

# MEDIUM

Quarterly magazine of the Irish Radio Movement.

FINAL NEWSLETTER OF THE IRISH RADIO MOVEMENT - AUTUMN/WINTER 1976

## THE IRM DISBANDS!

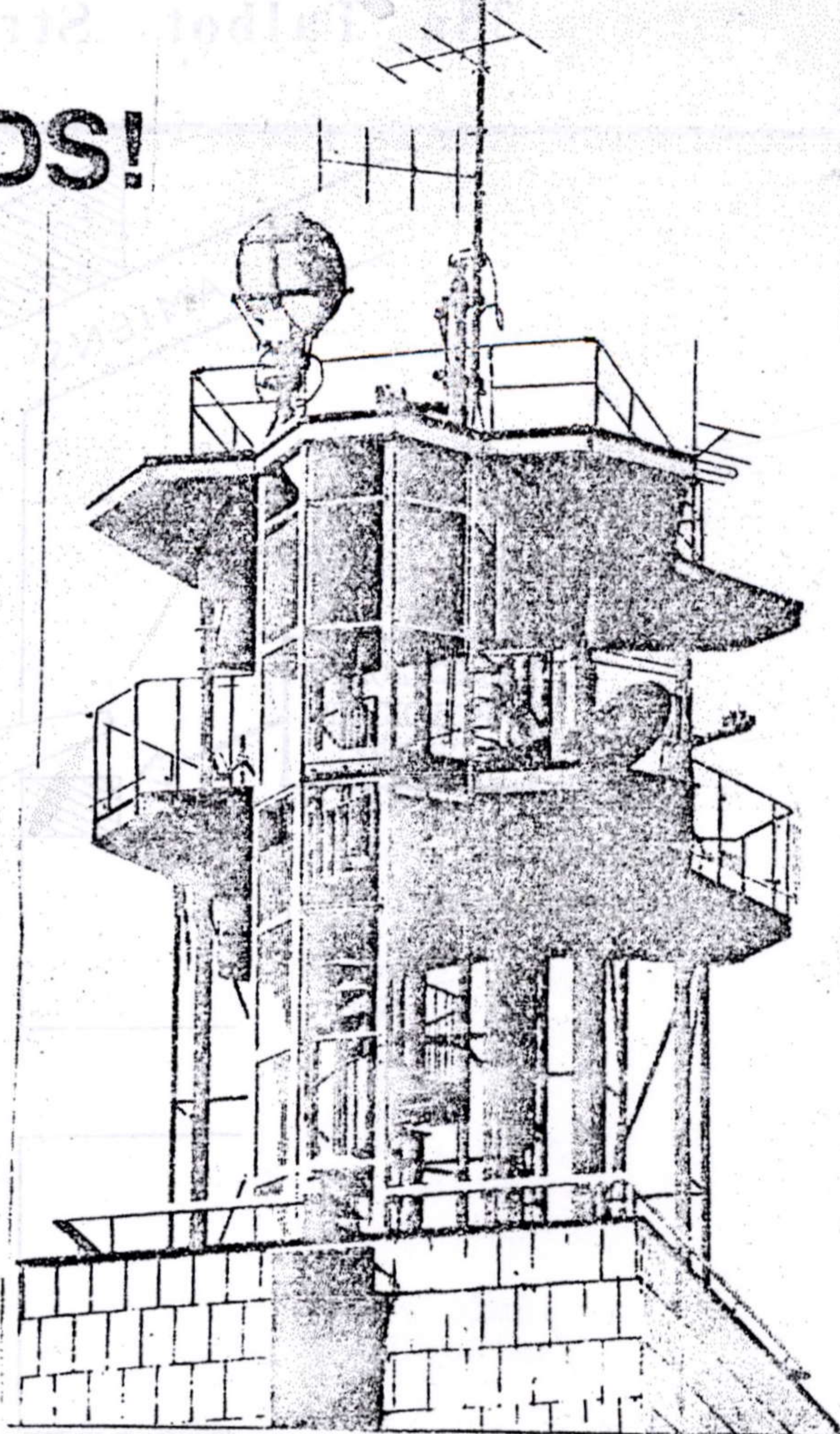
For some time now, the Irish Radio Movement has been disintegrating due to declining interest by those whose active participation had kept the movement operating. And with the departure earlier this year of the former Director of the I.R.M., Mark Story, it became necessary to disband the movement as a formal organization. It is hoped, however, that the Irish Radio Movement may continue on an informal basis. But for some of us, this may well be the last lap round the radio circuit.

## A NEW MEDIUM ?

There are plans to launch a new Hi-Fi audio and radio magazine under the title MEDIUM. Some former I.R.M. personnel are involved in this venture and it is hoped that our readers will give their support also. Further details in this issue about the changeover.

## FEATURES INSIDE

"Kenneth in Wirelessland" takes a look at the personality factor in the pirate station, Radio Dublin. Dr. John Campbell writes about the broadcasting scene in Australia. There is a "President's page" article from Paddy Brennan. Editor John Dowling reviews his tour in the West of Ireland - "Making Contact". (John also typeset most of this newsletter.) In addition there are items on DX topics, community radio, and local radio in Holland.

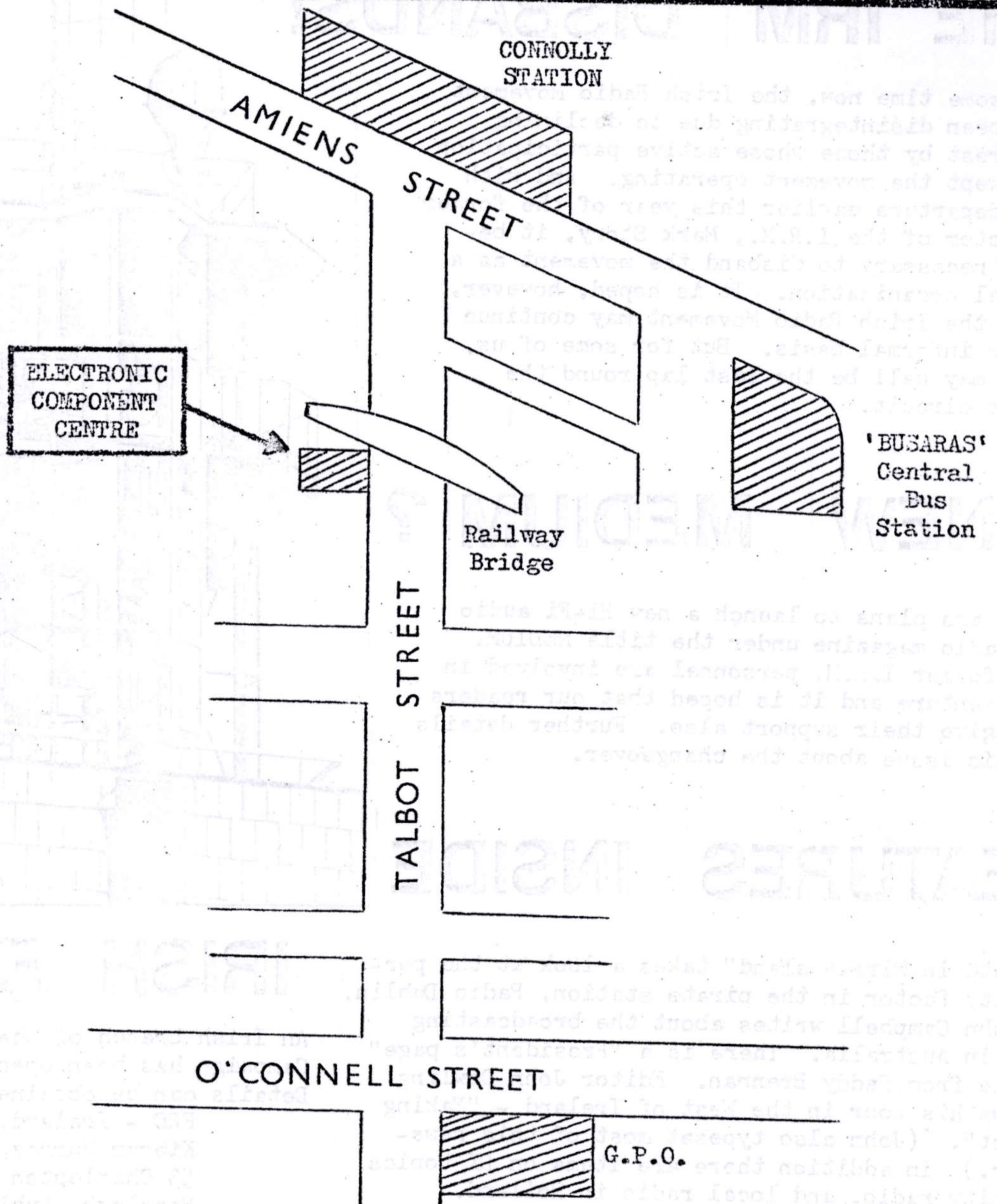


## IRISH FRC

An Irish branch of the Free Radio Campaign has been opened in Dublin. Details can be obtained from:-  
FRC - Ireland,  
Kieran Murray,  
53 Charleston Road,  
Ranelagh, Dublin 6.

# Electronic Component Centre

38a Talbot Street, Dublin 1.



**IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT:** The Irish Radio Movement is now being officially disbanded. MEDIUM is ceasing publication in its present form. Fuller details are given elsewhere in the magazine.

This final edition is being edited and typed by JOHN DOWLING. The printing is being carried out by Ciaran O'Connor and John Dowling. Ken Sheehan has been responsible for the cover. We thank all those who have contributed articles for publication in this the last edition of MEDIUM.

**CORRECTION:** (Ref. EDITORIAL) All enquiries regarding the proposed new magazine which is being launched by Mark Story should be sent to him and NOT - repeat NOT - to JOHN DOWLING, KEN SHEEHAN or PADDY BRENNAN. Mark's address is: Castlewarden, Straffan, Co. Kildare.

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Page	33	...	REPORT ON RADIO CAROLINE NORTH'S COURT CASE and ODDS AND ENDS by JOHN DOWLING

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The following team were involved in the production of this final edition of MEDIUM:

PADDY BRENNAN, 25, FARNEY PARK, SANDYMOUNT, DUBLIN, 4.  
KENNETH SHEEHAN, 406, MOURNE ROAD, DRIMNAGH, DUBLIN, 12.  
FELIM O'CONNOR, 54, GLASNEVIN PARK, BALLYMUN, DUBLIN, 11.  
JOHN DOWLING, BALLYTIGLEA, BORRIS, Co. CARLOW.

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26/09/1976 / JD

E D I T O R I A L

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First of all, my apologies to all of you for the very late appearance of MEDIUM. As you read this page and peruse through the remainder of the magazine, you will, I hope, realise the reasons for the delay...

Well, this is the very last edition of MEDIUM - "the quarterly magazine of the Irish Radio Movement". This is the last time MEDIUM will appear in this form and under this production team. This is also the end of the road as far as the Irish Radio Movement is concerned.

Only time will tell whether or not we have made the correct decisions.

The winding up of the IRM appeared on the cards quite some time ago; the final decisions being postponed until now in order to give everyone the time and opportunity to put forward his or her suggestions.

During the past few months, we have engaged in a good deal of discussion. Paddy, Ken, Billy, Felim and yours truly have kicked around many ideas and considered many suggestions, but one thing only became clear - the IRM was in a state of crisis, and it did not seem possible to carry out a rescue attempt.

We were in touch with several other members, at home here in Ireland and also with some of our overseas members. None of the people with whom we were in contact really wanted the magazine to cease - the opposite was the case, in fact. To all those who gave us such encouragement during the past months, my sincere thanks. It is with regret that we have come to the decisions which have already been mentioned above.

No really viable suggestions for the continuation of the IRM or MEDIUM were received, so the final decision became even more inevitable as the weeks and

months slipped by.

The Irish Radio Movement as a formal organisation is now officially disbanded, but we urge all those who were in the IRM to continue as an "informal group". You can still maintain your contacts with other members. We hope all of you will continue to develop your interest in the radio hobby and also give your support to a NEW magazine about which we will be telling you more in a few moments.

You will read elsewhere in the magazine about Mark Story's resignation as secretary of the IRM. No one has stepped in to fill the vacuum created by Mark's departure. The reasons for Mark's resignation are discussed elsewhere in the magazine.

Mark left the IRM shortly after the publication of MEDIUM 9 and, since then the lines of communication between us have not always been wide open.

However, I can tell you that Mark and some friends are starting their own HI-FI AND AUDIO magazine; the first edition will be on the news stands in the very near future, probably by the time you read this. The new magazine will be offset printed and will carry illustrations, graphics and photographs which is something we could never manage in MEDIUM. A wide range of topics will be covered within its pages, and it is hoped in the very near future to incorporate some of the best features of MEDIUM in the new magazine - a DX and a technical section will be incorporated in the new magazine - perhaps it, too, will be called MEDIUM. Mark has our permission to use that name if he so wishes.

Yours truly will probably edit the DX section and Paddy and Billy are expected to look after the technical section. So, your letters and contributions will still be required!

cont'd/...

Felim O'Connor, who has been working very hard behind the scenes in the IRM during the past three or four months, will, it is hoped, be involved in the preparation of graphics for the new magazine, and also in the layout.

In the new magazine, you will read articles on commercial radio, local radio in Britain and Ireland, and overseas. Articles on all aspects of the radio hobby will still be welcome.

It is true to say that this will provide continuity with the "old" MEDIUM. It was either take this course - or let the magazine die altogether.

The new magazine will be a monthly publication and will be available on the news stands and also by subscription. I do not know just now what the cost is likely to be, but should you require further information send us a stamped addressed envelope and, when available, details will be sent out. Of course, I am hoping that the majority of ex-IRM members will take out subscriptions for Mark's new magazine.

At this stage, let me say that anyone who has not received the appropriate number of MEDIUMs for his subscription will have his claim for a refund dealt with. I am making this a personal guarantee, and anyone who wishes to reclaim part of his subscription should submit details together with a stamped addressed envelope and all letters will be dealt with in due course. Please do not expect an immediate reply!

In this, my last editorial, I should, I suppose, express my thanks to all those who helped us along our way during the past few years. However, I will try and write in general terms, because when one starts naming names someone is bound to be inadvertently left out!

I must, first of all, thank all those who contributed regularly to the magazine and thanks also to all those who contributed articles and items on a "now and again" basis. Thanks to those who sent newspaper cuttings, and I must say I have someone in particular

in mind when I say that! To our member in Finland who sent us the articles on clandestine stations; to our members in New Zealand, the U.S.A. and Canada, the continent of Europe and not forgetting John Campbell Down Under, and to all our members in Britain and Ireland, may I say it was nice having you with us, thanks for your support, and please do not feel that you are now cut off. I would see the Irish Radio Movement continuing in small print.

Contacts made during the brief history of the IRM will undoubtedly remain. We'll still remain in contact with our friends up around Cavan and Monaghan, in Roscommon, Mayo, Galway, Wexford, Tipperary, Meath, and we hope not only to maintain contacts with some of our friends in Dublin, but to go on and make contact with an even wider circle of people interested generally in radio.

A special THANK YOU to our two lady members, Aine Bourke and Ann McCabe. Your letters are appreciated.

My thanks, too, to the people involved in duplicating the stencils which I prepared, and I must mention Ann Lloyd, Mark and Felim, all of whom have helped in this regard.

Thanks also to those who gave us some advertising.

Our former secretary, Mark, deserves a word of thanks and appreciation. Best wishes with your new magazine, Mark. Ken, Paddy, Billy, Eamonn, Felim, Dermot, Michael, Owen, are all deserving of a place on the roll of honour. Kevin in Roscommon, we have not forgotten you!

Not much more space remaining on this page, so I hope I have covered anything I should cover - at least in general terms.

I urge all of you again to develop and pursue your interest in radio. My own particular interest lies in DX-ing the medium wave band and logging the 48 m.b. Sunday morning pirates, also there is a developing interest in the tropical bands.... Best 73's to all, and God Bless...  
JOHN

Those of you who perused the CONTENTS page will be surprised to note that we have made a few mistakes!! This is page five alright, but this is not an ADVERTISEMENT! It may be confusing to you, well, it's just as confusing to us. Just another of our LITTLE problems....

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#### PROGRAMME DETAILS IN A REPORT

An essential part of a reception report is that the programme details section. If a report does not include any details of the programme heard it is impossible for the station staff to decide whether the transmission has come from this station or from another one. Thus the report is quite useless, and will hardly be verified. But of course there are always stations that verify reports without checking them...

There are many kinds of programme details; and some are better than others. An easy way to get details is to listen to programmes in which music is played. The pieces of music are often announced as are the names of the performers, so it is easy to write them down. Stations often have lists of music played and it is thus easy to check the report. There is of course music that is impossible to identify - for example, folk music. Just think of the Arabic and African folk music. In such cases some other way of describing the programme must be used.

Another "safe" way of describing the programme is to mention the name of the programme, or the title of some commentary or feature read in it. However, the name of a programme should not be used alone, the very programme should be described in some way. Many stations send out programme bulletins upon request and in them the programmes are often listed with names and actors. But if you can add, for instance, some titles of music played in the programme there is a good chance to get the report verified. Programme details such as "song by man", "talk by woman"

should be avoided as they cannot be checked, and they do not, as a matter of fact, tell anything.

Most stations identify themselves regularly, at least those having foreign services. Of course these identifications are helping the DX-er to find out what station he is tuned to, but they are not always so useful as programme details, but longer announcements and special announcements about frequency of schedule changes are useful in reports as they are not usually broadcast too often.

Almost all stations broadcast news several times a day. The news items are often taken directly from a teleprinter, and the telegrams are seldom saved. It may, therefore, not be such a good idea to describe the news bulletin in detail, it is sufficient to say the news was broadcast.

Many DX-ers consider three programme details enough to get a report checked, this is also the opinion of many stations. But, of course, the more details you have in the report the better, as it also proves that you took care to listen to the station, and this is usually appreciated by the station...

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The above is part of an article written in ATTENTION B by MARTTI RINNE. I agree with some of Martti's observations, but not with all of them! For instance, I would quote, certainly in brief, details from a news bulletin, as the political views of a country are often part and parcel of the bulletin, and such stations would, in my opinion, like to see their own particular slant on the news contained in a report.

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The 60 metre band is certainly coming to life these nights, and your editor has been dragging in some DX from Asia including the sound of a few of the Indonesian stations - very nice, wish I had the time to send them reports!

73's to all until we meet again,

JOHN DOWLING

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THE PRESIDENT'S PAGE

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In my last article I referred to the lack of interest among members in developments in the Irish Radio Movement, and particularly in MEDIUM, which has been starved of feedback or comment from the vast majority of members. We must not forget the few members who have stood by our side through thick and thin, and have given us so much support over the past few years, but these few were just a tiny minority of our readership.

I now have the task of officially announcing the resignation of the secretary, Mark Story, and the editor, John Dowling. Mark resigned for several different reasons, not least of which was the thankless task of having MEDIUM printed after the stencils had been prepared by John Dowling. The task of having the stencils duplicated is no easy one, and anyone who thinks it is is sadly mistaken! When the pages are printed they have to be put together to form the magazine, and without any help this is a time consuming task. Then copies are mailed out to members, again something which cannot be done in half an hour. Some of Mark's own PERSONAL views also came under attack - I emphasise "personal", and Mark did point out at the bottom of his so-called "anti-pirate article" in the last edition of MEDIUM that the ideas in the article were his own personal views. We have always encouraged the freedom of expression in MEDIUM, and it suffices to say that Mark's personal views were misinterpreted by a number of people.

John resigned due to the seemingly unending pressure of preparing MEDIUM without a good supply of articles. Look at MEDIUM 9 and see how many articles were written by John himself. Of course, John would want me to convey his thanks to those people who contributed regularly to the magazine; there is no need to name these people, they know who they are, and there is no doubt that the bonds of friendship formed over the past few years between John and his "regular contributors" will continue. The task of preparing stencils is rather time consuming. John had to concentrate too much effort on simply typing the stencils and arranging articles when perhaps he should have been engaged in some other aspect of I.R.M. activity.

However, it has been agreed to bring out MEDIUM 10 - which is now, indeed, long overdue. This edition will be sent out to all members as usual.

The sad result of all these developments is that the I.R.M. will have to be wound up - a decision which was not taken lightly. This course was taken only after several meetings and discussions which examined all aspects of the situation, and it was concluded that no viable solution existed for the continuation of the magazine in its present form and under the present leadership.

We are all agreed on one thing though: We should give our support to a NEW magazine, perhaps called MEDIUM. This new magazine is being launched by our former secretary, Mark Story. He describes it as a Hi-Fi and Audio magazine; it will be printed - not duplicated - and will probably be distributed through the big wholesale/retail outlets, e.g. Easons and Stanleys. It is hoped that the "old" MEDIUM can be merged with Mark's new magazine to form a good magazine, properly printed and illustrated and which can hold its place with any other publications on the news stands.

I would ask I.R.M. members not to renew their membership fees as the new mag-

azine will operate on a somewhat different subscription basis. For one thing, it will be more expensive, which will be no surprise to anyone as the membership fee for MEDIUM did not cover the cost of producing the magazine and distributing the magazine. Just to give you an idea of some of the costs involved - this page, as a plain sheet of paper, costs almost half a penny! And there are the costs of stencils - at least 15p each - and, of course, postage.

MEDIUM - the old one, that is - has been doing rather well in the few outlets in Dublin where we've been able to sell it - all editions have been sold out, and we, therefore, anticipate quite a good market for the new magazine.

The team which has been involved in getting MEDIUM out will be reorganised and each person will become responsible for a particular section - which will coincide with his own personal interests in the radio hobby. In effect, there will be a number of sub-editors.

It is hoped that John Dowling will edit the DX section and the Technical Section will be the responsibility of Paddy Brennan and Billy Ebrill. Felim O'Connor will have his hand - or is it his pen! - in the layout and artwork area. An overall editor of the magazine has yet to be appointed, but I would venture to say that it will probably be our former secretary, Mark, who has had quite an amount of experience in producing magazines, and here's hoping this will be his biggest venture to date!

Well, I hope you will all understand something of what has been happening behind the scenes. We have at all times been concerned with our readers and with our members, and we hope all will appreciate the reasons for our decisions and give them their support.

Although the I.R.M. is now coming to an end and this, in effect, is the last edition of MEDIUM "the quarterly publication of the I.R.M.", we hope that all of you will continue to support the new independent MEDIUM which we feel sure will provide a continuity of the best sections in the "old" MEDIUM, with all the new sections under the general title of "Audio and Hi-Fi".

The new magazine will provide an outlet for your interest in radio - all aspects of radio, so let me in this, my final article as President of the Irish Radio Movement, appeal to everyone to fall in behind the new team and to give it every support. Remember all contributions will still be welcomed. This is the end of the road for the I.R.M., but now let's all swing in behind our new magazine and make it YOUR magazine....

PADDY BRENNAN

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QSL REPORT EXTRA WITH JOHN DOWLING, BALLYTIGLEA, BORRIS, Co. CARLOW

Not many reports sent out in the recent past, but a few unexpected QSLs have been turning up here in Ballytiglia: WPOW (1330 kHz) in New York, came up with a card after 220 days; WTOP (1500 kHz) in Washington, took all of 246 days to verify my report - incidently both reports were posted by me on the same day.. German free radio station, Radio Channel 292, verified by nice card in 266 days; Downtown Radio in Belfast verified by very nice, long letter in 60 days; Radio Pennine decided to verify after 133 days; Skyport Radio verified in a mere 20 days; Radio Moscow verified seven different frequencies with the sites named - North American Service - some of the sites are too good to be true! JOHN



The IRISH RADIO MOVEMENT is at the crossroads... A decision must now be taken on where it goes from here. Since the resignation of our former secretary, Mark Story, this decision has become imperative. The IRM can no longer continue in its present form.

At this stage, it appears that we must regretfully trim our sails in order to survive. This means that it will be necessary to suspend membership on a subscription basis. It also means that this, the tenth edition of MEDIUM, will be the last issue mailed out to members.

At this stage, no hard-and-fast decisions have been taken, but it is hoped that MEDIUM will reappear again sometime in the future, albeit on a different basis. But, as things stand at present, this is the final issue.

As we mentioned earlier, this situation was precipitated by the resignation of former secretary, Mark Story. It would be ungrateful not to tender our thanks for the sterling work he has put into the running of the Irish Radio Movement. We hope he can continue to be involved in a re-formed IRM. So far, no one has offered to step into his shoes. As the IRM was very much dependent on his single-handed management, it is very difficult to continue the Movement as it was. In view of this situation, we are sure you will all understand and let us have your views. All channels of communication are now open... and in case this is the final issue, we take this opportunity of wishing you all the best of luck.

KEN SHEEHAN

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With the ending of MEDIUM, it makes us sad and somewhat frustrated when we receive nice letters like the following communication received from John Cotter, Main St., Celbridge, Co. Kildare:

"By a stroke of good luck I picked up a copy of your magazine, MEDIUM 9, when in Dublin recently, and thus came to know of the existence of the IRM. I would very much like to become a member of the Movement and enclose an SAE in order that you may send me details on how I may join..... I found the magazine very good indeed and was particularly interested in the feature on the RTE Tullamore transmitter. I would very much like to take part in the proposed trip by members to the transmitter at Tullamore..... Finally, I would like to say that I think you should publicise the existence of the IRM because it has taken over two years for me to find out about it, and I would say there are many more people who would join - if only they knew the IRM existed! - JOHN COTTER."

Well, thanks a lot for your encouraging letter, John. Unfortunately, this is the end of the line as far as MEDIUM is concerned. From reading through these pages you will surely appreciate the reasons for making this the final edition. Our frustration is due to the fact that we cannot now enroll you as a member - that is, as a subscribing member. However, I do hope that we can keep in contact, and the same applies to all members and ex-members of the IRM - keep in contact with one another, develop your interests in radio, help others with the hobby, introduce them to the fascinating radio hobby. Perhaps, as mentioned in the article above by Ken Sheehan, we may re-form again, but sometime will elapse before that may be possible - if it is feasible at all.....

JOHN DOWLING

A LOOK AT COMMUNITY RADIO

... BY EAMONN O'CONNOR

For some years now, the IRM has been campaigning for Community Radio which I would define as "Radio controlled and operated by a local community." RTE's community radio experiment is now just over one year old, so a few words on the subject at this time may not be out of place...

RTE's mobile station first went on the air in May, 1975, during the Liberties Festival in Dublin. "The Liberties" is a very old part of Dublin, containing many well-known buildings as well as places of historical and cultural interest. For the past five or six years, an annual festival has been organised in the area.

Last year, the festival was given a new twist with the setting up of a mobile station - a broadcasting station. One may add that the link between festivals and radio is nothing new - amateurs have been at it for years! The station was known as "Radio Liberties" and broadcast on 96.6 MHz in the FM band only - there was no medium wave outlet at that time.

During the past year the mobile station has visited several festivals up and down the country creating a certain amount of interest - or curiosity. Regular readers will recall an article in MEDIUM 7 in which our editor dealt with a visit to the station when it visited Gorey for the Gorey Arts Festival.

(EDITOR'S NOTE: The Director of the Gorey Arts Festival had his request for a return visit to Gorey for this year's festival turned down by RTE - why, we may ask?)

So far all the experiments have coincided with festivals of one kind or another.

Last year I did not get the opportunity of visiting the station when it was operating at the Liberties Festival, so this year I made up for it by TWO visits! During my first visit I saw the station's equipment, and the second visit was mainly to collect information about the station.

For the first few months the station operated on FM only. The signal had only five or six miles radius, but depending on certain propagation factors the station was often heard at greater distances from the transmitting antenna. Then a medium wave transmitter was added to the station, this would make the broadcasts available to a wider audience, as, generally speaking, VHF radio has not really caught on here in Ireland, despite the fact that RTE Radio has been providing a nation wide service on FM for several years. Perhaps this was one of the reasons for adding the medium wave rig to the RTE Mobile Broadcasting Unit.

The MW transmitter operates on 1484 kHz. However, the frequency was noted to be off-channel during the last Liberties Festival. As you know, BBC Radio Merseyside also operates on 1484 kHz, and is heard well in Dublin. During the "Radio Liberties" experiment, the two stations should have been zero beat, but this simply was not so. The mobile station was slightly off frequency and caused a heterodyne with BBC Radio Merseyside. I think it is rather surprising that RTE should have allowed this to happen...

The station's equipment consists of two record decks, three tape decks, two microphones, a twelve-channel mixer, and the two transmitters and matching aerials. The FM transmitter is German-made and the signal is radiated by a

four element omni-directional antenna. The power output is about 25 watts. The "home"-built MW rig pushes out about 12 watts, this being fed by a 75 Ohm feeder to a half-wave dipole. Both MW and FM antennae are matched to their respective frequencies accurately.

The control room and studio are separate compartments in the mobile van, the studio being sound-proofed to avoid its microphones picking up external noises. Facilities for stereo FM broadcasts exist but they have not been used to date.

Incidentally, the tape decks are twin-track two-speed machines, the two speeds being 7½" and 15" per second.

I have not yet touched on the sort of programming put out by the station. Well, earlier I defined community radio as being controlled and operated by a local community. RTE, in this experiment, operates the equipment and the transmitters, of course, and the community or festival committee has full control over the programme content. However, RTE's man in charge of the experiment, Mr. Breandan O Ciobhain, maintains overall control, though, as was mentioned in the article on the Gorey station, he refrains from interfering and this allows the festival committee quite a free hand, within reason, in what goes out on the air.

Programme content itself is very varied. There are details of various events organised as part of the festival, interviews with local characters, information for and about the local residents. During one of my visits to Radio Liberties I even saw a play being performed live with a cast of no less than thirteen. Somehow, all the performers fitted into the small studio which normally holds about five or six people in comfort. After all, it is fitted inside a van...

There is no doubt that community radio does a lot to stimulate a community spirit, but I must agree with the view that too much of it in the one area may do more harm than good - when the novelty has worn off...

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LOCAL RADIO IN HOLLAND... EXTRACT FROM "EURADIO" MAGAZINE VIA MARK STORY

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"STAD RADIO AMSTERDAM" Preparation for the founding of Radio Amsterdam started over four years ago when the Dutch Minister of Culture, together with local trade unions, cultural organisations, theatres, social groups, asked the Government if a charter could be established for a local station in Amsterdam. 1½ million guilders has been allocated for 1976 to set up the station and pay the staff of 14 who will broadcast daily from 5 to 7 p.m. The station, established under charter signed by Queen Juliana, is an independent non-commercial station with a Government grant for a trial period of two years. The station eventually hopes to broadcast in the morning as well as the evening period and this is the first of several local stations which will be set up in Holland.... This local station has no official connections with the Dutch National Broadcasting Organisation (NOS), but the hand of friendship has certainly been offered and NOS helped with the setting up of the studios and gave advice on other technical matters.... The programmes aim to involve the local community in every way possible, and some of the staff have visited some of the local stations in Britain. "Phone-ins" for local juristic, social or family problems are popular. The station operates on 240 metres medium wave.

DX SHOWS BROADCAST IN THE FOREIGN SERVICES OF EUROPEAN STATIONSKEVIN RYAN

(ALL TIMES IN G.M.T. ALL FREQUENCIES IN kHz)

AUSTRIAN SHORT WAVE PANORAMA

TIME: SUNDAYS - 0915-0930 on 6155/7170/9770 kHz  
 1805-1830 on 9690/6155 kHz

TYPE: News and general information about all aspects of Telecommunications. Some DX news

PUB.: IFRB list of broadcasts mailed out free of charge to all on the mailing list. To get your regular copy write to Technical Department, Austrian Radio, A-1136, Vienna.

RADIO SOFIA'S DX SHOW

TIME: FRIDAYS - 1930 on 6070/9700 kHz  
 2130 on 6070/9700 kHz

TYPE: At one time plenty of DX news, but now directed to radio amateurs only

DEUTSCHLANDFUNK DX SHOW

TIME: WEDNESDAYS - 1900 on 1268 kHz (236 metres) medium wave

TYPE: General information for beginners by Alan Thompson. If you have a question you can write to him at: 16, Ena Avenue, Neath, West Glamorgan, SAll 3AD, Wales. (Return postage necessary for a personal reply)

BBC WORLD RADIO CLUB

TIME: WEDNESDAYS - 1330 on 5975 kHz  
 2315 on 1088 kHz  
 FRIDAYS - 2100 on 7120 kHz  
 SUNDAYS - 0815 on 5975 kHz

NOTE:  
 other frequencies are used also, but these give best reception here

TYPE: Talks, interviews, contests, listeners' questions, DX news, propagation forecasts. Very informative show!

PUB.: Various data sheets on aerials, converters, etc. You can join the Club by writing c/o Box 76, Bush House, London. By becoming a member you can participate in the annual DX Award Scheme for which the BBC issue full data verifications. This is, in fact the ONLY time you will receive a full data QSL for reporting BBC World Service transmissions. The only requirement for membership is that you write and ask to join! It's as simple as that...

AWR DX SPECIAL

TIME: SUNDAYS - 0935-0945 on 7670 kHz (via Sines in Portugal)

TYPE: DX news and information produced by the WDXC. Well worth listening to, and reception is excellent!

cont'd/...

FINN-DX (VIA RADIO FINLAND)

TIME: TUESDAYS - 1415 on 6120/11755/15110 kHz  
 1845 on 9550/11755  
 2045 on 9550/11755  
 WEDNESDAYS - 0745 on 6120/11755

TYPE: Now in English and Spanish. Gives news and loggings of DX stations. A very good source of information on Latin American DX and often has recordings of LA stations which help the DX-er to familiarise himself with the programme format of these stations. Occasionally there are contests organised by the Finnish DX Association which produces the programme.

RADIO NEDERLAND'S DX JUKE BOX

TIME: THURSDAYS - 0930 on 5955/6045/7210/7240 kHz  
 1400 on 5955/6045  
 1830 on 6020  
 2000 on 15220

TYPE: Readings of technical courses, DX experts from Europe, Asia, USA- and Pacific, technical mailbag and music. One of the most enjoyable DX shows around!

PUB.: The 'DX Information Service Catalogue' lists all the courses and data sheets, which cover a wide variety of subjects, offered by RN. All courses are free of charge. Write for the above to: Radio Nederland, P.O. Box 222, Hilversum, Holland.

RADIO BUDAPEST'S SHORT WAVE CLUB

TIME: TUESDAYS/FRIDAYS - 1515-1530 on 6150/7155/9585/7200/11910 kHz  
 Also during transmissions on Wednesdays/Thursdays/Sundays at 2130-2200 on 5965/7180/7220 kHz

TYPE: DX news and loggings from Club members, mailbag, club news.

PUB.: Members of the Club receive a monthly six-page bulletin containing technical info, loggings, pen-pal requests in return for which members submit 4 reception reports a month. Write for full details to: Radio Budapest, 1800 Budapest, Hungary.

TWR DX SPECIAL

TIME: THURSDAYS - 0045-0100 on 11925 kHz (via TWR, BONAIRE)  
 SATURDAYS - 1500-1515 on 7245 kHz (via TWR, MONACO)  
 0940-0955 on 9640 kHz (via TWR, MONACO)

TYPE: DX news and loggings, club news, IQ quiz to improve your DX knowledge, some contests (See note at end of this article.)

SWISS SHORT WAVE MERRY-GO-ROUND

TIME: 2nd and 4th SATURDAYS of the month at 0700, 1100, 1315, 1530, and 2100 on 6165/9535/3985 kHz

TYPE: Technical mailbag, sunspot numbers. A very good source of general information on various aspects of DX-ing. Your questions should be sent to: The Two Bobs, S.B.C., CH-3000, Berne, 16, Switzerland

cont'd/...



However, if you are a keen DX-er, constantly on the lookout for new DX, then the DX shows for you are: Sweden Calling DX-ers; and the DX shows broadcast by Radio Australia, BBC, HCJB, and to a lesser extent, TWR, AWR, TRT and Radio Budapest. If you are just generally interested in Radio and its associated aspects, then the best shows for this are those broadcast by SBC, Austrian Radio, BBC and DLF.

To those who are already interested in radio and DX-ing, I hope that the information contained in this article will help you to derive even more pleasure from your hobby. And to those who are not interested in DX-ing, I hope that it will encourage you to try your hand at DX-ing and become involved in this exciting hobby! You never know what you can do until you try!

73's de KEVIN RYAN

POSTSCRIPT ... LATE INFORMATION!

MONACO/ ) The edition via TWR Bonaire at 0045 hours on Thursdays on 11925 kHz  
BONAIRE ) is different from that aired over TWR Monaco

VOICE OF TURKEY (TRT): Publications include report forms, conversion chart for metres to kilohertz ... all available from The Voice of Turkey, Ankara, Turkey

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A few weeks ago I purchased an old domestic receiver from Saunders of Bolton St. in Dublin, and as I tuned around this receiver at home I fully realised that one certainly need not spend a large amount of money in order to log distant stations. For a mere ten pound note I've been able to log scores of stations with this receiver - the short wave coverage is from 16 to 49 metres in one band, but the stronger stations come through really well. The large speaker produces a very nice sound - far superior reproduction than a portable transistorised receiver.

I've noted very good reception on the medium wave band during the daytime, with stations such as Manx Radio and Downtown Radio being audible on piece of indoor wire - about 7 feet long! It must be noted that I am some 65 miles south of Dublin, and 40 miles in from the coast, so my reception of Manx Radio and Downtown Radio is not as good as with people living in the Dublin area.

Judging by this reception, I have formed the opinion that with a proper aerial this receiver - manufactured by the Crosley Company in the U.S.A. - is capable of pulling in some excellent DX - even on the medium wave band.

Once again the point is made.... To be a DX'er does not mean that you have to fork out hundreds of pounds. The receiver I have mentioned is an excellent buy - Saunders has them advertised in the Evening Newspapers at £10.50 each - but if you offer him a tenner, he's tempted to close the deal! And there is a three month guarantee with the receiver.

This is NOT an advertisement!

I fully endorse Kevin Ryan's remarks above, and would urge those of you who have not done so already to give DX-ing a try!

73's de JOHN DOWLING

A LOOK AT RADIO DUBLIN'S FUNCTION BY KEN SHEEHAN

In MEDIUM 9, the former secretary of the Irish Radio Movement, Mark Story, wrote an article on the question of "land-based pirate radio stations" and related problems. This piece provoked comment, particularly from the operators of such stations...

Subsequently, I discussed Mark's article with the operator of Radio Dublin, the famous "Doctor" Don... The position is that we didn't exactly see eye-to-eye on the motivations behind the writing of that piece. I stressed to the bearded doctor that any criticism which may have been levelled at Radio Dublin as such did not, in any way, imply any personal criticism of the operators involved. As I said, the good doctor and yours truly disagreed on this point. Don maintained that any criticism of necessity was also personal. And there's the rub...

Radio Dublin as presently constituted is admittedly very much a "personality station", indeed an extension of the personality to a very great extent of Doctor Don himself. And Radio Dublin and its operators have established a rapport with their listeners. The evidence for this is there for all to see and hear.

Without a doubt, Doctor Don is the most colourful character the Irish "Free Radio" scene has produced. This tag applies both to Don's personality and actions. Actually, it's not too fanciful to suggest that, in appearance also, all Doctor Don lacks is a black eye patch to conjure up the image of a swashbuckling pirate of yore.

And it's evident that his actions in connection with Radio Dublin have caught the public imagination to a degree that no other pirate station in Ireland has achieved. The station has had considerable publicity in the newspapers. "The Big D" is without doubt a very popular station.

Perhaps the most striking example of Doctor Don's flamboyance was the march he organised through O'Connell Street - from the G.P.O. to Leinster House (the House of Parliament). And we were there - or, to be more precise, I was there.

Doctor Don has shown an enthusiasm, a flair, and, above all, a dash not manifest in others, in connection with the pursuit of piracy. And even if one was not a fan of Radio Dublin, one would have to admire its operators for these qualities. For, like it or not, Don has pursued the concept of unlicensed broadcasting to its logical limits (some would say its illogical limits.)

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Radio Dublin's signal is still being received down here in the south of Co. Carlow on Sunday afternoons on 1183 kHz (253 metres) in the medium wave band. Reception is fairly good, but there is a slight heterodyne with Radio Mi Amigo on 1187 kHz (252.7 metres) which is also audible at the same time. The signal here, however, is not as strong as that of Cavan's Radio Caroline which was silenced by the authorities several months back after being on the air on Sundays for a couple of years.

I will reply personally in the near future to Don's letter of protest to the editor following Mark's "anti-pirate" article in the last issue...

EDITOR



SHOWBIZ MEN PRESS FOR "LIGHT" RADIO CHANNEL ... EXTRACT FROM SUNDAY INDEPENDENT

The Minister for Posts and Telegraphs, Dr. Conor Cruise O'Brien, is to be pressed to give the go-ahead for a new light entertainment second radio channel.

The country's top disc jockeys, actors, musicians, band managers and record producers have come together to produce a comprehensive report which will be placed before the Minister shortly.

A team of expert consultants are to be asked to examine the feasibility of setting up the new station - under the control of either a commercial group or RTE - and they will be told to concentrate on giving music, comedy shows, quizzes and news top priority.

The decision to press ahead with the claim for a second radio channel was made after a meeting between Irish Actors' Equity and other national organisations involved in the music and advertising business. Equity feel that the success of local radio in Britain has highlighted the need for an alternative channel in this country.

Said RTE disc-jockey, Brendan Balfe, one of the Equity members involved in the new moves - "The deliberate policy of RTE management to phase out light entertainment programmes as well as dropping sponsored programmes has meant a big drop in the income of many people involved in radio.

"We are talking about getting a second television channel, but we should have had a second radio station a long time ago.

"I would think that the new station should be based on the old Light Programme formula with plenty of music, quiz shows, serials and news," he added.

The six member committee, representing all Irish interests involved in radio, will now employ consultants to examine the possibility of setting up the new station and when their report is completed they will seek an immediate meeting with Dr. Cruise O'Brien to demand the immediate setting up of the new radio channel.

by MICHAEL BROPHY 11/7/1976

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Already towards the end of July medium wave stations from North America are being noted around 0100 hours GMT. CJON on 930 kHz (322.58 metres) is still proving to be the forerunner and will this year probably prove to be a reliable guide to band conditions. WINS on 1010 kHz (297.02 metres) may also be expected to "come in" early. Watch closely for a heterodyne with BBC Radio One on 247 metres, this might indicate the possibility that the signal from WCAU in Philadelphia is breaking through on 1210 kHz (247.93 metres). Another "early" one is CKEC in New Glasgow, Nova Scotia, on 1320 kHz (227.27 metres). A few years back this station was the one by which I often judged the state of the band, but it is not now coming through as strong as in former years.

If you are planning to built that loop now's the time to get cracking! If you've started on the job and left it aside, get back at it before the goodies have passed you by! And don't forget conditions for MW DX-ing will NOT be improving after this year as the sunspot count rises again on the 11-year cycle, so make the best of it NOW! For those who understand Portuguese and Spanish, there are plenty of Latin American stations already coming through, but, for me, I'll concentrate on the U.S. and Canada!

JOHN DOWLING

## KENNETH IN WIRELESSLAND.....

In which I will try to set down chronologically how my interest in radio developed...

How it started ..... is difficult to date with much precision, but I was interested in listening to the radio during my latter schooldays. In particular, I was fascinated by short-wave broadcasts and soon began to specialise in monitoring utility transmissions.

The next stage was, when in late 1964, there was an article in the EVENING PRESS about a "pirate" radio station in Dublin named Radio Atlantis broadcasting on the high frequency end of the medium wave band.

In early 1965, I heard this station when it changed its name to Radio Karina and took its place as one of the first in a series of such stations on 217 m. It gave an address on Burgh Quay to which I wrote, and arranged a meeting with its operator which was - although, of course, I didn't know it at the time - to signal the start of a decade of involvement in "free radio" for me and in which I was to see my interest reach a zenith in 1970 and a low in 1972 and which reached an all-time low (sounds like the pound!) this year. But back to the past...

I met the operator of Radio Karina/Atlantis in a cafe in town about April '65. Let's call him Davitt (for that's his real name!) I was to be in sporadic contact with him until about '69 when we lost radio contact completely in every sense of the word.

It was in mid '66 that a new station appeared on the scene called "Channel 66" known subsequently as Radio Jacqueline. At that time also, your scribe (that's me) was experimenting with makeshift transmitters and was able to communicate after a fashion over the radio with Davitt, who was then based in Mount St.

With the appearance of Radio Jacqueline, Davitt joined forces with them while yours truly **struggled** to get some sort of decent transmission on the air.

I should mention that there was another station on the air in '65 which I heard only a few times, and it disappeared into the air after a while. For my money, that station was the best as regards signal strength and quality. The programme presentation left a lot to be desired, in fact it consisted of a string of what were "oldies" at that time, interlaced with a few words now and again from an anonymous presenter. Radio Santa Monica, as it called itself, broadcast on 253 metres. Despite efforts, I could glean only scarce facts about it...

For starters it was, I believe, located in Ranelagh. It used two 807's in the P.A. radio-frequency output which was fed into a half-wave dipole antenna. This accounted for the very strong signal all over Dublin.

Moreover, the audio sensitivity was -- well, you could hear a clock ticking away in the background -- that's how sensitive the modulation was.

Just for the sake of curiosity, the gramophone records that I recall were "The Tambourine Man" by The Byrds, "This Diamond Ring" by ?? (not known) and "Last Exit to Brooklyn" by Gene Pitney. In conclusion on the Santa Monica mystery, I believe its engineer had worked for Radio Caroline (the off-shore one). But the station made little impact overall, except perhaps on yours truly. It was, how you say, like a ship that passed in the night.....

It was in the winter of '68 that Davitt transported me on the back of a huge motor-bike to Blackrock, there to meet the operator of Radio Jacqueline - naturally enough his name was ... Jack! I gave them a crystal to operate on 253 metres - they said, "Thank you very much." And so on to 1969...

Closing both a chapter in my life and marking the end of the 1960s... I contacted Brian Kavanagh whose name Davitt had given me, and so life goes, the chance acquaintanceships which lead to further contacts.

In 1969/70 a new station made its appearance in Dublin - Radio Eamo, named after its operator, Eamonn.

I established radio contact with it, giving a telephone number at which Brian could be contacted. And that was how we also came into contact with Billy, who was an engineering friend of Eamonn's.

Around the same period - perhaps later in 1970 (I don't have a record of the dates) I also made radio contact with "Radio Laxey". Brian had suggested that we give his own home phone number over the air in order to facilitate the operator of Radio Laxey. This greatly intrigued me, as we had used a public phone in Eamonn's case, but anyway we went ahead and established that contact also.

Now there were four stations on the air about this time: Radios Eamo, Caroline, B'la Cliath and Laxey. At this time also, not to digress, there was an occupation of No. 45 Hume St. in Dublin by architectural students who opposed the demolition of the building for redevelopment purposes. One of the occupiers heard me calling out Brian's phone number and rang him up! And so was offered the use of that address for the four pirates who were supposed to operate in "The United Stations Network". An arrangement that lasted only a few weeks and incidentally very little mail was received at No. 45 Hume St. for the pirate radio stations as I recall. Though we did receive a letter from one John Dowling....

In mid 1970, Brian and myself made a foray across the sea to England. Specifically, we met the operators of the pirate stations in Colchester, Essex. Johnny Grimwade had a rig going at the time, possibly the largest in these islands, using two 813 valves in the Power Amplifier. It was without a doubt the most magnificent set-up we've ever seen. Sometime later we learned that Johnny suffered from that occupational hazard of all pirates - the Post Office raid.

I was also the first to operate on short wave from Dublin, joined later by Bill and Brian. This was on the Echo Charley (EC) band - a sort of "pirate" ham band. Over this net we made contacts with operators in the North and in Britain with power outputs in the region of 10 watts.

Meanwhile, back on medium waves, 1970/71 saw the appearance of yet another station, Radio Venessa. Radio Jacqueline, which had been off the air for some time made a come-back as "Channel 70". At some stage too, Radio Laxey became Radio Galaxy.

"Oh dear," said Kenneth, "Things are getting confused... Did such and such happen in 1970 or was it '71? Can't remember now - all the events seem to be fusing and running into one another, and I've lost track of time...."

The problem is that, for one thing, I'm relying on memory to recount the sequence of events and, of necessity, this account is very much condensed.

But, for me, the single event which marked the beginning of the end was late '71 when I ceded the operation of Radio Dublin to "Prince Terry". In 1972, I met Mark and in that year Radio Dublin had become "The Big D" with deejays "Prince Terry" and "Mark Tee".

Seventy-two also saw the appearance of yet more new stations. Radios Northside and Melinda. And on short-wave Radio Valleri began operations.

I believe the "Melinda Affair" has already been well and truly expounded upon by yours truly - that's not to say that I won't go into the gory details again some time!

Suffice it to say that the Melinda shenanigans put the kibosh on it for me...

Stations could come and stations could go but it would never be the same as far as I was concerned. And indeed stations came and went. Despite all the warnings Melinda was closed down, Radio Empathy was to get the hammer in the month of April, 1974, and Capital Radio was raided on the third anniversary of the Melinda raid - December, 1975 - Christmas week, in fact.

With reference to my own participation, I would divide the decade into three periods: 1965-69 - the early days; 1970-72 - the heady years; 1973-75 - the epilogue.

It was ironic that the formation of the Irish Radio Movement did not come about until 1973...

Brian Kavanagh made a telling observation about the I.R.M., "It came too late..."

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 QSL REPORT ... WITH KEVIN RYAN ... BLECHWOOD, ROSCOMMON, Co. ROSCOMMON

AUSTRALIA: Radio Australia, Box 428 G, Melbourne, verified my report on their European Service from 0700-0915 on 9570 kHz with a QSL card in 267 days. That was a long wait!

AUSTRIA: Austrian Army Radio (or if you prefer Schulungssender des Osterreichischen Bundesheeres), Gussriegelstrasse 45, A-1102, Wien, verified my report with a very nice QSL after 176 days. The time was 1830 and the frequency 6255 kHz. Programming is in German but they also play some English pop music. If you want to log the station, the schedule is: 1030-1400; 1530-1700; 1730-1900 GMT - and all are on the one frequency 6221 kHz.

CANADA: CKEC in New Glasgow on 1320 kHz verified with a QSL in 23 days. An IRC was enclosed with the report. This station is often audible now from around 2300 GMT, as well as several other trans-Atlantic MW stations.

SOMALIA: Radio Somalia, Ministry of Information, Private Postbag, Mogadishu, verified my report with a form letter in English after 32 days. The frequency monitored was 9585 kHz and the time was 2000 GMT.

URUGUAY: Radio El Espectador, Difusoras del Uruguay, SA, Soriano 1287, Montevideo, verified my report by card in 27 days. Frequency was 11835 and the time was 0230 GMT. Programmes are in Spanish.

VENEZUELA: Radio Ecos del Torbes, Ap 152, San Cristobal, Tachira, verified my report with a letter in Spanish plus a beautiful pennant after 124 days. Frequency was 4980 kHz; time was 0100 GMT; report was in Spanish.

Best 73's de KEVIN RYAN

THE BROADCASTING SCENE IN AUSTRALIABY JOHN CAMPBELL

For a long time, the broadcasting situation in Australia was as static as the situation in Ireland, at least in the days before Radio na Gaeltachta came on the air. Sometime around the same time as that "new" Irish development, Australian broadcasting too became a little more diversified. The excuse for this article is that some of the new activities Down Under have Irish parallels, and that the other; may suggest new ideas about broadcasting to people who would like their listening options to be more lively.

Almost from the beginning of history, Australian internal broadcasting has been divided between the non-commercial ABC and companies operating local commercial stations. The ABC has had a record of being dull but safe, partly as an inevitable result of bureaucracy and partly as protection from reprisals by politicians, but lately the timid image has been fading away. How far it has faded is sharply evident to any old Australian hands who have returned after spending some time away from the country. Now, with reasonable justification, it is often described as being second only to the BBC in quality of programming among English-speaking national broadcasting organisations. Consequently, the politicians are on the warpath. I have just had the experience of being lectured by one of them, somewhat unsteadily, on the subject. "It's full of Communists," he said, pounding the table for emphasis and causing havoc among the empty beer bottles which had been accumulating on his side. "We've got to clean it up, and we're going to clean it up." In the present Conservative (confusingly called Liberal) government, the average member is more urbane and sophisticated than that, but apparently not by much. Preliminary shots

have already been fired: recent semi-official enquiries, reports and leaks of reports would have us believe that the ABC as such should be abolished, with its most popular and potentially money-making functions being handed over to the commercial companies. What should then remain is not clear, although the implication is that it may be a higher-brow version of BBC Radio 3, with lectures on basket-weaving and the place of the potato in the folklore of Wales. The government's recent appointment of a new ABC Chairman with previous experience of studies of efficiency in civil-service departments may be the product of a desire to turn a hatchet man loose on the organisation. So far, however, no heads have rolled - possibly because the Chairman is under no obligation to act on political orders. My friend with the beer bottles expressed some disappointment on that score. If the ABC survives the present government's hostility and keeps up its standard of programming, perhaps well-wishers of RTE may like to enquire into how it was done.

Most of the companies operating commercial radio stations in large cities also control the commercial TV stations and newspapers in those cities. Although there have been exceptions in the past, the situation now is that the main object of the monopolies of communications is to make money and influence people. Programming quality is no better than one would expect from stations with that outlook. Generally the independent commercial stations in country districts try to be fairer to their audiences, but regrettably the country stations also adopt the motto "get modern or get out" of Min Bannister of the Goon Show, and tend to follow the programming style of the big-city stations with the highest audience ratings.

It isn't that I'm against commercials, dear reader: amateur commercials on stations of other types like RTE which give the impression of being uncertain about the philosophical basis for the whole exercise are touching at worst, great fun at best. (My prize example is an hysterical commercial for Doggo Dog Food broadcast by a rare commercial station owned by trade-union interests in a mining town). But commercial stations are, to quote a Hungarian who still regards Australian English as a throat complaint, a horse of a completely different flavour. I would hope that St. Patrick was a far-seeing fellow so that some researcher in theological archives will eventually discover that his action on snakes came complete with a reserve clause to extend its scope to commercial radio stations.

Now to more cheerful things. Pirates? Well, no, we have no pirates in Australia. Some members of the Irish Radio Movement will say "alas" to this, and some will not. So, on that question, not a word from me. Our last recorded pirate was not quite a station, but he pioneered an art form. All cigarette commercials in Australia are followed by a stern voice saying, "Listeners are advised that smoking is a health hazard". Occasionally, after closing announcements of one or two of the more virulent commercial stations, a sinister voice on the same frequency has been heard to say "Listeners are advised that commercial radio is a mental health hazard". This joker is not better known in the places where he deserves best to be known, unfortunately, because almost all the capital-city commercial stations now have 24-hour schedules.

In our history, it has been taken for granted until lately that no organisation is competent to broadcast, or to be allowed to broadcast, except organisations full of civil servants (ABC) or companies wishing to do it to make money for themselves. The change got under way after the election, in late 1972, of the first non-Conservative

Australian government since 1949. The thin edge of the wedge to counter the old view of broadcasting, though, had been present since about 1963. This was station VL2UV, operated by the Department of Postgraduate Extension Studies of the University of New South Wales. As originally designed, it transmitted lectures for people who could not attend lectures during the day, and broadcast between about 5.30 and 9 p.m. Although the hours have not been greatly altered, the range of programmes has been extended to take in educational and cultural items not directly connected with university lectures, transcription programmes from foreign stations like Radio Nederland, Deutsche Welle and the BBC, and foreign language broadcasts. The reason why VL2UV is still not a "popular" station, even though its audience has expanded considerably, is that it transmits on 1750 kHz. Not many radios on sale cover this frequency.

Several years after the foundation of VL2UV, the University of Adelaide opened a similar station. Its licence also was for operation past the high-frequency end of the medium-wave band, but not so far past it that the brave listener with the ordinary receiver did not have a fighting chance of capturing it by twisting the tuning knob a few millimetres after the indicator threatened to disappear off the end of the scale. When other technical reasons called for a frequency change, the station was moved to 530 kHz and became available to almost all Adelaide listeners. As a further indication of its success, the call-sign of VL5UV has been changed to 5UV, in the pattern of normal ABC and commercial call-signs. If one asks why 5UV has been given a better deal than VL2UV, it may, of course, be pure speculation to say by way of an answer that the Labour State government in South Australia likes to believe that it has turned Adelaide into the Athens of the South, while until May 1976 New South Wales has been

governed by troglodytes from one party or another.

By their existence, the University stations said implicitly that there were other useful possibilities besides the old two-way carve-up of broadcasting. The earliest groups to say it explicitly were communities of post-war immigrants, particularly from Italy, Poland, Yugoslavia and Greece, who expressed dissatisfaction about the 100% Australian programming of the old stations. The best that they have ever managed from some commercial stations have been isolated programmes sponsored by immigrant businessmen or stores with a product aimed mainly at a non-English-speaking market (e.g. imported records). The ABC has conceded nothing at all. In both major political parties, the view of the old guard on the subject was the same, i.e. "Why don't the bastards learn English?"

Happily the new Australian government in 1972 was more friendly on this point, as on other suggestions for new directions in broadcasting. The first evidence of the difference in policy was the appearance of "Access Radio" 3ZZ in Melbourne. The equipment of 3ZZ is maintained by our equivalent of the Ministry of Posts and Telegraphs, and it may be used by any legitimate community group or language group to produce and transmit its own programmes. The question of who is "legitimate" is apparently decided by committees formed from the groups which came in on the ground floor while 3ZZ was in preparation, and not by politicians.

The idea of an outlet for community groups (special-interest groups like pigeon fanciers, or communities in the sense of large suburbs with distinct identities) was a complete novelty in Australia. At first it was just as successful as RTE's wandering studio with instant changes of name, e.g. Radio Liberties. It is not much heard of now, but that can be traced to feuds among sections of its organisation and committees. Perhaps some heroes will eventually point it in the right dir-

ection again. In the meantime, its success may have helped to fertilise the recent mushroom growth of all kinds of new do-it-yourself stations.

The oldest of the new stations, if one can put age labels on a field which has been with us for less than two years, are 2EA Sydney and 3EA Melbourne. The call-signs are explained by the announcements on the hour: "This is ...EA, the Voice of Ethnic Australia." Between announcements, there are programmes in anything from Cantonese to Armenian. Foreign-language broadcasting has at last found a home, with indirect government support provided through the Department of Immigration. Those with ears to hear can find more variety on these stations than on any others. In two successive hours I have heard a Spanish speaker earnestly explaining the connection between flying saucers and Inca culture in Peru, and an attack by an Italian restaurateurs' front on the quality of food in ordinary Australian sandwich bars. "Ethnic" is an interesting adjective: the idea may be that it is intended to avoid tipping off the more unreconstructed Old Australian politicians directly to the fact that foreigners are speaking in foreign languages on the airwaves for 16 hours a day.

The newest development is the issue of broadcasting licences to somewhere between 12 and 20 associations based on universities, technical colleges, geographical communities, and groups of subscribers for stations to transmit purely classical music. The momentum for this move was gained under the 1972-75 government, and the present Conservative government is being carried along with the tide so far. About half of the stations have begun operation, and the rest expect to start within the next year. A typical station will probably combine all the features of the older "new" single-purpose broadcasters - education, specialised music, ethnic radio, local community programming, and propaganda by pigeon fanciers. If this is not exactly what the Irish Radio Movement would like to encourage, it must nevertheless come fairly close.

This experiment in radio by everybody for everybody may provide valuable lessons for broadcasting in other countries. We may not go quite so far in variety as Indonesia in the 1960s where (for example) one small community station was operated jointly by an agricultural high school and a brewery, but our lessons will be easier to export. (Well, perhaps I am being hard on Indonesia. Think of the potential of a station shared by Trinity College and Guinness!)

There is one small cloud on the horizon. If it is the view of the present Australian government and of most politicians that the ABC behaves as if it is managed by a bunch of subversives, even though the politicians have shown much ability in the last 40 years to frighten it into submission by direct financial and similar threats, many of the government's friends are apt to become positively incoherent at the thought of the relatively limited control they will be able to exercise over this strange collection of dangerous new stations. Those friends who are saying nothing are the clever ones, because they have already set up a cure for the problem. Apart from VL2UV and 5UV, all of the stations have been established under fixed-term "experimental" licences. One or two expire in 1980, but almost all are due for renewal in the next eight months - including the licences for the stations that do not even have a studio or a microphone yet. If the government's recent menacing noises are any guide, the managements of all of the stations should start taking courses in self-defence now.

It remains to be seen whether the Australian lessons in community broadcasting will be lessons about construction or destruction. Perhaps Australia will be the first country to make a thorough and urgent test of how much active public support there is for "public radio". No matter which way the future goes, the outcome of the Australian experiments will be worth knowing about in Ireland.

JOHN CAMPBELL

## PROTEST MARCH BY RADIO DUBLIN'S SUPPORTERS TO LEINSTER HOUSE...

The sounds of "Bula, Bula", "We Love the Pirates" and TOP 20 HITS mixed with "Radio Dublin 253" jingles filled Dublin's City Centre - it was Saturday, June 12th, the day of the Radio Dublin protest march to Leinster House.

Assembly time was 1 p.m. opposite the G.P.O. in O'Connell St. To give the latecomers a chance, the march did not commence until 1.25. Music was supplied by two Marshall speaker enclosures mounted on the roof of Captain Cook's Jaguar and blasting out 100 watts of sound at just below distortion level. At 1.30 the march was well on the way with some 200 supporters carrying banners stating: "LEGALISE RADIO DUBLIN", "RADIO DUBLIN - PLEASE LEGALISE US!", "WE WANT RADIO DUBLIN LEGALISED" and "RADIO DUBLIN RULES, O.K.?".

The march went from O'Connell St. thru D'Olier St., College St., Nassau St., Dawson St., Molesworth St. and then into Kildare St. Dr. Don then handed an application for a licence to a Leinster House Garda who took it and vanished inside! A loud cheer rose from the crowd. Then Prince Terry announced over the speaker system: "The march will go on to St. Stephen's Green." At 2.15 all had arrived at The Green and Dr. Don announced: "Thank you all for coming and showing your support. We'll see you tomorrow on 253 metres! The march is now officially over - thank you!"

The march was indeed very orderly with only a few Gardai about. But what has the march achieved? One thing it has done is brought the Radio Dublin cause for legalisation before the Government. It has also shown that they are not just fooling around, but are serious about wanting an ALL DAY MUSIC STATION in Dublin. Will the Government listen to their plea???

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The above article first appeared in NEWS-LETTER which is published by FRC IRELAND



MAKING CONTACT ... ..BY JOHN DOWLING

Early on the morning of June 26th, I commenced my visit to the west of Ireland... The journey by car from Borris to Killarney could not have been better, it was the first day of the extremely hot weather which came our way this summer, so the prospects for an enjoyable holiday seemed good. You will not hear any complaints from me about the weather being "too hot"!

Three days were spent in the scenic Killarney area, then I moved on to the seaside resort of Ballybunion in North Kerry. There, early on Wednesday morning, June 30th I met and had a very enjoyable chat with John O'Carroll, a licensed Irish amateur radio operator with the call-sign EI6AH. He runs a shop in the heart of the town, and I decided he must be interested in the radio game when I spotted some strange looking antennae across the roof of his house. Well, this was soon confirmed when I got into conversation with John who has had many years' transmitting experience. Well, the open road beckoned to me again, and I drove on to Listowel where I had a mineral in the pub owned by the famous Irish writer, John B. Keane. From there I moved to Tarbert where I drove on to the ferry which took me on the twenty-minute trip across the Mouth of the Shannon to Co. Clare. The weather was still perfect, and the sun tan was coming along nicely!

Quite a long journey lay before me as I made my way up through Co. Clare, through the green lands of the south of the county and on to the barren wastes of the Burren country in the north of the county. Finally, I arrived in Galway's famous seaside resort, Salthill, and I knew now I would soon be meeting one of our IRM members in Galway.... Around 6 p.m. on July 1st, I succeeded (without too much trouble!) in locating 49 St. Finbarr's Terrace, Bohermore, Galway City. Paddy Folan warmly greeted me and ushered me in to his home. After introductions to Paddy's mother, brother and sister, we began to get down to business! Paddy brought out his fine collection of QSL cards, several of which I haven't got in my own collection! It struck me that since I got most of the "easy" stations verified many years ago that the designs of the QSL cards have become very colourful and attractive. Paddy's collection of station pennants was most impressive, and I began to realise that this was an aspect of the hobby which, in the past, I had not paid enough attention to. We had a brief tune around on Paddy's receiver - a domestic set - and heard Radio RSA in the 60 metre band. Paddy is hoping to purchase a better radio in the near future. I was very pleased to see that he was constructing a medium wave loop antenna - this followed the publication of details on how to construct such an antenna in a previous edition of MEDIUM.

A few hours passed, then we walked the short distance to the home of Paddy's brother-in-law, Dave Smith, who has also been bitten by the radio bug. Dave has a nice little collection of QSL cards which he is being encouraged to try and expand. Again, a domestic-type receiver is used for listening purposes, but just like any "natural" DX-er he is hoping to improve his listening station in the near future....

Paddy and I met for another "session" the following afternoon, and as we chatted, we also visited some of the landmarks for which Galway is famous, the impressive Cathedral, the historic Spanish Arch, the Salmon Weir, and so on. Finally, around midnight, we bade our farewells and promised to keep

in touch, with, among other things, the possibility of Paddy visiting my QTH at some date in the near future.

Paddy has many interests besides radio - astronomy, martial arts, youth organisations, etc.

Early Saturday morning I departed from Salthill and journeyed through very scenic areas of Connemara on my way up to Mayo and Achill Island. The latter as beautiful as ever, with its ever-changing landscape - from meadow to moorland, from unexpectedly high mountains to rolling plains, right down to sand beaches crammed with tourists. I bedded down in Westport, and on Sunday I drove towards Ballina in search of another IRM member, Padraic Cawley from the townland of Garracloon near Cloghans. Mid afternoon I finally tracked down Padraic's home remotely situated about six miles from Ballina. We conversed as if we had known each other for years, and, naturally, Padraic's QSL collection was viewed with considerable interest by your scribe. A very fine collection of colourful cards from all over the world. Padraic has been using the Trio 9R-59DS communications receiver, but, on the day of my visit, it was not available for a bit of listening - it was away being realigned. I was pleasantly surprised to learn that as a result of reading some of my articles in earlier editions of MEDIUM, Padraic had taken up medium wave DX-ing - something which he did not believe possible before reading about it in MEDIUM. Since Padraic commenced medium wave DX-ing around last Christmas he has added several more QSL cards to his collection -- from Canadian and U.S. medium wave stations which he was thrilled to log. He is also constructing a loop antenna.

The weather changed rather dramatically late Sunday afternoon, with thunder and lightning, and quite heavy rain. The hours passed by all too fast and shortly before nightfall I said goodbye to Padraic and we looked forward to the day when we would once again greet each other face to face.

I made my way back to Westport via a "back" road to Castlebar which took me down past the beautiful shores of Lough Conn and through the village of Pontoon.

On Monday the weather had improved considerably and I commenced the next stage of my tour. Bushfield House, Hollymount, was my next official "stop". Unfortunately, IRM member, Gerry Delaney was not at home, but I received a warm welcome from Gerry's mother and his younger brother, Mike. Mrs. Delaney showed me Gerry's collection of QSL cards, and, believe it or not, for the first time I saw a QSL card from RADIO TELEFIS EIREANN! I have never taken the trouble of reporting to RTE Radio myself, but I'll say this... their QSL cards are lovely. Gerry has two in his collection, and I note RTE are using very picturesque post cards showing famous Irish beauty spots. The QSL text is printed on the reverse side of the card, otherwise they are exactly the same as one can buy in any souvenir shop. About an hour was spent at Bushfield House, then I was back on the road again!

Roscommon was the next town on which I had my sights... I booked into a guesthouse in Roscommon; then I travelled out to Kevin Ryan's QTH at Beechwood, about four miles from Roscommon. It was about 6.30 p.m. and Kevin's father answered my knock. Immediately I was brought into the livingroom and was greeted by the rest of the Ryan household - Kevin himself, his mother, and his two sisters, Hazel and Caroline. I had been to Kevin's QTH last year

so I was not a total stranger! Quite soon, we were on to the subject of - yes, you've guessed it - radio. I had a listen to Kevin's VEF206 Russian-made portable receiver, which is very similiar to one I once had, and several stations were heard loud and clear using just the set's telescopic antenna.

Kevin's QSL card collection was also viewed and once again I was delighted to note that Kevin's collection is expanding and he has several verifications which are not in my collection. One in particular took my fancy -- a verification from Ecos del Torbes. Kevin and I sent reports to that station about the same time, Kevin got his verification, but I got no reply to my report!

Later that night as Kevin and I sat in my car - I was showing Kevin some of the DX magazines I receive - it commenced to rain rather heavily. It was now dark and the lightning streaked across the sky closely followed by the rumbling bangs of thunder. It was one o'clock before we finally parted. As a result of this visit I hope Kevin will visit me at this QTH sometime later on this year. Kevin is well known to all regular readers of this magazine, as he has been one of the most consistant supporters and contributors. His QSL SECTION has been one of the regular features of MEDIUM since the very beginning. So, a special word of thanks to you, Kevin...

Early Tuesday morning it was drizzling rain as I took one last stroll around Roscommon before heading for Ballinasloe....

In Ballinasloe around 11 a.m. I met my old friend, Pat Callaghan, another IRM member, and also, like yours truly, a member of the World DX Club (Britain) since early in 1966. Back in '66 I was the proud possessor of SIX QSL cards! How times have a-changed.....

Pat and I chatted as we walked around Ballinasloe, we had a very enjoyable lunch at Hayden's Hotel. Pat told me about his current interests in the hobby - collecting cassettes of the old off-shore stations, for instance. He has not been adding very many QSLs to his collection of late, but things might look up in that department before long.

Pat's been an acquaintance of mine since we first met two or three years ago at the Horse Show in Dublin. I also visited Pat last year, visited his QTH and met his parents.....

A very enjoyable meeting it turned out to be, and in mid-afternoon we decided to travel a short distance from Ballinasloe to a place with the romantic name of Taughmaconnell. And there at the local Post Office we met for the first time another IRM member, Kevin Flynn. Unfortunately, we dropped in at a very inconvenient time as far as Kevin was concerned, he had a strict deadline to keep as he prepared the post. Nevertheless, we were received with extreme courtesy by Kevin, and I know now after speaking to him that he can fully appreciate the difficulties in running an organisation like the IRM and the announcement that this is the final edition of MEDIUM will not surprise him! Kevin is considering purchasing a new receiver and has been looking at the Grundig Satellit 2000. Our encounter with Kevin had to be kept brief, but it was a very worthwhile experience.

At 5.30 p.m. I said my goodbyes to Pat and commenced the final stage of my tour - the journey home. As I drove the 110 miles from Ballinasloe, with the rain belting down, my mind recounted several aspects of my holiday and I felt pleased at having met so many members of the IRM - all without exception possessed large quantities of unrestrained friendliness - it was a tour I'll always treasure in my memory.

JOHN DOWLING

DX TIPS ... .. COMPILED BY JOHN DOWLING

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AFGHANISTAN: Radio Kabul broadcasts in English at 1130-1200 on 15195 kHz in the 19 metre band.

ANDORRA: World Music Radio, the former Dutch pirate station, is now scheduled to broadcast over a low power transmitter from Andorra on 6230 kHz at 0800-1400 on Saturdays. Programmes are in English with other European languages also used. Radio Andorra broadcasts its own programmes over this transmitter on weekdays from 1000-1200 and there is a Dutch language broadcast on Sundays at 0700-1500. The WMR programmes will be verified by QSL card if reports are sent to: World Music Radio, P.O. Box 4078, Amsterdam, Holland, and one must include 2 IRC's with the report.

ANTIGUA: The BBC's new 250 kW relay station on this Caribbean island is scheduled to operate shortly; frequencies and times of operation include the following: World Service in English - 0430-0730 on 6175 kHz; 1100-1330 on 6195 kHz; 20-2115 on 6195 kHz; and Portuguese on 9765 at 2200-0015. Some problems may have delayed the commencement of broadcasts. The transmitter site is shared also with Deutsche Welle.

AUSTRALIA: Radio Australia's Carnarvon transmitter is scheduled to operate on 6005 kHz at 1430-1730 and on 15410 kHz from 0030-0800.

BANGLADESH: Dacca is scheduled to operate in English to Europe on 15270 kHz at 1230 hours and at 1815 on 9550 and 11970 kHz.

BELGIUM: Brussels has the following English language service: 0015-0045 on 9755, 9735 and 9725 kHz.

CANADA: The medium wave station, CIGO, which is often heard in the wee hours on 1410 kHz will be pleased to receive reports at the following address: Radio Station CIGO, P.O. Box 1410, Port Hawkesbury, Nova Scotia, BOE 2V0, Canada. Mark your reports for

the attention of Don Bedell, P.R.O.

CAPE VERDE ISLANDS: The new name for Radio Clube Capo Verde is A Voz de Praia. The station is often heard on 3883 kHz.

CHINA: Radio Peking is issuing a free "Chinese for Beginners" book for those interested in its Chinese language course.

CUBA: Radio Havana broadcasts in English to Europe on 17885 kHz at 2010-2140 hours.

EGYPT: Radio Cairo broadcasts in English to Europe at 2200-2315 on 15265 kHz. Another frequency often mentioned for this broadcast is 9805 kHz.

EQUADOR: HCJB, "The Voice of the Andes", has been heard in English at 2015 on 15300. Announced also are 17780 and 11845 kHz.

FINLAND: Since September 5th, Radio Finland, Helsinki, has moved the new 250 kW transmitter from 15105 to 15205 kHz during the transmissions from 0600-0730 and 1000-1100 hours.

FRANCE: "France Inter" has been noted with English language transmissions for tourists at 0700 and 1400 GMT on 164 kHz (long wave). These items of interest for tourists are also carried on FM frequencies. A "Souvenir Token" is offered in return for comments on the service. Address of "France Inter" is, simply, France Inter, English Newsflash, Radio France, Paris.

GERMANY (WEST): Deutschlandfunk, Koln, may be heard weekdays in English on the medium wave frequency of 1268 kHz from 1840-1930 hours.

GHANA: The External Service of Radio Ghana is beamed to Europe on 9545 and 15285 kHz at 2030-2200 hours.

GREAT BRITAIN: Recent reports that the U.S. had requested permission to build transmitters for Radio Free Europe and Radio Liberty in Britain

have been denied by the Foreign Office. The U.S. is apparently having some difficulties in its negotiations with the Spanish Government in regard to the renewal of the agreement whereby Radio Liberty and Radio Free Europe broadcasts are beamed to Eastern Europe via transmitters on Spanish soil.

GAMBIA: Radio Gambia is now audible here in Ireland on the medium wave frequency of 648 kHz. Noted before 2300 hours GMT after BBC Radio Three had signed off on 647 kHz. Reception quality varies.

GRENADE: Radio Grenada has a very nice request programme on the air daily on 15105 kHz. The station is on the air on this frequency at 2000-2200 hours. Reception can sometimes be excellent.

HAITI: Radio Station 4VEH has English on 11835 kHz at 0001-0015 GMT. (Your scribe has noted this station in English much earlier than this - reception varies from excellent to non-existent!)

ICELAND: The Ship-to-Shore Coastal station on 12175 kHz, which is often heard with "voice mirror" identification, operates as a BROADCAST station from 1200-1300 with a relay of the home service programmes. Reports to the Gufunes Communications Centre, Reykjavik, Iceland, are verified by QSL card.

INDIA: All India Radio's General Overseas Service is broadcast to Europe at 1745-2330 GMT on 7225 and 9525 kHz. In addition, 9912 kHz is used between 1945-2230 GMT.

INTERNATIONAL WATERS: Mike Barraclough reports in CONTACT that the MEBO 11 is again ready to sail. Meetings have taken place in Zurich between English deejays and Managers.

IRAN: Radio Teheran may be heard in English to Europe at 2000-2030 on 9022 kHz (an "out-of-band" frequency).

ISRAEL: A new Israeli pop music station opened in the middle of June.

It operates on 529 kHz in the medium wave band. The station is called RESHET GIMEL. The station quickly became very popular and it is reported to have taken away some 50% of regular listeners in Israel from the "Voice of Peace" station. It is also reported that the Voice of Peace ship is anchored in Israeli territorial waters and not in international waters. It is also noted that Israel has recently introduced legislation to combat off-shore broadcasting stations.

ITALY: RAI, the Italian State radio and TV service, has been protesting recently over the growth of "free" radio stations in the country. However, Rome has stated that the Constitutional Court has decided that it is "permissible for anyone to install and operate radio and television broadcasting apparatus". Such installations must, however, be of local range and should not disturb the operations of essential public and other services provided by the State. **GAMMA RADIO** is planning to run a network of stations on medium wave and they are very interested in reports from foreign countries. It will be recalled that Gamma Radio operated for some time on the short wave frequency of 6209 kHz and the signal was sometimes fair here in Ireland. The station is located in Milan and is one of the newer breed of free radio stations which have now, in effect, been legalised by the recent decision of the Constitutional Court. Several hundred free radio stations are now operating in Italy, mainly on the FM band, but some also on medium wave - with a few broadcasting in English. These stations represent all sorts of groups - including extremist left wing and right wing stations.

RAI has been heard at 1935 on 11800 kHz.

KUWAIT: The 250 kW transmitter of Radio Kuwait is used for English to Europe at 1700-2000 on 11845 and 9555 kHz.

MADAGASCAR: Radio Nederland airs its English language broadcast to Europe via this relay station on 11730 kHz at 2000-2120 hours.

MONTSERRAT: SWN (Denmark) reports that

the BSC will commence a relay service this month (September) from a relay station in this Caribbean country. World Service programmes will be at 1100-1330 on 11790 kHz; 2000-2115 on 9600 kHz.

NEW ZEALAND: A flood of protests from all over the world seems to have saved the life of the short wave service of Radio New Zealand. After a break, it is now back on short wave and this is the complete schedule as published in SWN: 1800-2015 on 9770 and 11780 kHz; 2030-0050 on 11960 and 15130 kHz; 0050-0100 on 15130 kHz; 0100-0450 on 11705 and 15130 kHz; 0500-0700 on 9540 kHz and 6105 or 11780 kHz; 0700-1030 on 6105 or 11780 kHz. To log any of these broadcasts here in Western Europe would be quite a nice little achievement - but have a try, you never know your luck!

NETHERLANDS: On the occasion of his retirement from active short wave broadcasting, and as a token of Handicapped Aid Programme's thanks for all his many efforts for this programme, HAP will be honouring Harry van Gelder with a presentation plaque. The presentation will be made by Ian McFarland of Radio Canada International during the DX Juke Box programme on September 16th, 1976.

PHILIPPINES: Radio Veritas has been reported in English until 1500 on 9548 kHz. Latest frequencies and times of operation are: 1130-1500 on 9610 and 11725 kHz; 0000-0200 on 11725 and 15280 kHz. All according to DYM (Germany).

SAUDI ARABIA: Schedule indicates that the Broadcasting Service of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia broadcasts in English at 1000-1300 and 1900-2200 hours on 11855 kHz.

SPAIN: The external service of Spanish Radio is reported to have programmes in English from 2030-2130 on 9505 kHz, and at 2130-2230 on 9505 and 6075 kHz.

SWEDEN: Since September 5th, Radio Sweden has been conducting test

test transmissions in Single Side Band with a 30 kW transmitter located at Horby. In the first place these tests are aimed at Swedes abroad and the Swedish home Service, Programme 1, is relayed from 0500-0800 on 17735, from 1400-1800 on 17775 and from 1800-2130 on 17790 kHz. Some of Radio Sweden's foreign service programmes are also tested on SSB on 21670 kHz in the 13 metre band. The English language programme is aired at 1100 hours. Reports should be sent to the Swedish Telecommunications Administration, Broadcasting Division, S-123 86 FARSTA, Sweden.

TAIWAN: English may be heard from Radio Taiwan from 1900-2000 on 9510 and 11850 kHz.

TANZANIA: Dar Es Salaam has an English broadcast on 15435 kHz from 1800 to 1900 hours. Reception is reported to be poor.

VENEZUELA: The new English language service is reported on 15390 kHz - some reports say from 2115-2215, others say from 2200-2300 Monday-Friday

VIETNAM: Voice of Vietnam has English 1800-1900 on 15012 and 12035 kHz. Reception can be extremely good.

PIRATES: Land-based stations reported heard recently in the 49 metre band include the following: Westside Radio (6210 kHz), Radio Gemini (6230), Skyport Radio (6230), Radio Valleri (6260), ABC England (6270), Radio Valentine (6275), Radio Solent International (6280), Time Radio (6222), Radio Caroline International (6220), Radio London International (6225), unid. station with test transmissions on 6275 kHz - call sounded like, "This is KOL from Europe". Station says it will be a "news, views and comment station".

On medium wave, Radio 215 has been noted in the Dublin area. Wavelength is said to be "214 metres".

Best time to hear the short wave pirates is Sunday mornings from around 1000 hours onwards.

cont'd.../...

In compiling the DX NEWS on the three previous pages, I have made use of information gathered from the following publications, all of which are strongly recommended by your editor:

SHORT WAVE NEWS, the monthly bulletin of the Danish Short Wave Clubs International, P.O. Box 50, DK-2620, Albertson, Denmark. The yearly subscription is £4.50 at present and remittances may be sent to the U.K. representative, Noel Green, 14, Marsden Road, Blackpool, Lancashire, FY4 3BZ. SWN contains up to 30 A4 size pages a month, and regular features include a very comprehensive logbook section, QSL-CORNER, Pirate Radio and Clandestine Radio News, Utility News, Medium Wave News, and so on. The DSWCI works in co-operation with the publishers of the World Radio Handbook, and therefore gets all the most up-to-date information.

DX MAGAZINE, the monthly publication of the World Wide DX Club, c/o Michael Bothge, Post Office Box 1263, D-6380, Bad Homburg 1, West Germany. Annual subscription is DM 15.00 (or \$6.00) - so you can get your Bank to convert that to sterling at the current rates! Features include good Broadcasting News sections, Logbook section, medium wave logbook, QSL news, utility section, amateur radio section, etc. Pages are printed on A5 paper. Over 30 pages per issue.

CONTACT, the monthly publication of the World DX Club, (Membership Secretary is Clive Jenkins, 11, Wesley Grove, Portsmouth, Hants., PO3 5ER, England.) Yearly subscription is £2.00. Contact contains 24 A4 duplicated pages and the features come under roughly the same headings as for the previous two magazines.

If you are making enquiries about any of the magazines mentioned above, don't forget to include IRC's with your enquiries.

JOHN DOWLING

ANOTHER LOOK AT THE STATE OF AFFAIRS IN THE IRISH RADIO MOVEMENT (IF YOU CAN TAKE IT AGAIN!)

Our magazine, MEDIUM, was without a printer when our secretary, Mark Story, resigned. Mark had been taking care of the printing for some time, and as I write these few lines (21/9/1976) and after being in Dublin a few days ago to see how the printing of this edition was getting along, I now realise that a lot of effort was, indeed, required to have the magazine duplicated. This time Felim O'Connor and his brother, Ciaran, came to our rescue. They have printed the pages which have been done with black ink. The remaining pages (in green ink) have been done by yours truly with a borrowed duplicator. I should like to express my own thanks and the thanks of the other members of the disbanding IRM to Ciaran for helping out on this occasion. But for his help it is quite probably that this issue would not have been printed at all. Paddy Brennan will tell you that it's not easy trying to locate someone willing to do a spot of work with a duplicator!

In the few lines now left to me, I want to again thank everyone involved with the IRM and with MEDIUM. Sorry more of you could not give us some sort of support in one way or another and perhaps keep the movement going, but I'm sure all former IRM members will understand now that it's just not reasonable to expect a magazine to appear out of the blue without giving it some support. After all, we were strictly a hobby magazine, we did not get much advertising revenue, and all work involved was done on a voluntary basis. I can say now that one of the reasons I just had to bail out was that so much time had to be given over to IRM affairs that I was rapidly becoming a DX-er who did not get time to DX. If more people had been willing to give their time, just a little now and then, then perhaps we might have remained in existence...

73's de JOHN DOWLING

A LOOK AT "MEDIUM", THE IRISH RADIO MOVEMENT...AND SOME GENERAL REFLECTIONS

BY FELIM O'CONNOR

When I first sat down to write this article, I envisaged it as one in a new series which would be appearing in MEDIUM, but, with the ending of the magazine in its present form, some doubt may be cast on the phrase "one in a new series..."

It was my intention to call on other IRM members to come to the rescue of the Movement with their own contributions for this series - but the call is now too late. Decisions have been taken, the present MEDIUM is the last one officially classed as the "quarterly bulletin of the Irish Radio Movement". Mark Story is starting his own magazine and it is expected to absorb some of the sections which have been featured in MEDIUM - but, really, we'll just have to wait and see.

With the resignation of Mark, the IRM lost a "driving force". Mark was the one who put the gun to our heads; he kept us in line, made us adhere to deadlines and so on. Mark also looked after the printing of the magazine, and we found ourselves in a right fix when these facilities were withdrawn. Only then did we realise fully the huge amount of work involved in this aspect of production. Fortunately, we have overcome this problem, but it wasn't easy!

(EDITOR'S NOTE: We must thank Felim's brother, Ciaran, for bailing us out of this problem, he very kindly consented to spend a Sunday afternoon turning the handle of a duplicating machine - count the number of pages and multiply it by 300, and then ask yourself the question: would you like to turn a handle on a Sunday afternoon that many times!! - JD)

There is still a considerable amount of work before MEDIUM drops through your post box or finds its way on to Peat's news stands... Imagine the

task of putting each copy together after the duplicating is done; the work involved in posting out copies to members, etc. And with our bank balance now standing at zero, we'll have to reach in to our own pockets to pay for most of the costs involved. Already Paddy has said that he is willing to pay ALL the postage involved, the cost of the paper was very high, and the cost of having the duplicating done also had to be met out of our own pockets. With proper management of the IRM's funds this need not have happened. Our membership fee was kept at an extremely low level and could not cover costs at all. We should have had a treasurer to look after the matter of finance, but who was willing to do this work??? The answer is NO ONE.

Only a few people are really interested in lending real practical support to the work of getting out MEDIUM 10, so, when the magazine dies, don't blame the people who produced it; place the blame where it lies, with the vast majority of members who were content to pay a few pence a year and then expect to receive a magazine out of the blue every three months! There was no way this situation could continue...

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In the last edition of MEDIUM, Mark Story wrote about land-based pirates. I tend to agree with his views - what is the point of having a station playing non-stop pop music? What benefit is it to the community? Does it really give enjoyment to the public? Think about it... Our friend, Eamonn O'Connor disagrees with this, I know, he wrote an article pointing out the areas of disagreement with Mark, but, unfortunately, Eamonn's "right of reply" cannot be included in this edition due to the lack of space. But it will suffice to say that Eamonn took strong exception to the views expressed by Mark. Fair



enough, everyone is entitled to express his views, that's always been made clear in MEDIUM.

Shouldn't radio be a two-way medium? RTE may give a good service, but it is a one-way set up... Now, with community radio experiments being carried out in the country, it will mean that the public will have a better say in the running of their own local station. The format of the community radio station ensures there will be a two-way medium involved. But what is becoming of RTE's mobile station? We only hear about it now and then, has the initial enthusiasm worn thin? What are RTE's own plans for the evolution of this community service?

The idea of an alternative radio service is a good one in so far as it shouldn't copy the national service. In the case of the present pirate stations they do worse - they try to copy other large stations, and play music only - and often badly. May I emphasise that these are my own personal views. What is needed is a service that deals with subject matter that isn't being catered for on the national service. I am thinking about subjects such as local community news and information programmes, etc.

When talking about free radio, one asks the question: How free should radio be? Well, there must be control; radio can be dangerous in the wrong hands. One must have a licence to drive a car, there is LIFE involved in the driving of a car, so when there is danger there must be control. When it comes to radio the same can be said, life may not be involved but people's MINDS are. While no physical damage may be inflicted the mind may be corrupted. To help prevent this, the authorities bring in control of the airwaves. The glorification of violence, for instance, must not be permitted, and one surely cannot condemn controls which have such safeguards built into them. If you think about it you will undoubtedly think of more examples. So, we must accept the

lesser of two "evils".

Recently, in the Evening Press, I read an article by a contributor favouring the setting up of an Irish all-music station, free from government controls, free from unions and commercial firms. Well, this chap is surely living in a dream world! In his reference to so-called freedom from unions he was obviously referring to the situation which might occur when the main national station is closed by an official strike - he would see his station, staffed by non-union members, continuing to provide a service to the nation. But this will just not materialise, no station will be set up which will be "free" from the trade unions - and why should the workers be denied their right to join a union?

RTE is the authority in this country which is vested with the authority of providing a radio service to the nation. They will not authorise commercial radio or "free" radio. They will hold on to their position. Can this country support another full national service? RTE is in a continuous financial crisis, revenue is falling, the licence fee is going up...

What are your views on an alternative radio service, a service which, in my opinion, must be community based? We can, I suppose, hope for such a community service - if anything at all is to come from the mobile station experiments.

My space is running out, I did intend dealing with several other topics, but perhaps I can come back to them some time in Mark's proposed new magazine.

But, I'll leave you with one interesting item: Continental Electronics have now got a 2,000,000 watt short wave transmitter - what does one do with such high power on short wave!? Maybe on MW but on short wave 10,000 to 50,000 watts will cover the whole world. Do they think that the listenership is not confined to the limits of this earth of ours.

See you sometime again!

FELIM O'CONNOR