences Act, but up until now they have found it possible to continue working from Belgium.

Rumours in the Dutch press, substantiated by comments over the air on Mi Amigo, warned the Dutch authorities that Radio Mi Amigo would call itself Radio Veronica. The Dutch police intervened, asking the Belgians to take action.

The raid, which took place over a week ago, brought the arrest of two of the Radio Mi Amigo



Flight to Spain— Mi Amigo courts Veronica

prior business commitments in Belgium.

All tenders will now come from Spain, instead of the occasional boats from the Dutch coast, and with Caroline and Mi Amigo, under the one roof, it should mean that mail for the station should reach the ship quicker.

The Radio Mi Amigo owner, a Belgian millionaire, has sold his business interests in Belgium, which included a record and publishing company, and his Suzie Waffles factory, and has moved his home to Spain. Although the business interests are sold on paper, the basic belief is that all three companies

disc jockeys, plus a record company official who was visiting the studios to deliver records.

The two jocks arrested were Bart Von Der Laar and Peter Van Dam, but they were only clearing up after the remainder of the staff had left for Spain.

In Playa de Aro each of the three disc jockeys will have their own studios, plus accommodation and travelling expenses. Both Bart and Peter were not travelling to Spain, due to

BY DAVE LONGMAN

are still his, but not in writing.

At Press time, it was not confirmed when the Mi Amigo programmes will adopt the name of Veronica, but the move obviously results from two ex-Veronica disc jockeys joining the station.

Rumours in the Dutch press have also indicated that the Veronica ship has been sold, and that it will soon be making for the Italian coast, where it has possibly picked up the contract that the Mebo organisation were to have taken up. According to sources inside Holland, the indication is that Veronica is now being run by a former manager of the Veronica Road Shows.

The return of Veronica on 535 metres after June, will, assuming Capital Radio are not using the frequency after that date, mean that the signal should again be audible in this country, assuming they are within transmitter range.

12.03.2008 14.25

And the end of RNI too?

A COURT case in Holland involving RNI owners Meister and Bollier forms a continuing background to the Radio Caroline drama on the high seas.

The dispute is between them and the Dutch Government and is to do with whether or not crippling harbour dues must be paid before the Mebo 2 can leave harbour.

When Record Mirror & Disc spoke to Erwin Meister last week he sounded dejected.

The ship has been in Rotterdam harbour for

over a year.

For eight months the ship was impounded, but a recent court case freed the vessel.

Harbour fees for the Mebo have been accumulating all that time. The present court case is to decide whether the dues should be paid.

Meister and Bollier say that had the vessel not been impounded, the bill would not have been so large.

"Radio Caroline" ist wieder zu hören

London. (rtr) Radio „Caroline“ sendet wieder. Nach 13tägiger Funkstille verbreitete gestern der Piratensender wieder ein Programm von dem Schiff „Amigo“, 20 Meilen vor der Südküste Englands. Englische Polizei und Beamte des Innenministeriums waren vor 13 Tagen an Bord des Schiffes gekommen und hatten drei Personen wegen Verstoßes gegen das Rundfunkgesetz festgenommen. Der Zutritt zu dem Schiff war den Behörden möglich geworden, nachdem die „Amigo“ während eines Sturms in englische Hoheitsgewässer geraten war.

Terry Davis

UNLESS YOU'VE got a mind like a computer, or unless you've got incredibly good hearing, you probably won't remember the name of Terry Davis. You do? Well, read on.

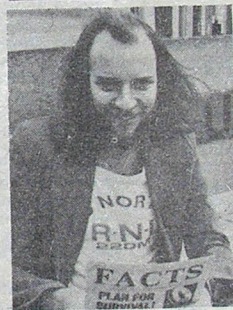
Terry, in 1972, featured very prominently in the Record Mirror Pop Poll in the disc jockey section. That was the year that Roger Day won the section and Dave Rogers (now using the name of Keith Rogers) came second.

Terry was working on Radio Northsea International. Since he left the station in October of 1972, he has been back to school. Now, that may seem strange to you, but Terry was in fact only 17 in 1971 when the now famous Crispian St John left RNI making a vacancy for him. So, back to school it was, where Terry passed two A levels, which in turn led him on to Hull University.

Last summer, Terry did some relief work on Radio Atlantis, and one of his main claims to fame out there was in making up a series of multi-tracked



BY DAVE LONGMAN



Terry Davis.

jingle and station promotions. These were sung by Terry, who accompanied himself on guitar. When he got back from Radio Atlantis, he set about recording and writing songs, with the result that he is presently having negotiations about having his first release, One Way Street put out as a single. Said Terry, "University certainly hasn't made me an academic. In the past year I've done some acting, singing and the radio work. But it is the songs which interest me the most. I'm a more creative man than I was when I was on RNI." AT R+PM, we all wish Terry the best for the future, and I'm sure all readers will join in wishing him a very happy belated 21st birthday of last week.

Radio

Three pirates in court

AS HINTED in Record Mirror & Disc recently, September 18 sees the first actual attempted prosecution under the British Marine Offences Act.

Summoned under the Act are three disc jockeys and one engineer from Radio Caroline.

The court case at Southend resulted from a tender being caught by the police as it landed on the Essex coast earlier this year. The authorities had been shadowing the tender and the activities on the MI Amigo for sometime.

Being the first prose-

cution under the Act, this is seen very much as a test case. If the disc jockeys are found guilty without actually being caught broadcasting, this will mean that anyone who is traced to have worked for Caroline, is immediately likely for prosecution.

Fines are likely to be up to £400, or alternatively six months in prison.

Book

THE book on the radio pirates

THE PUBLICATION of the new book, Offshore Radio by Gerry Bishop will be welcomed by pirate radio enthusiasts up and down the country.

The book is really tremendously good value, and even taught your reviewer many things about the growth of the stations.

The book has been produced with a great deal of energy by Bishop, and gives an authoritative guide to all the stations which ever broadcasted in Western Europe.

Perhaps the price will put people off, but a good hard swallow and the departure of £5 from the

pocket, will be well rewarded.

Only a small point, but there are several spelling mistakes, and a photo of Radio Atlantis is back to front.

But even so, this doesn't detract from the fact that this is a long overdue publication.

What would have been good to see in the guide, is a few of the more juicy stories of life on the ships and forts, which would have made for even more

compelling reading.

For the connoisseur of old photos of disc jockeys, there are memory jerkers of Tony Blackburn, Keith Skues, Dave Lee Travis, Johnnie Walker and Mark Wesley in their pirate days.

All in all, this is a first rate publication, and even if you can't afford it right now, how about dropping a big hint to your favourite relative or girl friend?

OFFSHORE RADIO, by Gerry Bishop is available from Music Radio Promotions, PO Box 400, Kings Langley, Herts, price £4.75, plus 30p postage.

FOLLOWING MONTHS of speculation about the 389 frequency previously used by Radio Caroline, test transmissions have been heard over the last two weeks on high power. It is rumoured that Caroline is preparing the use of the 389 frequency for when Radio Orwell comes on air this Autumn. The tests from Caroline have been in the form of continuous music.

● **FOR THOSE** who saw the BBC show, *Disco*, last week, and noticed that Capital DJ Roger Scott is

on the panel, it will come of no surprise to learn that Radio 1 is interested in having Scott join them. Although denied by the Beeb, would it not be a reasonable suggestion that Scott will take over the afternoon slot on Radio 1 when Radios 1 and 2 split transmissions later this year, leaving David Hamilton back on Radio 2?

● **ON THE RNI front**, the ship is still firmly lodged in Rotterdam harbour, where station owners

Meister and Bollier are fighting the legal battle over who should pay the harbour dues which resulted when Dutch authorities impounded the ship. Whatever the outcome, the Mebo 2 will have to take down its mast again, before it leaves harbour. It now seems unlikely that the ship will broadcast off the British coast when it leaves Rotterdam, because there has been an offer from an African government to buy the programmes to them.



The real Terry D

Will the real Terry Davies

IF YOU remember, a few weeks ago RM&D was telling you that there are several Terry Davies imposters.

Well, the Terry D of Radio Northsea fame has managed to supply us with a photo this week which will end all the confusion.

Apparently, there is a second Terry Davies who operates discos under that name. It is in fact his

real name, but he makes no pretence to having worked on RNI.

The imposters first came to light when the second Terry Davies came across someone saying he was the TD who worked on RNI.

This third 'Terry Davies' works for an agricultural college, and as soon as the disco Davies met him, it was apparent that the third

TD was too young ever to have been on RNI.

To set things straight, the real RNI Davies is at Hull University at the moment, and tells us that he doesn't do discos, nor is he on the radio, except that from time to time, he does work on Hackney Hospital Radio.

If anyone is in any doubt, contact Bob Kingsley or Des Shepherd at Radio Hackney.

Radio

Changes in the air

TWO EVENTS during the last week, are likely to have a significant effect on the future of two radio stations broadcasting in Britain, at Radio One and Radio Caroline.

Disc jockeys and record company executives serving Radio Caroline and Radio Mi Amigo, are particularly worried about their future in Spain, with the political situation being very finely balanced.

At the time of going to press, General Franco had not died, but commentators in Spain feel that his successor, Prince Juan Carlos might not wish to allow the radio

station to use Playa de Aro as its base for much longer.

Therefore, the changing political situation in Spain is likely to pose a greater threat to the existence of the two stations.

The British Government has so far not succeeded in putting Caroline off the air, but with a new ruler in Spain hoping to impress himself on other world leaders, it might not be unreasonable to suggest that Spain will co-operate with any Government wishing to put Caroline off the air.

The only saving grace for Caroline and Mi Amigo, is that while they operate from Spain, thousands upon thousands of Dutch and Belgian tourists are flocking to the Spanish coastal resort of Playa, following promotions on Mi Amigo inviting people

stom after being taken on by Thames Valley Radio in Reading as their breakfast show man. Paul is sending out press kits complete with a full biography, photograph and press release.

● **THE LIKELIHOOD** of Johnny Jason winning his court case over his working for Caroline, is now increased. He is being represented by the legal bods who won the recent Crossman Diaries

A Spanish political party cannot gain the support of the public by offering to keep the pirates on the air, as only a handful of people in Spain listen to the stations.

The other event was the naming of the successor to Douglas Muggerridge as Controller of Radio One and Two.

That the new man, Charles McLelland, is likely to have no effect, is in itself, quite important.

Commentators saw that the only way that major changes could have been brought about at the BBC, would have been by the vacant post being filled

from within Radio One. If for instance, Derek Chinnery, head of Radio One, had been promoted, then it would have allowed one of the younger and more lively characters to have been elevated to a position of greater power as head of Radio One.

Many people will laugh when they realise that McLelland is at present head of the BBC's Arabic Service, and has been Indian programme organiser, but be that as it may, he is a sound broadcaster, and a man well fitted to take over the post.

Bleeps

BBC MAN Simon Bates narrowly escaped death last week outside Broadcasting House, just avoiding being run over... Piccadilly Radio and Capital Radio last week taken off the mailing list by prominent record company. Reason given by record company that the radio stations refused to play their product.

Talking of Capital, a recently published audience research survey said that Kenny Everett's successor is doing better than him. Definitely one in the eye for Everett, the

apparently revolved around.

Robin Banks is on his way to the Peace Ship, having given up all hope of joining RNI. A final of all court cases is taking place in Holland this week, with the RNI owners fighting for the last time not to have to pay the heavy fine and harbour dues accrued since the Mebo 2 entered Rotterdam harbour last September... RM&D understands that should the court case not be in favour of Meister and Bollier, they will break the ship up. Full report next week... Also next

week, more news from the Peace Ship.

Mummers from BRMB in Birmingham, that the station is going through a bad time, having just received a telephone bill!... Best wishes to all at Radio Orwell this week.

With a year now since the close of RNI and Atlantis, it is good to see so many of the bods ees with regular commercial radio work. Steve England and Dave Owen at Piccadilly, Tony Allen and Ian Anderson at Forth, Brian Anderson at Tees, and Messrs. Greg Bance, Andy Archer and Keith Rogers at

● **AFTER THE** fears about the changing political climate in Spain making life difficult for Radio Mi Amigo, comes the word from Spain that the Spanish Government is planning to take no steps to put the station out of business... Reports suggest that the Government is fact paying Mi Amigo for their promotion of Spain as a holiday attraction.

● **PAUL HOLLINGDALE** at present having a brain

12.09.2009 14.2

Caroline- Mickie Mercer writes

MICKIE MERCER left Caroline several months ago, but after our various articles in R&PM, he decided to write in with his personal impression of the struggles he faced on the Mi Amigo.

"Some people believed that Radio Seagul was an experiment, perhaps it was but not on a national level. It was chaos, the engineers using bits of silver paper as fuses; the 'Fire The Dee-Jay Game'; the beloved organisation on land; the list of absurdities is endless. A group of people were brought together to build a radio station, all of them thinking they knew what they were doing, yet in reality, none of them did. And behind this was a certain Irishman with a

beautiful blag, "If you don't know what you're doing, raise your hand high with the 'V' sign, smile, say Love and Peace, and everything will be alright. Seagul was born."

"On board, the Mi Amigo the struggle was entered in by all, armed with brains, lots of mouth, and a few eggs and various vegetables. It was a constant confrontation with each other. There were times of hate, love, sadness, joy, but never indifference. We were trying to learn how to communicate with the listeners, to each other, and the organisation on land. The listeners were responding with more than the usual, "Please can you send me a photo", and everything

was fine. Tenders started to arrive, and we even got paid. Then, as last summer went by, things got worse as bitterness grew, and at the same time, so did the mechanical problems. An air of conspiracy filled the cabins and people switched sides with each role of the ship. Instead of promoting L.A., we now had to promote A.A., Albums Awareness. I have now left Caroline, but the station is still there, but it is hovering between life and death. I would go through it all again if I had the chance, even knowing the outcome, because on Caroline you were part of a "family", and you learnt how to love other people. It was an experience, not an experiment."

FREE RADIO

FILMING for the epic of epics, "Tower of Power" (see last weeks Disc), seems to have gotten under way a week or two early. Screaming Lord Sutch, backed by several other *Shivering Sands* personalities, arrived unannounced in Whitstable on Sunday and was later seen leaping about in front of the cameras.

Earlier in the week the film's director related a rather sad incident to me (fade in violin music). It seems that after months of searching he tracked down shots of the original pirates landing on the forts. Donning his coat, he hotfooted it round to the studio's to pick up a copy but, on arrival, found that as the film was over ten years old it had been destroyed . . . two weeks prior to his visit!

With the Dutch Marine Offences Bill almost upon us, the Free Radio Campaign of Holland are now sending out information on the 'final North Sea trips around the radio ships.' The tours which visit the *Mebo 2* (R.N.I.), *Mi Amigo* (Caroline), *Norderney* (Veronica) and *REM Island* (Nordzee) leave Scheveningen harbour on August 3 and 17 and cost 15 Guilders (about £2). There is an on board disco, food, bar, etc and a free film show afterwards. If you are interested write pronto to J. Verbaan, F.R.C.-Holland, PO Box 9460, Den Haag, Holland.

After a long spell on dry land, Brian McKenzie is back on board the *Mebo 2* this week. Jason Wolfe meanwhile, packed his trunk and departed for a holiday last Friday.

CHRIS ANDREW

Johnnie heads for the States

JOHNNIE WALKER will be guest speaker at the Billboard Disco Forum to be held in New York later this month. Johnnie will be talking about the role of the radio dj as disco dj - a situation that doesn't occur very often in the States as yet. Whilst in New York, he will co-host



three radio shows and two TV programmes, then fly down to Los Angeles and San Francisco for more radio appearances.

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The finest and most comprehensive selection of records and books on Offshore Radio is available from Music Radio Promotions, a division of Script Publications. Our products are now being offered to readers of Record Mirror at special discount prices, for a limited period only!

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"TEN YEARS OF OFFSHORE RADIO" — Sound recordings of British Offshore Radio. A double LP featuring Radio London, Caroline, City, England, Britain, Scotland, 270, Invicta, Northsea, 300, Such, KING and Tower. Many historic and unique recordings. **SPECIAL OFFER PRICE — £4.75 for double album (or £5.25 for double play cassette).**

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Three 45 rpm jingle singles are available, ideal as station souvenirs or for deejay use whether radio or disco.

JS/1 40 RADIO NORTHSEA INTERNATIONAL

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All the jingle singles are available for a **SPECIAL OFFER PRICE** of just **£1.00**. All four singles for **£3.50!**

Books

"OFFSHORE RADIO" by Gerry Bishop. This long awaited book is due for publication during June 1975. It is a detailed compilation of facts and figures on every offshore radio station that has ever broadcast in the world. Large A4 book with 150 photographs. **SPECIAL OFFER PRICE — £4.50.**

"RADIO CAROLINE" by John Venmore-Rowland. The story of Caroline from its start in 1964 up to shortly before its closure in 1968. Includes photos and details of most of the deejays. Published 1968. **SPECIAL OFFER PRICE — 60p.**

"WHEN PIRATES RULED THE WAVES" by Paul Harris. The best seller of the 1960's about the British pirate stations between 1964 and 1968. Illustrated with photographs of the ships, forts and personalities. **SPECIAL OFFER PRICE — £1.90.**

"THE RADIO NORD STORY" by Jack Kotschack. A fascinating book about the Swedish pirate station that was one of the pioneers of offshore radio in the early 1960's. Translated from the original Swedish edition. **SPECIAL OFFER PRICE — £3.00.**

"RADIO HAURAKI — THE SHOE STRING PIRATES" by Adrian Blackburn. Specially imported from New Zealand, this book has never been available in Europe before. The story of the only pirate station in the world that has been given a licence and invited on shore by a Government. **SPECIAL OFFER PRICE — £4.00.**

T-Shirts

RADIO CAROLINE T-SHIRTS — Two colour silhouette of the Caroline against a setting sun. As worn by the deejays and crew of the good ship Caroline! Sizes Medium or Large. **SPECIAL OFFER PRICE — £1.60.**

Posters

Giant colour photo — Posters of the Mi Amigo. Size 42 x 58 cm posted in a special cardboard tube. **SPECIAL OFFER PRICE — £1.00.**

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All ashore . . .

JOHNNY JASON, voted seventh in a pop paper poll last year, has decided not to return to Radio Caroline, but instead joins Metro Radio in Newcastle, where he freedanced last summer.

When Record Mirror & Disc spoke to Terry Bate of Broadcast Marketing Services last week, he explained how he met Johnny several years ago, and put him in touch with Ronan O'Rahilly. "I rate him as one of the best announcers in the country," said Terry.

Johnny takes over from Len Groat, who is leaving the station after two years. He will host the morning show from 9.00 to 1.00. His move to a land-based station emphasises once again the prestige of Radio Caroline. Alan Simons has left to join Thames Valley Radio, Andy Archer has joined Radio Orwell and Trevor 'Big T' Campbell has gone to Downtown Radio in Belfast. It must be remembered that the likes of Johnnie Walker, Rosko, Tony Blackburn, DLT and many more have used Caroline as a launch pad.

Radio

The end for Caroline?

A MIS - CALCULATION by the crew on the Mi Amigo last Friday led to the arrest of three Radio Caroline disc jockeys, and the ship's captain.

A week ago last Friday the Mi Amigo broke anchor from its position off Clacton during a storm, and drifted south towards Margate.

Out of date charts said the channel was outside British territorial waters.

Following the recent Bay Closing Act, the area is now under British jurisdiction. When Caroline resumed broadcasting last Thursday, the Home Office was quick to notice this fact.

The Home Office and River Police raid was well documented in the national press and on radio.

The disc jockeys and ship's captain were taken to Southend police station where they were held over night.

On Saturday morning they were taken to court, and charged and released on bail of £1,000 each. The accused were asked to surrender their pass-

ports. The raid took place in dense fog.

Three vessels drew alongside, and officials boarded the Mi Amigo.

A scuffle in the studio resulted in the Flemish Radio Mi Amigo tapes being turned off, and officers from the Radio Regulatory Department of the Home Office removed the crystal from the transmitter.

Further fighting took

place when one disc jockey was forcibly removed from his cabin.

With the station off the air, five crew members remained, and while efforts were being made to move the ship out of British waters a northerly gale blew up.

On Sunday evening the ship started dragging anchor in a force 10 gale, and a radio call brought the Margate life-boat to the scene to take off two more crew.

At the time of going to press, a tug was on the way with the tender from Spain to help the ship and leave a fresh crew.

Although the Home Office would not confirm it, the understanding is that they are hoping to get a court order to tow the ship in for causing a danger to shipping.

Radio

RADIO CAROLINE returned to the airwaves last week to the delight of the Caroline staff and supporters, though it was understood that the atmosphere at the Home Office was distinctly gloomy.

Transmissions started last Wednesday in the afternoon, although the

Caroline returns

signal was not particularly strong. At the time of going to press, the signal strength still had not improved noticeably, although that does not worry the station's

supporters too much.

Power will be increased during this week, hoping to bring it up to the same signal strength as before the raid, although this may not be too easy. With Peter Chicago not on the ship, it is expected that repairs after the Home Office raid and the storm that followed will take longer than usual. Chicago has become an integral part of the Caroline team, and his presence until after the trial will be sadly missed.

The Mi Amigo tapes are still being produced in Spain, and right from the first time the transmitters were switched on again, they were right on cue.

CAROLINE STAFFERS UP IN COURT

Four Radio Caroline staffmen were due to appear in court charged with offences under the Marine Broadcasting Act as Deejay Monthly went to press.

Disc jockeys Glenn Schiller, 22, an American, of Totteridge Village, North London and Simon Burnett, 21, of Kingswood Avenue, Bromley, are accused of taking part in illegal broadcasts within British territorial waters.

Engineer Peter Murtha, 27, of Torridge Road, Thornton Heath, is accused of repairing used equipment for illegal broadcasts, and Dutch captain Werner de Zwart, 30, of Alicante, Spain, is charged with being the master of a ship used for illegal transmissions.

The men appeared in court on Saturday, November 15 in Southend when they were remanded on £1,000 bail until December 11.

Their arrests followed a police raid on radio ship Mi Amigo after it broke its moorings and drifted into territorial waters.

Gales lashed the Thames Estuary and two crew members were taken off the ship by lifeboat to Ramsgate.

They were Kelvin O'Shea, 19, of Cartridge, Chesham, Bucks, and Ronald Doyle, of Prescott Street, Liverpool.

The quartet said nothing on their last court appearance, when the gallery was packed with friends and free radio campaigners.

Currently, Mi Amigo is outside territorial waters, broadcasting from Knock Deep, five miles from the ship's original mooring.

Anyone helping the ship to operate faces up to two years' jail and an unlimited fine.

Mi Amigo moved to the British coast at the beginning of September following legislation in Holland similar to the Marine Offences Act.

"We are watching the situation closely," said a spokesman for the Free Radio Association.

Radio

Caroline staff fined

FOUR STAFF from Radio Caroline appeared in Southend last week at the Magistrates Court, following the Home Office raid on the Mi Amigo on November 8.

With the exception of Peter Chicago, the ship's Captain, and disc jockeys Simon Barrett and Glenn Schiller pleaded guilty, though admitted they would not have broadcast had they known the ship was within the British legal limits.

Simon Barrett was fined £200 with £50 costs on two counts, though Glenn Schiller (Michael

Lloyd) was only fined £50 with £25 costs. The Captain, who for much of the hearing remained silent, was fined £100 with £50 costs.

Peter Chicago, in pleading not guilty asked for the case to be settled on the spot as he wished to have his passport returned to him as he wanted to return to his home in Holland.

Adjourned

The case was adjourned, the prosecution having no case prepared, and the magistrate agreed to Chicago's request for his passport to be returned. The case will re-start on February 23rd next year.

In the prosecution evidence, an explanation was given about the boarding party. The prosecution also asked if the Home Office and

Police could be granted permission to confiscate the Mi Amigo should it drift in to British waters again. The magistrate granted permission, though explained that the owner should be allowed to claim the ship back, should such an event take place.

Also at Southend Magistrates Court the same day was the case involving the former Radio Atlantis disc jockey, Andy Anderson. Under his real name of Andy Smith, he was charged with two others of attempting to set up a radio station on the Gunfleet Old Lighthouse.

During the raid which took place on the Lighthouse earlier this year, broadcasting equipment was removed and confiscated. They were remanded on bail of £100 each, and were sent for trial at Chelmsford Crown Court at a later date.

12.09.2008 14.29

Radio

Court case ends

Mebo settles up and casts off

24.1.76
THE DUTCH courts have settled the case between Meister and Bollier and the Dutch Government. Last Summer, the Dutch authorities freed the Mebo and its tender, although demanding that the harbour dues should be paid for the time the ship was in Rotterdam harbour. The bill was reported to be in the region of £1½ million.

Miester and Bollier pleaded that they could not afford the money, and that had the ship not been impounded, the harbour dues would not be owing. The ship was originally impounded a year last October when it was rumoured that the ship would return to broadcast off the Dutch coast.

But the Dutch Government has agreed to pay the harbour dues for the time the ship was impounded until last Summer, when the ship was technically free.

Meister and Bollier will pay the difference (about £¼ million) immediately, and the ship should sail within the next two weeks. Definite news of a destination is not con-

firmed, although it will probably anchor off Sheeveningen again temporarily to test the equipment before moving.

There seem to be two possibilities. The first appears to be the most logical, assuming the power from the renovated transmitters is good, the Mi Amigo operation will switch from the Caroline ship to the Mebo. The Mi Amigo boss has already talked with Meister and Bollier, who are unlikely to operate the station themselves.

The second possibility is that the Mebo will sail to the Israeli coast, and take over from the Peace Ship operating on a high power which can be picked up in England.

All quiet on the Mebo front

31.1.76

RNI BOSSES Erwin Meister and Edwin Bollier are keeping quiet about the future activities of the Mebo 1 and 2.

Despite the story in last week's Record Mirror & Disc, there is still no firm news about the future of the station, though the disc jockeys on their way to the ship are still banking on the ship returning to the North Sea.

The Caroline organisation has strongly denied that the Mi Amigo operation will pull out of Caroline, and it was learnt this week that there is a two year contract at present in operation between both Ronan and Radio Mi Amigo.

However, it is not expected that the Mebo will be run by Meister or Bollier, but instead another financier would organise the programmes from the ship. A possible candidate for station manager is Adrian Van Landschoot, the former Radio Atlantis boss.

Bollier told Record Mirror & Disc this week that he would have "news in seven days."

