

Radio Hauraki DJ dies

Dateline: 10th February 2013, New Zealand

One of the original and most popular Radio Hauraki DJs, Ross Goodwin, has died after a long battle with cancer.

Ross joined Radio Hauraki in 1967 when the station was broadcasting from its offshore base. Radio Hauraki founder, David Gapes, said, " Ross turned out to be a fantastic talent and a great find and one of the reasons that helped make Radio Hauraki such a success."

Later in his radio career Ross was Programme Director for the, by then landbased Radio Hauraki and helped make it Auckland's number 1 station in 1987.

Ross Goodwin died, 8th February 2013 and is survived by his wife, Denise, two children and two grandchildren.

(Thanks to Offshore Echos Magazine)

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Radio Veronica film planned

Dateline: June 2013, Holland

Film Director Steven de Jong is examining the possibility of making a film about the history of Radio Veronica. An outline scenario has already been written covering the history of the Dutch station from its inception in 1959 to the final broadcast in August 1974. It is hoped to use the ex-Radio Veronica ship, *Norderney*, in the film.

(Thanks to Offshore Echos Magazine)

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Ex-Radio 270 chief dies

Dateline: 19th July 2013, Yorkshire, England

Wilf Proudfoot, former Joint Managing Director of Radio 270, has died at the age of 91.

As soon as Wilf Proudfoot heard about plans for a new offshore radio station to serve Yorkshire and surrounding areas he approached founder Don Robinson with the intention of launching an advertising campaign for his chain of supermarkets and was invited to become a shareholder in Ellambar Investments, the company behind Radio 270. He persuaded many other local business owners to join him as shareholders and was soon appointed Joint Managing Director.

Before becoming involved with offshore radio in 1965 Wilf Proudfoot had already been a successful businessman – he started his first grocery shop with £125 from his RAF gratuity and, over 30 years built up a chain of 15 supermarkets.

George Wilfred Proudfoot was born in County Durham on 19th December 1921 and was educated at Crook Council School and Scarborough College. During World War 2 he served in the RAF as a fitter, then returned to Scarborough where he started his grocery business.

Wilf Proudfoot was also an active political, he was elected as a Scarborough councillor in 1950 and became chairman of Scarborough Health Committee. He unsuccessfully stood for Parliament in the 1951 and 1955 General Elections. He finally succeeded in becoming elected as an MP in 1959 and became a Parliamentary Private Secretary. However, he lost his seat in the 1964 General Election.

His political career continued after his involvement with Radio 270 when he was returned as an MP in the 1970 General Election, and again became a Parliamentary Private Secretary. He campaigned vigorously for the introduction of commercial radio and was involved in many other broadcasting issues.

He lost his seat in the February 1974 General Election, and failed to win it back in the second election of that year, in October. Although he went to California to have a facelift and lost a considerable amount of weight through dieting his attempts to make himself appealing to the electorate were to prove unsuccessful – he was never adopted as a Parliamentary candidate again.

He then embarked on a new career as a hypnotist, starting the Proudfoot School of Hypnosis and Hypnotherapy and publishing a Consumer Guide to Hypnosis. He was also chair of the British Council of Hypnotist Examiners from 1983.

In 1950 he married Peggy Jackson, who survives him with their three children.

Wilfred Proudfoot died 19th July 2013.

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Rebel 'pirate' DJ meets with ex-Postmaster General

Dateline: 12th August 2013, Edinburgh, Scotland

After almost 50 years ex -Radio England and Radio Caroline DJ Johnnie Walker has held a face to face interview with the man who introduced the legislation to outlaw British offshore radio stations – former Postmaster General, Tony Benn.

With colleague Robbie Dale, Johnnie Walker was one of the two British DJs who defied the Marine Broadcasting (Offences) Act on 14th August 1967 and took Radio Caroline into illegality.

Johnnie Walker was interviewing Mr Benn as part of his month-long show at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival. "Never did I think, all those years ago, when I was put out of work by a piece of Labour party law steered by this man, that I would interview him 47 years later," Walker told a 150-strong audience at the New Town Theatre. "He turned me into a criminal. I've been looking forward to this."

During the interview Mr Benn was typically unapologetic, claiming that, had he not banned 'pirate' radio, BBC Radio 1 would never have been created, which "brings music to far more people".

Although many other ex-offshore DJs were hired by BBC Radio 1 Johnnie Walker revealed the BBC's attitude towards him at the time , when a memo was sent to the controller of Radio 1 in 1967 saying: "On no account should Johnnie Walker be employed for at least a year to let the taint of criminality subside."

Johnnie Walker asked Mr Benn about his feelings at the time about the offshore stations - "Did you genuinely believe they were a bad thing, or were you doing the bidding of Harold Wilson?"

Mr Benn explained that musicians weren't being paid for the music pirate radios were playing, and that foreign governments were complaining that they were stealing their radio wavelengths. "They threatened to do the same to our own stations, like Radio 4. I had to protect us from foreign countries that were threatening to broadcast on our airwaves. And I happened to be in the hot seat at the time."

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Radio Caroline to close its satellite service

Dateline: 4th September 2013, London, England

Radio Caroline has announced that it will close its satellite service on 30th September 2013, but the on-line service will continue unaffected. At the same time the station is to launch a new channel – Caroline Extra, playing music from the 60s, 70s and 80s.

Station Manager Peter Moore explained in a statement why the satellite service is being discontinued -

The sequence was that we once used a satellite signal with manual tuning and, while the various values had to be put in via the remote, the box then recognised Caroline any time the listener selected us thereafter and we had reception on every sort of set.

Then we decided to take an Sky EPG (Electronic Programme Guide) but this did not give the expected increase in either listeners or advertisers and it was costing a fortune so we gave that up.

All we wanted to do was to revert to manual tuning as before. It was not known by us, nor our provider, that Sky had hardened their attitude to non EPG signals. We found that no Sky SD boxes would get our signal at all. Sky had nil interest in sending a software signal to make the boxes hear us. Then we found that each time they sent a general update to the HD boxes, this wiped the stored memory so that the listener had to go through the tuning process all over again and again.

From day one we have been pursuing our signal provider but it took a long time to finally conclude that there was no remedy (aside from going back to an EPG situation). It also took time to get out of our contract which ends next June. I am sure we would not have renewed at that time anyway, so by quitting now we save about £16,000 to put to better use.

If the Sky radio guide is examined, there are many gaps where there used to be radio stations, so we are not alone in thinking that satellite radio is now old technology.

Radio Caroline has an advice line for anyone who is affected by the ending of the satellite service – listeners should email advice@radiocaroline.co.uk

For more information about the new Caroline Extra service visit www.carolineextra.co.uk/

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Ronan O’Rahilly

Dateline: 6th September 2013, London, England

Offshore Echos magazine has reported that Ronan O’Rahilly, the founder of Radio Caroline, has advanced vascular dementia and is now in Ireland being looked after by his family.

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John de Mol senior dies

Dateline: 27th September 2013, Hilversum, Holland

Jon de Mol senior, Managing Director of Radio North Sea International (RNI) in the 1970’s has died after a long illness at the age of 81

John de Mol was a famous singer in the 1940's and 1950's, his biggest hit being *El Paso*. After his singing career ended he founded an organisation for the benefit of Dutch entertainment artists, Conamus Foundation.

His two children are also involved in the entertainment industry – John de Mol Jnr has extensive involvement with Dutch radio and TV networks and was co-founder of media conglomerates Endemol and Talpa Media. Daughter Linda de Mol is an actress and TV presenter.

John de Mol Snr died 27th September 2013

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Pioneer Programme Director dies

Dateline: 29th November 2013, Sydney, Australia

Ken Evans, former Programme Director of Radio Atlanta and Radio Caroline South has died at the age of 86.

Born in 1927 in Newcastle, New South Wales, Australia Ken Evans worked for stations 2CH and 2GB in Sydney before moving to London in early 1962, working for the Keith Prowse ticket agency and Reuters, handling overnight stock reports from New York.

In London he met fellow Australian Allan Crawford, head of Southern Music, whom he had known from his days at 2CH. Allan told Ken of his plans to launch Radio Atlanta and he agreed to become Programme Manager of the new offshore station.

In this role he was responsible for selecting and scheduling the music for Radio Atlanta (and also for some of the early taped shows on Radio Caroline, thanks to a deal done between Allan Crawford and Ronan O'Rahilly).

After the merger between Radio Atlanta and Radio Caroline in July 1964 Allan Crawford remained in charge of Caroline South and Ken continued to be responsible for the music, spending some time on the *Mi Amigo* in the summer of 1964. He was responsible for scheduling the music for presenters and running the record library on board.

At the end of 1965 the near bankrupt Project Atlanta sold Caroline South to Ronan O'Rahilly's Planet Productions (owners of Caroline North and in the subsequent change of management Ken lost his role as Programme Manager.

In 1966 he joined Radio Luxembourg, producing EMI-sponsored shows. When Radio Luxembourg changed its format in 1968 Ken was appointed to produce programmes for the new-look station, becoming Programme Director in 1970.

In 1977 Ken left Radio Luxembourg to take up a managerial position with Anchor Records before joining BBC Radio 2 in May 1979 where he produced many of their most popular record programmes including *Family Favourites*, *The Jimmy Young Show*, *Pete Murray's Open House* and *The David Jacobs Show*.

He retired from the BBC in 1987 but went on to work for the London commercial station, Melody Radio, where he produced a nightly programme of music from the shows. In 2004 he moved back to Sydney to be closer to his family.

Ken died on 28th November 2013 following a fall at his home.

(Thanks to the Pirate Radio Hall of Fame)

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