



LATEST NEWS.....

CAROLINE ON 389

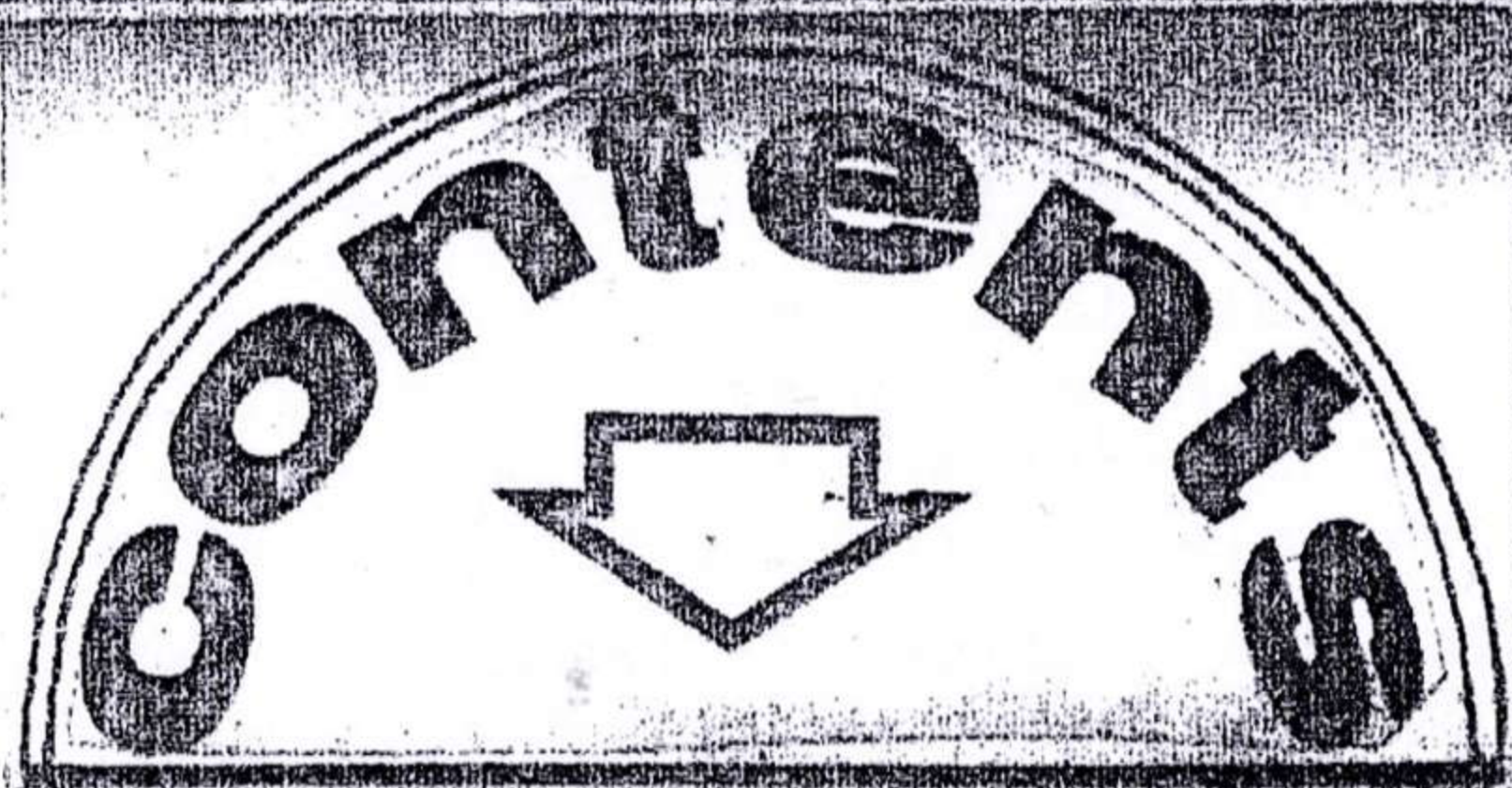
Radio Caroline are testing their second medium-wave transmitter on 385 metres and if tests prove audible they will commence a 2nd permanent service on this channel.

The tests were heard by the I.R.M.'s Belgian representative, Josef Segers. Josef's Offshore Diary, including an interview with Radio Mi Amigo's Sylvain Tack appears inside.

Despite renewed pressure from the British Government Radio Caroline continues to increase its audience. With Caroline on 252 metres, Radio Orwell originally scheduled to use this wavelength will have to think again. The most likely choice for Radio Orwell seems to be 301 metres but even this will mean sharing with Radio Trent.

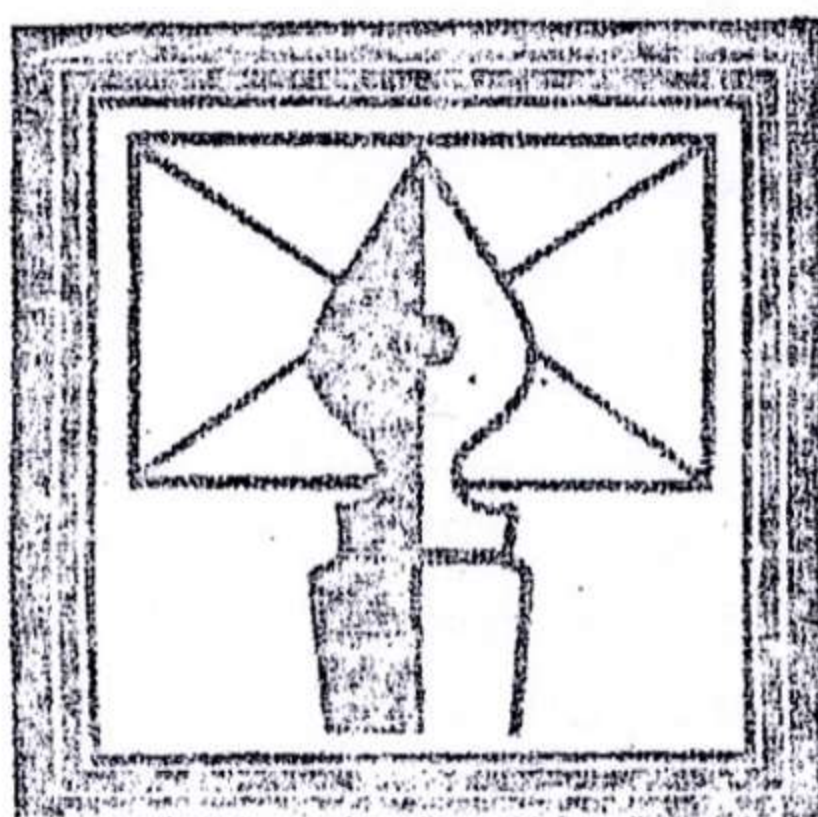
Obviously this has annoyed a few people in the I.B.A. and it can be expected that the British Government will attempt to put Caroline off the air by some method in the next few months.

It is now one year since the Dutch anti-pirate legislation came into force.



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DATELINE



All contributions for Medium 8 by November 20, please. These should be sent to:-

John Dowling Jun.
Ballytiglea,
Borris,
Co. Carlow.

VERONICA

The M.V. Nordeney home of Radio Veronica from the early 1960's until 1974 has been sold and will be fitted out as a pirate radio museum in Amsterdam harbour according to reports in the Dutch newspaper, De Telegraaf. With the sale of the Nordeney the chances of a return of Veronica as we knew it are extremely remote. Meanwhile the V.O.O. which is campaigning for a licence on land in the Netherlands is having little success and will probably disband early next year. The Nordeney replaced Veronica's first ship Borkum Riff and its history included the dramatic grounding on Scheveningen beach on April 2, 1974 when Radio Caroline's transmitters were being used.

RTE

R.T.E.'s experimental local "community radio" is now almost permanently on air.

Such a service was called for by the I.R.M. in an R.T.E. interview in 1972. One of the recent festivals to benefit from the local service was the Gorey Arts Festival. John Dowling examines the Gorey details inside.

R.FORTH

Tony Allen, who left Caroline earlier this year will commence the 2 - 4.30 afternoon show on Radio Forth (Scottish Commercial Radio) this month as part of the Autumn schedule. Tony has been doing relief DJ-ing during the summer for Radio Forth whose programme director is Ian Anderson.

RTE's experiment in the field of local community radio continues, and the mobile VHF transmitter recently visited the town of Gorey in the south-east of Ireland.

I availed of the opportunity of visiting the station, as Gorey is relatively close to my location here in south Carlow.

Transmissions from Radio Gorey on 96.6 MHz were scheduled to commence at 5.30 p.m. on Monday the 4th July, 1975, and, in order to be "in" on some of the activity, I arrived on the scene about an hour before the first transmission from Gorey started.

The van housing the transmitter was parked in a side street outside the Gorey Arts Centre, where many works of Art were on display in connection with the Gorey Arts Festival.

The FM aerial was mounted on top of the van, and the control room and a small studio were housed inside the van. I was invited to spend some time in the control room, which, as one can imagine, is very limited in space.

A number of people strolling along the street seemed interested in the project and some asked about the frequency on which the transmissions were being transmitted. One also noticed some people with transistor radios, complete with king sized telescopic aeri-als...

One amusing incident occurred when a gentleman came to the door of the van and asked if he could get a request played. He was told that he could but to write down the request on a piece of paper and hand it in. Then our friend asked if he could have the "Twenty Third Psalm" played. After a few moments silence, RTE's producer-in-charge of local broadcasting, Mr. Breandan O Ciobhain, explained that they couldn't play the actual record requested as they hadn't got it there in the van, and to drive home the point further another gentleman held out the complete record library of the mobile station - all of three LP's!

As 5.30 approached the test tone was sent out over the 30 watt transmitter, tapes and schedules were checked, and finally it was all systems "go". The Director of the Gorey Arts Centre, Mr. Paul Funge, was the first "local" to speak after the initial RTE identification and introduction. Paul continued to present the programmes during the entire first broadcast which continued until 7.00 p.m. The programmes consisted mainly of interviews with local personalities, with some news of the Festival and some requests were played.

I left the control room after a while, having arranged a meeting with Mr. O Ciobhain at the end of the transmission. I then monitored the signal on my car radio and noted it was of a very clear quality.

In the streets, small groups of people gathered around transistors - the scenes must have been reminiscent of the early days of the portable radio when, in rural areas before electrification, people often gathered around a transistor on the roadside to listen to, for instance, the All-Ireland Hurling Final.

Public houses and lounges were crowded with people listening in silence - not watching the colour television - but listening to the humble radio. Some disappointment was felt, though, by those who could not come up with anything from Radio Gorey on their MW/LW radios!

Towards the end of the transmission I returned to the vicinity of the van. A fairly large crowd had gathered outside the control room window and all appeared in jovial mood as Eugene Lambert, in the course of a live interview on Radio Gorey, injected his own brand of humour into the proceedings. Eugene was in town to present some entertainment for the young children by his Family Puppet Theatre.

Around 7.00 the station finally signed off the air and Mr. O Ciobhain con- fided to yours truly that he wasn't sorry that session had ended. The going had been hectic enough.

We then made our way to one of the local lounges where we had a very in- teresting discussion on the subject of local community radio.

In the remainder of this article, I shall attempt to cover some of the many points dealt with, and I think it best if I put the emphasis on the ideas and attitudes of Mr. O Ciobhain, as he does, in fact, hold the im-

portant position of being RTE's producer-in-charge of local radio, and many of Mr. O Ciobhain's own ideas will probably materialise in due course.

Mr. O Ciobhain - who insisted I call him Breandan - already knew of the existence of the Irish Radio Movement - two members, he said, had visited the Radio Liberties station, this was the first of the experimental stations. In fact, this first broadcast had aroused the interest of the BBC which had some representatives along to view the operations.

The idea of a mobile station seems unique to this country. Neither Breandan nor myself could recall any other such venture. The representatives of the BBC were apparently impressed with what they saw.

After operating during the Liberties Festival, the station upped anchor and moved to Listowel in Co. Kerry where it operated during Writers' Week. Next, it sailed to Ballina, then on to Drumshanbo before moving to Gorey. At the time of the conversation, transmissions were projected from Sligo, Birr, Ballinasloe, Wexford and Waterford.

Breandan agreed that the confinement of transmissions to the FM band severely limited the listenership, as FM radio in Ireland has not really "caught on" to any great extent, but he indicated that there was a very good possibility of low powered medium wave transmissions. In fact, a MW transmitter would have been operating in Gorey but there were some technical problems.

A MW transmitter also brings up the question of a frequency allocation, and he confirmed that RTE will not use a frequency which is not allocated to this country by the Frequency Allocation Committee of the International Telecommunication Union (I.T.U.) It would seem likely, therefore, that MW transmissions would be operated on the 1250 kHz outlet, thus making the possibility of reception outside the "local area" unlikely. Of course, one could not argue against this, as the broadcasts are only intended for a local audience and RTE is hardly interested in the DX-er! However, it has to be acknowledged that local MW transmissions are a step in the right direction.

At the forthcoming I.T.U. conference on frequency allocations, Ireland will have a representative and there will be a request for additional frequency allocations for this country. All this should be beneficial for the future of radio in Ireland.

Community stations which have so far operated - or which are scheduled to operate - have been, or will be, set up in conjunction with Festivals of one kind or another. Ireland abounds with all types of local Festivals - we have everything from Strawberry Festivals to Beer Festivals with Oyster Festivals and Steam Rally Festivals thrown in - to name just a few.

There is a good reason for operating during a Festival. Where there is a Festival there is a Festival Committee. There is, therefore a group of people which may be contacted easily, and usually these festival committees represent a fair cross-section of the local - and hopefully cohesive - community. The festival committee is an ideal point of contact for Mr. O Ciobhain.

Mr. O Ciobhain finds the festival committees very responsive to the idea of local community stations for the duration of their festivals. Many committees, already aware of the RTE experiment, invite the station to their areas.

The task of preparing the draft schedule is left with the festival committee who must find local people willing and capable of presenting the programmes in a responsible manner.

Of course, Mr. O Ciobhain has the final word in regard to the programme content, but he stresses that he refrains from editorialising. He points out that he, as the representative of RTE, assumes overall responsibility for what goes out over the air from the moment the station signs on to the moment of close down. If, for instance, a libal case arose out of one of the broadcasts, Mr. O Ciobhain is the individual who would find himself in the hot seat, so to speak.

All the local community stations have, so far, met with a good response from the general public and electrical dealers in the towns already visited by the stations report an upswing in the demand for FM radios.

I asked Mr. O Ciobhain what steps are planned after the tour of the Festivals is completed. A moment's hesitation, as he downed some more of his beer, then he said that he planned to visit some town in which a Festival was not being held!

This would present a bigger challenge than heretofore. Firstly, there would not be the "local committee" to contact. He would have to probe into the local community selected and establish initially if a cohesive community spirit, in fact, existed at all. He would then have to identify the local community characteristics and would have to find people capable of taking charge of the task of preparing and presenting programmes of local interest and in keeping with local characteristics.

The next step in the development of local radio has not been decided and, in this area, the possibilities and probabilities are manifold. However, certain alternatives are definitely ruled out.

I asked Mr. O Ciobhain for his views on local commercial stations. He is strongly opposed to such stations and he gave some of his strongly felt reasons for his opposition to this type of radio.

The commercial radio operator is interested mainly in that six letter word, PROFIT. He could be, but probably would not be, interested in providing a real community radio service. Instead of leading public opinion and helping to form a social conscience, the commercial operator would find himself in the position of catering for the lowest common denominator in the community. Programmes would probably consist of endless pop music shows with commercials thrown in after every two or three records. He cited the situation in the U.S. where thousands of stations put out similar programmes with the profit motive always to the front.

Even if the local stations are not commercial the idea of long sessions of pop music is not looked on with favour by Mr. O Ciobhain. He points out that there are already several international pop music stations which he feels probably cater sufficiently for the pop enthusiast.

Mr. O Ciobhain sees local radio as being strictly non-commercial. Local stations would operate in the public interest, presenting programmes of an informational nature. The emphasis would be on matters cultural and there would be an opportunity of spreading information in the social welfare field. Also, a local station could be the instrument for developing and revitalising a community spirit.

Another important point: local stations could not be operated in any one community for more than an hour or so per week. Mr. O Ciobhain feels that the initial enthusiasm for community radio would soon diminish, and, in order to sustain a semblance of local interest, the output of programmes would have to be strictly limited.

This limitation would stem from the necessity to preserve and perhaps increase local interest and participation rather than from any other less desirable attitude on the part of the body governing local broadcasting.

What transmitter set up would be used in a community radio set up, I enquired. This is another area for speculation and discussion. Many ideas have been considered... Would there be a main transmitter serving a region which would transmit the weekly or bi-weekly programmes from the surrounding local communities, or would the local communities have their own low powered transmitters? Would all these local transmitters or regional transmitters operate on a common frequency. All these ideas are merely ideas for discussion...

A few clear points emerged from the conversation: RTE is strongly against commercial radio. Any future local radio set up will have to be financed out of central funds, with the inevitable increase in the licence fee. RTE sees itself as being the authority responsible for the setting up of community radio. This is fair enough, as RTE is the only body in the state in which the authority to control public broadcasting is vested.

There is no doubt about Mr. O Ciobhain's commitment to the idea of local radio and he already has the very successful local programmes from Cork to his credit. Recently, RTE Cork received correspondence from listeners around the Bay of Biscay area of France, and a record request was received from a listener in Budapest!

Mr. O Ciobhain also expressed interest in meeting a delegation from the IRM

stating that he would travel down to Borris for discussions if necessary. I pointed out that a meeting at a Dublin venue would be more suitable as the Movement's officials (with the exception of the editor) live in and around Dublin, and I could always travel to Dublin any time without too much inconvenience for participation in discussions.

At the conclusion of the conversation, I thanked Mr. O Ciobhain on my own behalf and on behalf of the IRM for taking time off from his busy schedule to let us have his views on the subject of community radio. By this time, the lounge had been almost taken over by a group of musicians and singers from Brittany complete with their bagpipes and national costumes. They were displaying their talents for one and all...

(c) JOHN DOWLING (25/08/1975)

HOW TO WRITE A RECEPTION REPORT, an article which appeared in MEDIUM 6 met with a favourable response from a few members. Our faithful friend and supporter, Kevin Ryan, Beechwood, Roscommon, correctly pointed out that I had left the SINPO code "standing in mid air". A very valid comment indeed and it serves to illustrate the fact that some of us more experienced DX-ers can simply take for granted some aspects of the hobby which may not be all that obvious for the beginner. No need, of course, to explain the SINPO code for Kevin, but for beginners I will now attempt an explanation of the code and will begin with a chart:

(S) SIGNAL STRENGTH	(I) INTER-FERENCE	(N) NOISE	(P) PROPAGATION DISTURBANCE	(O) OVERALL MERIT
(5) excellent	(5) nil	(5) nil	(5) nil	(5) excellent
(4) good	(4) slight	(4) slight	(4) slight	(4) good
(3) fair	(3) moderate	(3) moderate	(3) moderate	(3) fair
(2) poor	(2) severe	(2) severe	(2) severe	(2) poor
(1) barely audible	(1) extreme	(1) extreme	(1) extreme	(1) unusable

The above chart is, I think, more or less self-explanatory, but I will make a few brief comments for the purpose of illustration:

If you are monitoring a particular signal and wish to record the characteristics of the signal in SINPO code, you will, first of all, have to determine the signal strength (S) of the station. If you are using a communications receiver equipped with an "S" metre this will help you to establish whether the signal is excellent, good, fair or otherwise, but, from simply listening to the signal, you will be able to make your own educated guess. Don't be too eager to give a station 5 unless the signal is really as strong as a LOCAL. Normally, if you are listening to a station which is not a LOCAL the best you can give it is S4. Only in exceptional cases should you use S5.

(I) - this refers to noise (interference) from man-made sources - including interference from other radio stations, morse code transmissions, teleprinters, etc. In these days of overcrowding on all the bands nearly every station is subject to at least slight interference, in which case the interference could be described with the figure 4.

(N) - this refers to noise from non-man-made sources. In this field, the main offender is probably static, especially on the lower frequencies (including the MW band).

(P) - this refers to propagation disturbance - fading, to put it more simply. Most signals are subject to some slight fading from time to time. You can determine the extent of fading from listening or from the fluctuations of the receiver's "S" metre.

(O) - taking all other factors into consideration one can now indicate the overall merit of the signal. If any of the other factors are below 5 the overall merit will not be excellent and will, therefore, not merit more than 4. If there is a good signal, slight interference but moderate fading the overall merit could be described as 3 or perhaps 4.

The SINPO code is written thus: 44434, 34433, 34323. It's best to use the SINPO code only when writing to international stations, some of the smaller stations might not understand it. Even when reporting to big international stations, I would recommend an explanation in words of the quality of the signal. If you have any further queries on this subject drop me a line!

JOHN DOWLING (25/08/1975)

THE PRESIDENT'S PAGE

For some time now, my interest in radio has been waning - in fact, it has been evaporating since 1973. And, in keeping with this, I have been winding down active participation in the Movement. I believe, therefore, that the time has now come for the election of a new President for the Irish Radio Movement, so that changes would not only occur but would be seen to be having a practical effect.

There are a number of members I would propose as President - in particular, Paddy Brennan. Paddy has shown himself to be quite dedicated and would, I believe, prove to be very suitable in this respect.

There is an alternative suggestion that the post of President is superfluous and should be abolished. This would mean that the Secretary would combine organisational and executive functions - in consultation with the Committee, of course. I would be pleased to continue as a member of the Committee.

What I am saying, in effect, is that the Movement's structure should evolve in accordance with the reality of the situation.

For example, the post of Chairman has been abolished as the then incumbent lapsed as a member. I know that I no longer have the enthusiasm to take a leading role in a radio Movement. On the other hand, there are those members whose interest is undiminished, such as our Secretary, Mark Story.....

And I feel that my own lack of enthusiasm is acting as a brake on theirs...

What would probably be the best course of action would be for me to continue in my present "low profile" capacity until the matter is resolved at the annual general meeting later this year.

KENNETH SHEEHAN (AUGUST 75)

IRM COMMITTEE REPORT

BY MARK STORY

Well, there isn't much to report this time - holidays and the summer break giving Committee members time to catch up with gardening and, in at least one case, house decorating.

Behind the scenes, we have, nevertheless, been reasonably active - getting MEDIUM 6 out and planning a number of projects for the autumn.

Firstly, we will conduct an intensive campaign to publicise Radio Caroline which is becoming increasingly popular in Ireland.

Secondly, the IRM Radio Survey, which was suggested as early as last January, will be held. This had to be shelved because of a campaign informing Irish T.D.'s (Members of Parliament) about the IRM and urging the establishment of independent radio. The Survey will be conducted in October.

We are also arranging Club meetings - the chief difficulty here being the lack of suitable accommodation.

I would urge all Committee members to continue supporting the Committee meetings, and also I would request that, in future, they might be a little more punctual.

MARK STORY (AUGUST 75)

WANTED by a radio enthusiast in the Cork area..... A fairly good quality second-hand communications receiver - or other type covering the medium wave band and at least the 49 metre short wave band. Price offered £30-£40.

All offers and/or suggestions to be addressed to the Editor, who will pass on the information to the person interested. All help appreciated.

RADIO BELINDA INTERNATIONAL has been heard active again late on Saturday nights on 227 metres (1320 kHz approximately) with programmes consisting mainly of country and western songs. The station has also been heard with live programmes during mid week before 8 a.m. local time on the same frequency. Programmes aimed at entertaining people getting ready for work.... (JD)

RADIO NORTHESEA

BY MARK STORY

It is now over a year since RNI closed down with the promise that it would be back within a month or so. As you know, the MEBO 11 is still in harbour and RNI is still silent. In MEDIUM 6 we reported that RNI had won its court case and was free to go if they paid the 250,000 guilders fine which the court imposed.

Well, it seems that the choice is not as simple as we first thought. In fact, the RNI organisation was given three months to leave the harbour AND TO LEAVE EUROPE. If they did this and stayed away for two years they would get back their 250,000 guilders fine.

As you can well imagine, Edwin Bollier did not like the idea very much and has decided to fight the case.

I visited the MEBO 11 in harbour on June 28th and was met by the owner of the shipyard in Slikerveer where it is being held. He insists that the ship cannot go until he gets paid for harbouring facilities. He cannot be blamed in the least for holding this attitude, as one of his fourteen docks has been out of operation due to the court case, with a big loss in revenue for him, of course. He is still on good terms with Bollier, however, and it wouldn't surprise me if he has agreed with the MEBO owner that the case should be appealed with the idea of also retrieving harbouring costs from the state prosecutor.

It is a widely held view in Slikerveer that the MEBO 11 is bound for Africa although as they admitted this view is as good a reason as any for believing that the ship will end up off the English coast....who knows.

The dock owner was more than glad to let me look over the ship, although I was not allowed to take photographs of the studios. There are now three medium-sized studios on board, and the ship has been completely renovated... It is in very good condition indeed.

The MEBO 1, now renamed the ANGELA, is also in good condition and is just the right size for travelling between Bilbao in Spain and the Dutch or English coast..

Apart from the MEBO 11's presence in harbour, there is very little left to remind people of the offshore era in Holland.... Radio Veronica's ship still lies at anchor off Scheveningen, and a number of people are still wearing the "Veronica Must Stay" tee-shirts - but these are now faded...

Still, people are tuning to Mi Amigo which has now taken over from Veronica, although it will never be the same.

73's from RADIO NOORDZEE INTERNATIONAL, THE VOICE OF A YOUNG EUROPE

Radio Noordzee International
postbus 117 - Hilversum/Holland
p. o. box 113 - 8047 Zürich/Switzerland

Don Allen
DON ALLEN

We are pleased to verify your report on the reception of the Dutch Radio/Television.

Nous sommes heureux de confirmer votre rapport de réception de la Radiodiffusion/Télévision Néerlandaise.

on/te *27th December 1975*

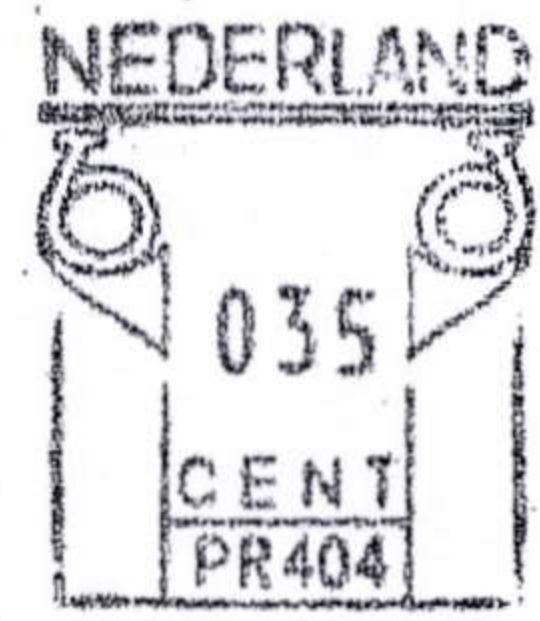
Transmitter/Émetteur:

Capit. Hilversum 2, freq 107.1 kHz, eq. ant.

Your report has been found to be correct
Thank you and best wishes from Holland
Votre rapport est exact à tout point.
Merci et meilleurs vœux de la Hollande.

NEDERLANDSE OMROEP STICHTING

Postbus 10, Hilversum / Holland
dot public relations / relations publiques



Mr. John Dowling
Ballyfiglea, Borkis
Co. Carlow

Ireland

THE MEDIUM WAVE LOOP ANTENNABY JOHN DOWLING

In the September, 1972, edition of the Kilmacud DX Club bulletin, the writer published an article on the famous medium wave loop antenna. Now, it has been suggested that this is an appropriate time to reproduce this article in MEDIUM.

Since 1972, we have seen dozens of new stations coming into operation on medium wave, and this type of antenna should prove very useful in trying to sort out the different local stations now being operated in Britain on wavelengths such as 194, 202, 206 and 261 metres...

Most people are under the impression that one must tune to the short wave bands to listen to DX stations. They assume that they can only hear fairly local stations on medium wave - RTE, BBC, Luxembourg, Manx Radio and a few others.

This is far from the truth, the medium wave band can provide some very interesting DX, especially from North and South America. Stations may also be heard from the Middle East, North and West Africa. But the term "DX" should not be confined to DISTANCE only. "DX" should also include DIFFICULTY, and one does not have to go outside these islands to get stations which are DIFFICULT to receive. Some of the new local stations in Britain are much more difficult to pick up here at my location than, say, CJON in St. John's, Newfoundland, on 930 kHz! Try, for instance, to pick up BBC Radio Oxford on 202 metres - which is also used by Radio Merseyside! The loop antenna opens up the possibility of logging some of these local stations which are normally covered by other stations on the same frequencies and located fairly close to the Irish mainland.

In my opinion, and almost all MW DX-ers will agree with me here, the loop antenna is a MUST for DX-ing on the MW frequencies. One of the chief advantages of the loop is its DIRECTIONAL properties. And this is important in view of what I have written in the last paragraph. Another advantage is the fact that the loop responds to the magnetic content of the radio wave and not to the noise-carrying electrical content. Many of you will have noticed that when a long wire is connected to an ordinary transistor radio, there is usually an unholy mess, with all sorts of queer noises coming from the speaker. This is caused by the receiver overloading. The long wire antenna is rather prone to picking up local electrical interference, and in built-up areas this can be a real problem, and it means that most people practically abandon medium wave except for the local radio stations.

As the loop responds to the magnetic content of the radio wave, there is very little likelihood of overloading, and even with transistor radios I haven't experienced the terrible mess one hears when using conventional long wire antenna.

And now before we go any further, you might like to know what DX stations may be heard on medium wave - well, the list is almost endless, and we can start off with a few "easy" ones: I have already mentioned CJON which is regularly heard during the winter months on 930 kHz (322.6 metres). A few years back I heard this station as early as 1930 GMT on Christmas Night. It often comes in like a local after 2300 hours GMT. Another station to watch for is WINS in New York on 1010 kHz (297 metres). You can watch for this station after the close-down of the Dutch station on 1007 kHz at 2300 hours GMT. Just tune very, very slightly off the Dutch station's carrier (HF - that is, in the same direction as if you were tuning towards Radio Luxembourg). CKVO in Clarerville, Newfoundland, may often be heard on 710 kHz after 2300 hours (710 kHz = 422.5 metres). This is a fairly new station and when I received their QSL last year they also stated that mine was the first report from Ireland. Other DX stations which may be heard fairly often include WHDH in Boston on 850 kHz (352.9 metres), WNEW, New York, on 1130 kHz (265.5 metres), Radio Globo in Brazil on 1180 kHz (254.2 metres) - this station may often be heard causing a heterodyne with the transmissions of Radio Sweden on 1178 kHz. Radio Tupi in Brazil on 1280 kHz (234.4 metres) is also regularly heard. These are just a few from a list of hundreds, but I hope they will serve to illustrate the variety of stations which operate on MW.

As you will be already aware, MW DX reception improves with the approach of, and during the hours of, darkness. Conditions on MW are also much better during the winter months - from September onwards. Though it must be noted that reception of stations from Latin America can be quite good during the summer months. Static noise is also low during winter.

Asian stations may also be heard on MW during winter, especially in the late afternoon, though I haven't had much success in this field. My most interest-

ing Asian MW DX catch was Afghanistan on 1280 kHz late one Sunday afternoon a few years back.

I should mention that MW conditions vary a good deal. On some winter nights, one might hear dozens of North American stations, on the following night the band could be "dead"! So if you try one night and hear nothing, don't give up, try again a few nights later....

Last winter was not particularly noted for good MW DX propagation, and this baffled all the experts who were predicting very good conditions as we approach very low sunspot activity. Conditions should be good this winter, but one cannot be certain... Already, I have heard many stations, several for the first time, when I recently tuned through the MW band at about 0530 hours. At that time dawn was already breaking here and the European stations were beginning to fade out leaving the North Americans still loud and clear.

Now, after all that, you should be very eager to get going on that loop, so here, first of all, is a list of the items required to build the loop:

- (1) Two pieces of wood measuring $56\frac{1}{2}$ " x 1" x 1"
- (2) A broom handle (used to support the loop). This should be 1" in diameter and approximately 4 feet in length
- (3) Two pieces of ply-wood (about $\frac{1}{8}$ " thick) measuring 8" x 8"
- (4) A strip of $\frac{1}{8}$ " ply-wood measuring 16" x $2\frac{1}{2}$ " - you will have to saw this into four pieces each measuring 4" x $2\frac{1}{2}$ "
- (5) About 130 feet insulated antenna wire - not too heavy gauge
- (6) a 500 pf variable capacitor - your radio store should be able to supply you with one
- (7) You will also require some 1" nails, glue, etc.

Now, refer to sketches (1) and (2) on page 10, and remove the shaded portion from the centre of the two lengths of wood (if the dimensions of the lengths of wood are not exactly 1" x 1" you will have to make allowances for this when you are removing the shaded portion.) These two pieces will form a cross when fitted together.

Next, cut the slots at each end of the pieces of wood. These should be cut to a depth of 2" and they should be wide enough to take the ply-wood - i.e. $\frac{1}{8}$ " wide. Take care to cut the slots in the right direction.

Refer now to sketch (3): Having cut the 16" x $2\frac{1}{2}$ " ply-wood into four pieces each measuring 4" x $2\frac{1}{2}$ ", prepare the "spreaders" as shown in the sketch. Make the cuts wide enough and deep enough to take the antenna wire.

You can now glue the two lengths of wood together and you can fit the spreaders into the slots. These can also be glued to make a good tight fit. Now, nail the two pieces of wood 8" x 8" across the intersection of the two lengths of wood - this will increase the strength of the frame. The broom handle will now fit up between the two 8" pieces of ply-wood. It should be pinned to make it a good tight fit.

Now you get your insulated wire, attach one end of it to the broom handle (leaving a few yards to spare) and then wind seven turns around the frame over the spreaders in the form of a coil - again leaving some to spare at the end. The space between the spreaders should be approximately 40".

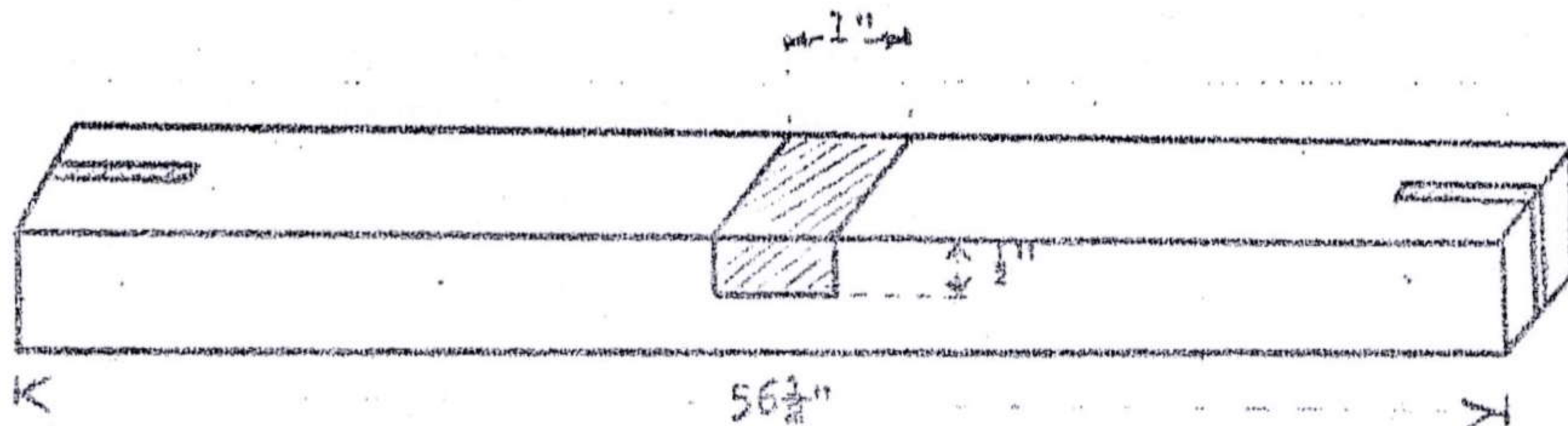
Wind another turn of wire around the centre (fourth) turn of the main winding and don't forget to leave some space wire at either end of this "inductive" winding. At this stage you will have four wires coming up to the broom handle - i.e., the two ends of the main winding and the two ends of the centre or inductive winding.

Connect one terminal of the 500 pf variable capacitor to one end of the main winding, and believe it or not you connect the other end of the main winding to another terminal of the capacitor...

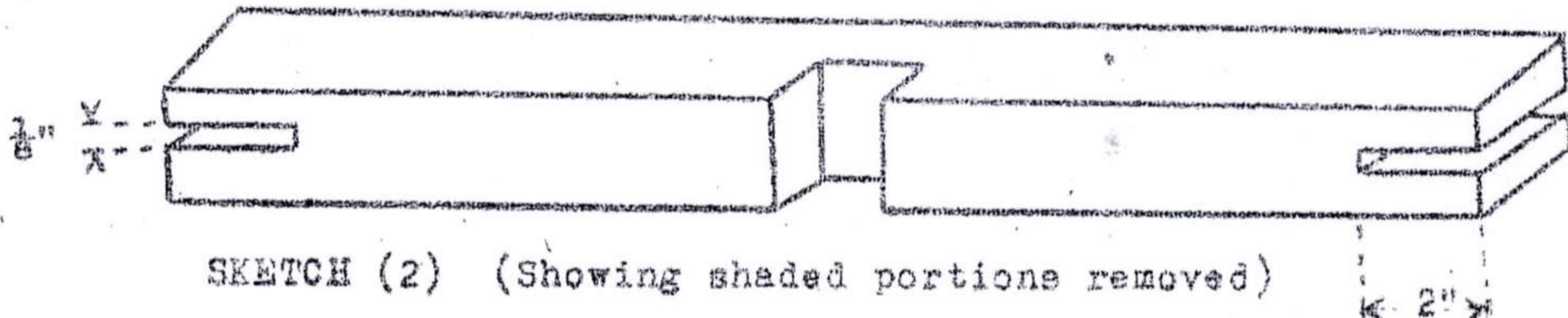
You are now left with the two ends of the single inductive winding... You will have to get a short length of coax cable and bare the inner conductor of the coax. Connect one end of the inductive winding to the inner conductor of the coax and the other end to the outer braiding. Keep the connections insulated - with tape, if necessary. Now connect the inner conductor of the other end of the coax to the antenna terminal of the radio and the outer braid to the earth terminal of the receiver...

To mount the loop you can take a large block of wood and bore a hole into it one inch in diameter. Insert the bottom of the broom handle into this hole.

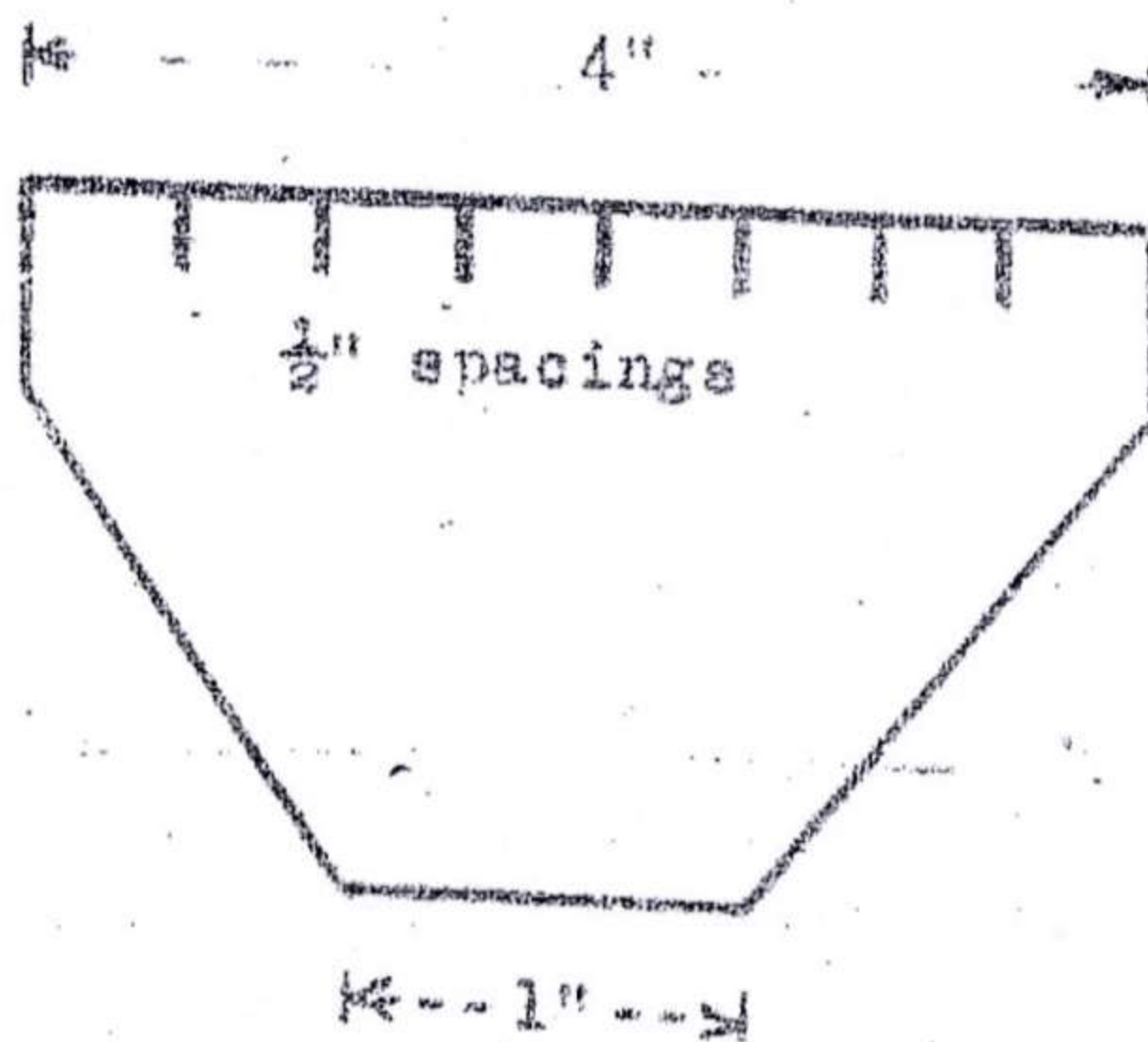
(now turn to page 11 for continuation)



SKETCH (1) (Shaded portions to be removed)



SKETCH (2) (Showing shaded portions removed)



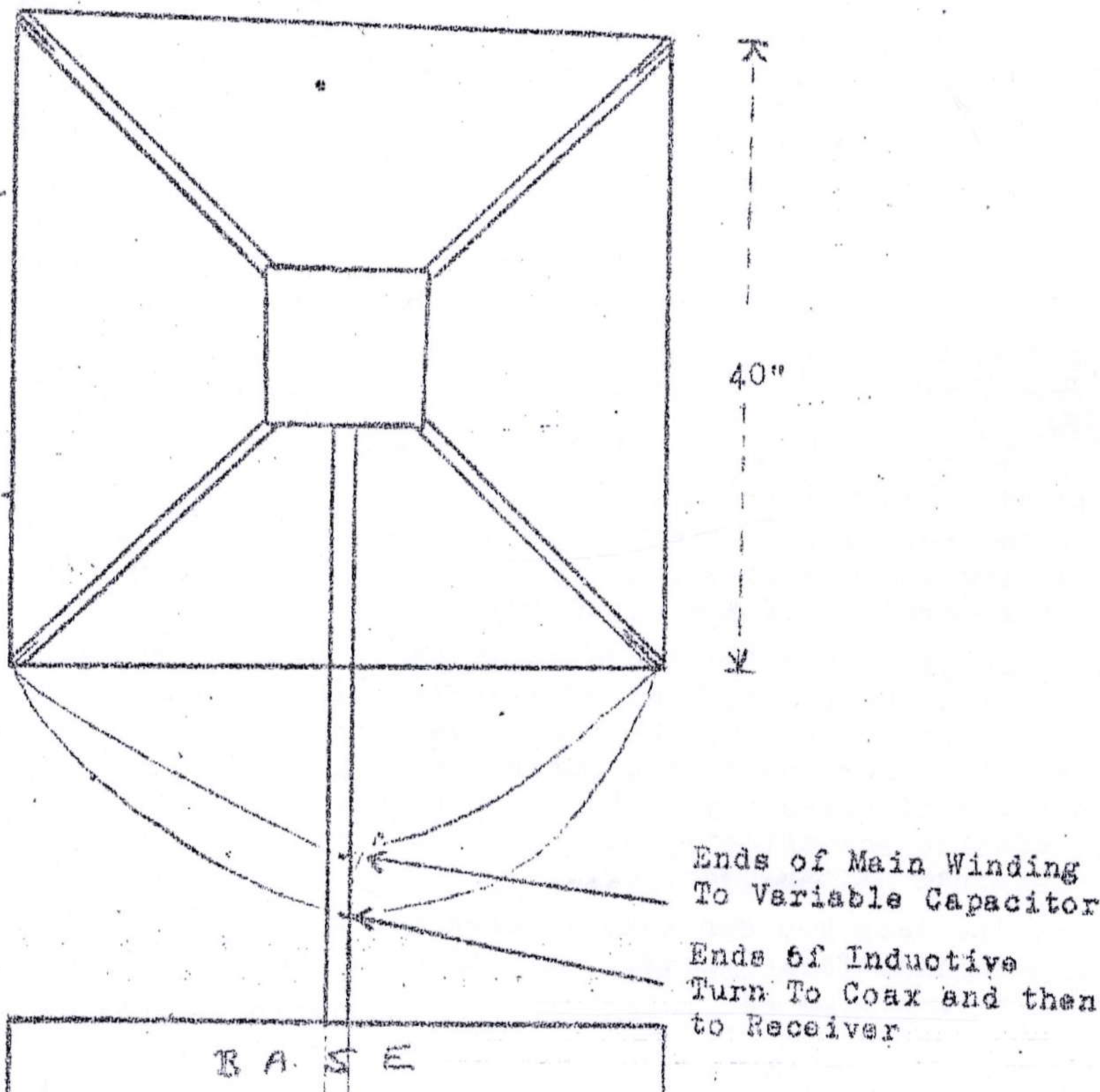
SKETCH (3)

Four of these Spreaders required

THESE SKETCHES ARE NOT DRAWN TO SCALE

Seven Main Turns and One Inductive Turn. The ends of the Seven Turns are connected to the terminals of the Capacitor.

NOTE: There is no connection between the receiver and the Capacitor or the seven main windings



J.D.

THE LOOP ANTENNA ... continued ...

It may be necessary to sandpaper the part of the broom handle which goes into the hole into the base, in order that it may turn smoothly. You can, in fact, use your own imagination when it comes to providing a base for the loop. I recall reading about one DX-er who has the broom handle rotating in a length of piping which he has set in a bucket of cement. My own loop rotates on a base which has ballbearings in it!

When you have reached this stage, the time to test your loop will have arrived! Tune to a medium wave station and adjust the variable capacitor until the signal is heard best. You can fit the capacitor with a little handle, as it does not act properly when touch with the hand, or you can adjust the setting by insulating your hand with, for instance, a piece of paper! Now rotate the loop until the signal reaches a peak. If you turn the loop 90° you will reduce the strength of the station to its minimum, this is the "null" position.

You will see from this that one may tune in another station by "nulling" out the main station on the same frequency. If you carry out your experiments on the channels used by the British local stations - some of those I have already mentioned earlier in this article - you should be able to hear more than one station per channel.

I do hope you will decide to build yourself a loop, now is the time to do it - in order to "catch" some of the winter DX!

One other thing: if you have difficulty in procuring a 500 pf capacitor, you might try getting one from someone you know who repairs old radios, or if you have an old disused mains radio you could get the variable capacitor out of it.

I look forward to receiving your comments on the loop, and if you have any problems drop me a line (return postage appreciated) and I'll see what I can do.

If you are still in any doubt as to the effectiveness of the loop antenna you may be interested to know that even with a small transistor radio the results can be astonishing and signals can be improved beyond recognition. With a small transistor set no direct connection to the inductive link is necessary - just place the radio against the loop windings and make the adjustments to the capacitor and, of course, adjust the direction of the loop, if necessary.

Good luck with the construction, I can assure you it will be well worth your while.....

JOHN DOWLING (SEPTEMBER, 1975)

The loop antenna was first introduced to these islands as an invaluable aid to MW DX-ers in the 1950's by Ken Brownless of MEDIUM WAVE CIRCLE. Ken and friends worked on the loop and came up with the design which I have outlined in the previous article. Ken continues to operate the MWC and during the MW DX season a most informative magazine called MEDIUM WAVE NEWS is published. Membership is restricted to active DX-ers, which is not a bad idea for a voluntary Club.....

My thanks go out, too, to Pat Dobbs in Bristol who first introduced me to the loop antenna, and to CONTACT magazine which published an article on the loop some years back - JD

Super Sound
RECORDS
 107 / 109 Talbot Street

Since April, 1974, the silence of the Dublin free radio airwaves has been painfully obvious - although, to some extent, the gap has been bridged by Radio Valleri and Radio Westside. However, one cannot really count these shortwave stations as LOCAL from Dublin and aimed at a local Dublin audience - they are mainly intended for overseas listeners...

In view of this, Capital Radio, Dublin, was a pleasant surprise for one and all - very unexpected to say the least. Only those involved in the venture had foreknowledge of what was destined to happen on 230 metres MW on Sunday August 3rd.

It happened ... best described as a partial success - only two-thirds of the day's programming reached the public ear; some slight technical problems prevented the remainder from going out over the air. However, no one involved was unduly disappointed with that first day ... there were two good hours, a fair sample of what was to come, and the technical difficulties did not turn out to be insurmountable.

In preparation for August 3rd, Capital's personnel had bravely worked for eight weeks, trying to rid themselves of the inevitable "gremlins" of radio stations. It was far from easy... The evil spirits of technical failure... location disappointments, and aerial problems haunted with uncanny regularity and persistence...

Right through these difficult days, close technical liaison was kept going with electronic experts - sometimes even they were baffled by the problems!

The turning point came in late June/early July when, at a poor aerial site, Capital's MW transmitter was tested on low power, and from here on every small problem brought a fresh and useful discovery - the major one being that a transmitter is an extremely complicated instrument and not worth the heartbreak unless you're extremely dedicated.

Coming more up to date - all this is now behind Capital. Precision-built aeriels have been designed and are now in use, and performance, judging by reports, is extremely good.

But surely the most important aspect as far as the listener is concerned is what actually comes out of the radio speaker, and Capital gears itself to satisfy the all-important listener - it provides a service for the people. Music is the message and music matters most - the quality, that is, and not necessarily what position it occupies in the charts - if it is in the charts at all... A high degree of versatility and variety, from the past and present, is the keynote. In effect, Capital will be doing what is not being done at the moment for the people of Dublin, and the station's four deejay crew are doing their best to see to this. Above all, in fact, Capital's most innovative policy is, and will be, album tracking.

Kenneth Murphy, C.B., Alan Russell and Ed McDowell, want to work closely with public response, and opinions will be taken into account and seriously considered.

The deejays invite listeners to write to the station at this address: Capital Radio (Dublin), 15 Fermanagh Lane, Crawley Down, Sussex. Transmission times are split between Friday night (midnight to 1.30 or 2.00 a.m. local time) and Sundays (noon to 2.00 or 3.00 p.m.) and in these two sessions, we feel sure that, with the variety of four deejays, you'll find something - if not many things - to your liking. Do let us know...all mail to the address above will be greatly appreciated.

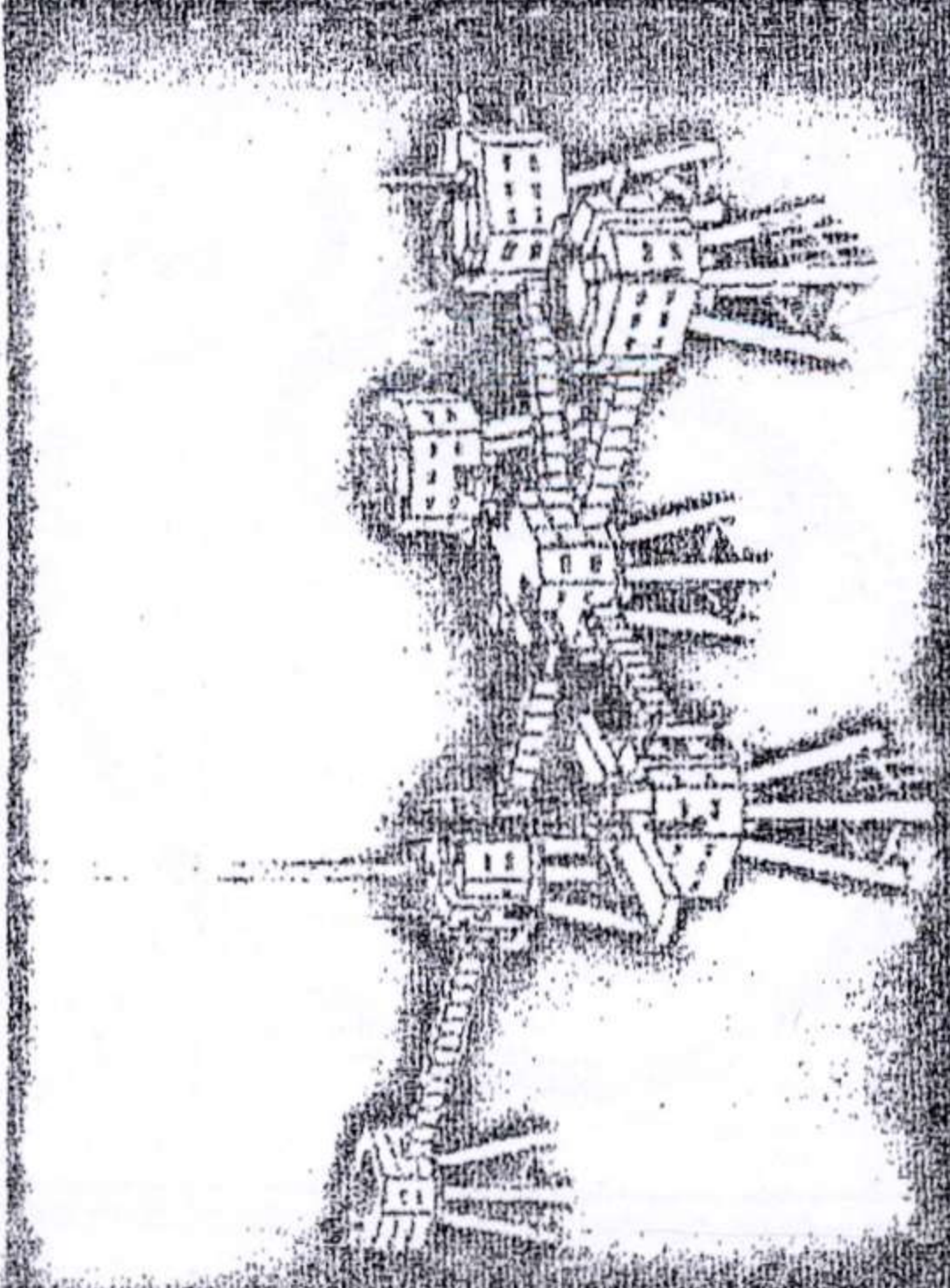
CAPITAL RADIO (AUGUST, 1975)

OSI

Thank you for your reception report

RADIO 390

RADIO 390



WAVES

woman's magazine of the air

JOSEF SEGER'S OFFSHORE DIARY

As you may remember, in the last article (MEDIUM 5) I explained why Radio Mi Amigo went to Spain. Peter Van Dan, one of the Mi Amigo boys, had been doing live programmes on board the Mi Amigo since February 27th. His place was taken over by Rob Ronden on March 24th. Rob is an ex Radio Atlantis deejay, but he also did some newscasts for Radio Veronica.... At the beginning of March rumours began to appear in the Dutch and Belgian newspapers that Mi Amigo and Veronica were to work together... Well, we'll see in the future.

Around this time, rumours started about the "Peace Ship". It was rumoured that its owner wanted to sell the ship and that it would start transmissions off the Dutch coast. Well, more on that later.

The first important date in March was the 28th, when Radio Caroline celebrated her 11th birthday. Tony Allen was supposed to do some special shows, but unfortunately he wasn't in time for the tender and therefore was not on board to do the shows.

On March 29th, the return of Radio Veronica was planned, but nothing happened. On March 30th, there was a film on Dutch TV on Radio Mi Amigo in Playa de Aro. The interviews were made by Tineke (ex Veronica). A large number of ex pirate deejays are now operating on the state service - a tribute surely to the status of the pirate stations...

At the end of March, the magazine, "Pop Telescoop", closed down. You probably remember that this magazine was mentioned several times on Radio Mi Amigo. In Pop Telescoop every week there was a page on which many commercials were printed. These were then read on Mi Amigo...

On April 6th, a new commercial was heard on Radio Mi Amigo - it's a commercial for Carnaby Boutiques. Adriaan Van Landschoot is the boss of Carnaby, he was also the boss of Radio Atlantis. This probably indicates that Adriaan has no intention of re-starting Radio Atlantis.

I went on vacation on April 6th, visiting Andorra on the 8th. Two commercial stations operate from that tiny country - Radio Andorra and Sud Radio. Radio Andorra operates on 701 kHz (428 metres) and Radio Sud operates on 818 kHz. I visited the Radio Andorra transmitters and studios; the station has two MW transmitters, one dating from 1940-45 and the other (250 kW) is 8 or 9 years old.

It would seem that Radio Andorra International which wanted to commence transmissions on May 1st cannot use these transmitters. The present owner of Radio Andorra International is an ex Atlantis deejay, but despite the fact that he claims that he will transmit from Andorra, I don't believe he will. I was told by Radio Andorra officials that it was impossible. Andorra is situated in the Pyrenees and if a long wave transmitter was used there would be a lot of interference in Belgium, England or Holland.

The rumours about Radio Andorra International still persist. It is, of course, possible that they will use a ship - transmitting the signals to the ship via short wave for re-broadcast. This is possible, but there are a lot of technical difficulties.

It is reported that the owner of Radio Andorra International (I presume this is not to be confused with Radio Andorra which operates on 710 kHz? - EDITOR) wants to purchase the Radio Veronica ship, but I don't think this ship is for sale or has been sold. The ship is still lying at her old anchor place; there are still a few men on board.

In some Belgian newspapers, there were advertisements for Radio Andorra International - these ads. were for deejays, technicians, secretaries, etc. for the new station.

After leaving Andorra I went on to Playa de Aro, the Mi Amigo village. My wife and I visited the studio used by Stan Haag firstly. In this studio, he was recording his Stan Haag Monday programme which goes out between 10 and 12. Maurice Bokkelroek was the technician. They were using the largest studio...

Then we went to the Joop Verhoof studio, and then on to the Bert Bennett studio.

Each studio is well equipped with at least two record players, one or two tape recorders, a microphone, a mixer, a cassette recorder and a few jingle players.

The cassettes are brought weekly to Bilboa, a port in Spain. There the cassettes, food, oil and so on are brought on board the tender. This tender supplies the

MV Mi Amigo every week. The use of cassettes is Sylvain Tack's idea and one cannot really hear the difference between the cassettes or tapes.

The next day, my wife and I went to see Sylvain Tack, the owner of Radio Mi Amigo. We had made an appointment to see him and had a very cordial conversation. He told us that he was tendering the ship from Bilboa. As I stated before, the cassettes are brought to Bilboa, the Caroline people take over there. I asked him about the discussions with Radio Veronica. He said that the Veronica people had visited Playa de Aro. One of them had been phoned from Holland, and was told that the Minister for Posts and Telegraphs in Holland, Mr. Van Doorn, knew about the visit and had asked the police to investigate. It must be noted that the Veronica people had nothing to do with the Veronica Omroep Organizatie (V.O.O.) They are two different organizations - V.O.O. wants a licence to operate on land.

The Veronica representatives wanted to re-name Mi Amigo, they wanted the station to be known as Radio Veronica, but the Mi Amigo deejays and the owner of the station want to continue with the name Mi Amigo.

When the Veronica representatives left Spain they made a number of untrue allegations about Radio Mi Amigo. They said, for instance, that there were no studios in Spain! That's completely untrue, there are three studios and I have seen them. Undoubtedly, their disappointment at the outcome of their Spanish visit was the main reason why they put out these untrue statements.

I asked Sylvain Tack about "live" programmes on Radio Mi Amigo... All programmes are now, in fact, taped. The reason for this is that one deejay is on board the ship for four weeks - that's too long... Before he gets to the MV Mi Amigo, he has to make the trip from Spain by tender and return again after four weeks. This is not very pleasant for the deejay, so it has been decided to stop the live shows for the present.

There are plans to use the two transmitters on board the Mi Amigo - one on the usual "259 metres" (1187 kHz) and the other on 385 metres. Before this happens, some things have to be repaired on board the Mi Amigo. The use of two transmitters can be expected any day now, but it's also possible that we'll have to wait several months before it happens.

*** STOP PRESS *** NEWS JUST IN! *** A letter just received by your editor from Thomas Drescher in Zulpich in West Germany states that Caroline has been carrying out test transmissions recently on 773 kHz throughout the day. He reports that reception, however, is poor.....EDITOR

Now back to Josef's diary...

I also learned that it is not possible to receive either Caroline or Mi Amigo in Playa de Aro. So, Sylvain Tack listens to some of the cassettes before they are brought to the ship. However, there are plans to install a short-wave transmitter on the ship, so that the programmes from the two stations can be heard in Spain. That should also prove very interesting for the ordinary short-wave listener! There is no fixed date for the installation of the short-wave transmitter.

I was also shown the contract between Radio Mi Amigo and the Spanish commercial station, Radio Gerona. This confirms what I said in my last article in MEDIUM 5. Thus firms can buy air time on Radio Gerona knowing that the commercials will be broadcast also on Radio Mi Amigo.

Joop Verhoof has now taken over as programme director of Radio Mi Amigo, and soon Peter Von Dorn will get his own studio at the villa in Playa de Aro.

After our visit to the Mi Amigo studios and the interview with Sylvain Tack, we left Playa de Aro, but before leaving we asked the deejays to play a few records for our friends and all those involved in free radio. I'd like to thank them for their warm hospitality and I do hope Radio Mi Amigo still stay on the air for ever!

Next, we drove to Marseilles where we visited the Peace Ship which is still in harbour, and we had a talk with Abie Nathan, the owner of the Peace Ship.

We were not allowed to take photographs inside the ship... There are two 25 kW transmitters on board... The ship is well kept; outside and inside the ship everything is clean, but the equipment is rather old - perhaps ten years or more. The most important thing, though, is that the equipment works! Abie Nathan told us that he did not intend to sell the ship. A few people were interested in the ship, including Sylvain Tack, but Mr. Nathan intends holding on to the ship.

Abie Nathan couldn't tell us when he will leave Marseilles. He needs money for

food, oil, etc. When the financial problem has been resolved he will re-start. (EDITOR'S NOTE: Once again I must interrupt Josef's excellent diary to refer to the letter from my German correspondent, Thomas Drescher, who states that he can sometimes "catch" the Peace Ship on 1540 kHz, but, of course, he suffers from severe interference from DLF on 1538 kHz. ... Also, SCDX has reported that the Peace Ship is back on the air ... JD)

And so ended my working vacation....!

On March 27th, Hilversum 11 transmitted the Dutch version of the BBC Radio One programme, Story of Pop, From Ship to Shore Episide, about the English pirates. The MEBO 11 is still in harbour and I don't see a solution in the coming months.

In April, the Veronica Magazine, Veronica 538, became a bi-weekly magazine because of the increasing costs of printing.

In April, Radio Mi Amigo's Drive-In Disco Show, which had changed its name to Radio Gerona Drive-In, changed once again. It is now known as the Costa Brava Drive-In Show.

Mi Amigo had plans to start a French request show hosted by Patrick du Bateau, but later on the plans were changed and there will now be no request show.

The V.O.O. are still waiting for air-time on the Hilversum network. Firstly, they requested air-time on both radio and television, but now they are seeking time on radio only. They still hope to get a licence this year - if not, they will probably give up.

In the meantime, there are plans to start Hilversum IV, a classical music station, even though most people want this new station to have pop programmes with Veronica deejays...

Now and again, there are rumours that a well-known deejay from Veronica, Atlantis or Northsea will do shows for Mi Amigo... At the moment that is not possible, according to Sylvain Tack, who told us that there are enough people for the moment ... perhaps later ... but not now....

Since May 25th, there have been a number of new commercials heard on Mi Amigo. It's good to hear them, as they show that everything is okay and that Mi Amigo can continue.

On May 24th, there was a short film on Belgian TV about the Peace Ship. In the film, Abie Nathan spoke about his life and about his efforts towards achieving Peace.

There have been reports circulating recently that the British government are anxious to take action against Mi Amigo... I hope they don't...

I haven't told you much about Radio Caroline in this article. This is because there isn't any news! They continue to broadcast between 7 p.m. and 6 a.m. on 1187 kHz.

Between May 5th and 12th, Mi Amigo had a "Week of Love" which was very successful. (I see - EDITOR).

That's all for now, but more from me in the future... Keep listening...!

JOSEF SEGERS (IRM BELGIAN REPRESENTATIVE)

RADIO CAROLINE NORTH continues to broadcast every Sunday afternoon from about 1230 or 1300 hours local time onwards on 1140 kHz approximately. The signal put out by this station is remarkable, and I know the programmes are very popular in rural Ireland. The station receives hundreds of requests and it surely must be the most popular station broadcasting to the people of rural Ireland since the days of Radio Ninety Nine. The station plays the type of music which is popular in the country districts of Ireland, and surely that's what matters most. Despite being talked down to by his more sophisticated city brothers, the musical tastes of the country folk still remain basically unchanged - country and western and country and Irish are still "top of the pops"!

JOHN DOWLING

A survey is currently being conducted in order to ascertain whether the people of Ireland want a second TV channel controlled by RTE or a direct relay of BBC1 via transmitters set up by the Irish government. Speaking personally, I am in favour of control of the TV services remaining in Irish hands, and I cannot agree with those people who claim they have a RIGHT to have BBC1 relayed to them. No other country would even consider handing over its airwaves to another country --- JD

QSL SECTION ... WITH KEVIN RYAN

AFGHANISTAN: Radio Afghanistan verified by QSL card in 134 days. Frequency was 15195 kHz and the time 1130 GMT. Reports with 1 IRC should be sent to: P.O.B. 544, Kabul, Afghanistan.

ALBANIA: Radio Tirana verified by QSL card and programme schedule in 45 days. Frequency was 1394 kHz Medium Wave.

CANADA: Gander Aeradio, Ministry of Transport, P.O.B. 400, Gander, Nfld., A1V 1W6, Canada, verified by a letter in 20 days. Frequency was 8868 kHz and IRC was sent. Gander operates from 20 to 30 minutes and from 50 to 60 minutes after every hour on 3001, 5652, 8868 and 13272 kHz.

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC: RTV Dominicana, P.O.B. 969, Santo Domingo, verified by letter, history of the station, information about the Dominican Republic and a colourful post card, in one month. The report and reply were both in the Spanish language. Frequency was 9505 kHz and time 2330 GMT.

PORTUGAL: Adventist World Radio verified by QSL card, pennant and schedule, in one month. AWR may be heard in English on Sundays from 0900 to 1000 GMT on 9670 kHz. One address for reports is P.O.B. 2590, Lisbon, Portugal. Reports may also be sent to "The Voice of Hope", Postale 5409, Paris 9e, France.

Radio Free Europe verified by QSL card and schedule in 26 days. RFE can be heard in English on Thursdays from 1500 to 1600 GMT on 15170 kHz with American pop music. Address for reports is: 1, Englischer Garten, 8 MUNCHEN 22, West Germany.

UNITED KINGDOM: Manx Radio on 1295 kHz verified by QSL card in 18 days..... BBC Birmingham on 1457 kHz verified by card in 83 days..... BBC Carlisle verified by letter and coverage chart in 9 days. Frequency was 755 kHz..... IBA Radio Teesside verified by letter in 7 days. Frequency was 1169 kHz.

U.S.A.: New York Aeradio verified by letter in 14 days. Frequency was 8868 kHz. The station operates for periods of 20 minutes on the hour and at the hour plus 30 on the same frequencies as Gander. Address is: New York Volnet, Federal Aviation Administration, Dept. of Transportation, International Flight Service Station, J. F. Kennedy International Airport, Jamaica, New York 11430, U.S.A.

Phew...that's SOME address! - JD

Sincerely Yours,

Kevin Ryan

Beechwood,

Roscommon

RADIO PARADISE

P.O. BOX 420, BASSETERRE, ST. KETTS, W.I.

VERIFICATION CARD

WE CERTIFY your Reception Report of 24 FEB 1974

to be correct.

REMARKS Many thanks for the
spring stamps we do have some
collections on the staff

[Signature]
Engineer

THIS WILL ACKNOWLEDGE RECEIPT,
OF YOUR VERIFICATION OF OUR

BROADCAST OF DATE Feb 15/74.

TO _____

HEARD AT HOURS 7:05 to 7:30
AST AST

REMARKS: We have reception reports from 7 Canadian provinces, 39 states of the USA and 13 Countries incl: England, Scotland, Ireland, Norway, Sweden, Finland, Denmark, Holland, France, Germany, Iceland, and the Azores. States of the USA include: -California, New Mexico, Washington, Texas, Oklahoma, etc., Many thanks for your report and all the best from Nova Scotia and the CBW staff

[Signature]
DOUGLAS B. HIRTLE
CHIEF ENGINEER

CONFIRMING YOUR RECEPTION OF THE
Berlin Transmitter
AMERICAN FORCES NETWORK, EUROPE
on 10 March 1974
between 0010-0025 GMT at 935 KHz

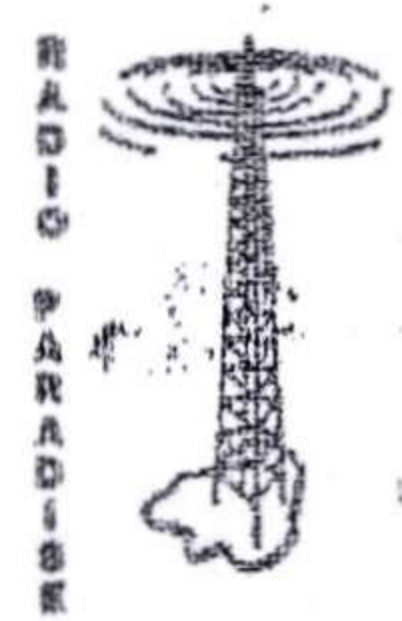
QSLs FROM
JOHN DOWLING'S
COLLECTION



UNITED STATES AIR FORCE
AIR FORCE COMMUNICATIONS SERVICE

SWI CARD

We regret that information regarding transmissions by our radio facilities may not be released to the public. While we cannot confirm your reception report, we appreciate your interest and wish you very good luck in the future. 73.



1265 KHZ
50,000 Watts
Tel: 3221

AFN-Serving American Forces in Europe

TECHNICALITIES ... MEDIUM'S TECHNICAL SECTION BY BILLY EBRILL

This is part two of the article on the Radio Frequency Spectrum - part one appeared in MEDIUM 5. This article will deal with the spectrum from 100 kHz to 1000 MHz. This covers the range from the Long Wave Band to Band V - the UHF TV band.

Different frequencies have different propagation properties, the basic characteristics are as follows:

LOW FREQUENCIES ... 100 kHz - 300 kHz: This includes the Long Wave Band. Long distance communication is possible on these frequencies because radio waves tend to bend over the horizon giving stable communication during the day. This is why Radio Two on 1500 metres is heard all over Europe. High transmitter powers are needed to radiate effectively at these frequencies.

MEDIUM FREQUENCIES ... 300 kHz to 3 MHz (3000 kHz): This includes the Medium Wave Band. This is the most popular band, used by nearly all countries for internal local broadcasting, giving good medium range coverage during the day. Simple receivers only are required to pick up stations on these frequencies. Extended coverage is possible at night, and here in Europe this results in havoc throughout the MW band, as all attempts to control the use of the band - by, for instance, limiting transmitter powers and/or employing the use of more directional antennae - have so far failed. This problem at night time is caused by reflections from the ionosphere.

HIGH FREQUENCIES ... 3 MHz to 30 MHz (3000 to 30000 kHz): This includes the Short Waves which are used for overseas communication and international broadcasting, since these frequencies are reflected from the ionosphere. Different frequencies within this range are used for different distances and at different times of the day. On these short waves the multiple reflections principle comes into effect - this involves the radio wave being reflected off the ionosphere, and then off the ground and back up to the ionosphere where it is again reflected back to the surface of the earth. Conditions tend to vary rapidly giving rise to fading and distortion, but nevertheless these frequencies are quite reliable and suitable for conveying information. There are a number of bands located in this range; ships and aircraft also use bands within this range - mostly with the aim of being able to achieve long range communication.

VHF ... 30 MHz to 300 MHz: Communication on these very high frequencies is basically "line of sight". No reflection takes place with the exception of "Sporadic E" type reflection which plays havoc with TV and radio reception. DX-ers can, however, log some very exotic stations - both radio and TV - during periods of "Sporadic E". (More about this elsewhere in the magazine - EDITOR).

TV Band I occupies 40 to 67 MHz; VHF FM radio occupies the range from 88 to 108 MHz and TV Band III 175 to 215 MHz. There is an amateur band at 70 MHz and services such as the Police, Fire and Ambulance, as well as private companies, use frequencies around 80 MHz and also around 160 MHz. Ships use a band around 160 MHz for ship-to-ship and ship-to-shore - which is replacing the other frequencies around 2182 kHz. The calling and emergency frequency is 156.8 MHz (Channel 16). 2182 kHz is also an emergency and calling frequency.

Most of the land services use AM (Amplitude Modulation) whereas the Maritime services use FM (Frequency Modulation). The VHF broadcast band is FM and is of a high quality standard, with stereo capability.

The channels for VHF radio are 300 kHz apart; those for TV 405 lines are 5 MHz apart. Services such as radiotelephones are 25 kHz apart and sometimes 12.5 kHz.

UHF TV is located in the range 470 to 855 MHz with channel spacing 8 MHz. A comprehensive network of TV transmitters in the UHF range are used in Britain to transmit TV programmes in colour.

It would be interesting for future articles, since this whole subject is so wide, for readers to write in specifying what areas they would like to know more about. There are so many types of services scattered over the bands, such as the Consol system for position finding, located on the low frequency band; also standard time stations and position finding beacons, to name just a few. There are different types of transmissions, AM, FM, SSB and CW - all of

which will be covered in future articles, but if you have any preference just let us know and we can elaborate on any specific area.

You can write to us c/o the Mourne Road address which may be found on the back page of this issue.

Remember, we are here to serve YOU, and don't forget if you want a private reply to your particular query please include a stamped addressed envelope.

BILLY EBRILL (SEPTEMBER 75)

The following article first appeared in the AUGUST edition of SHORTWAVE NEWS, the monthly publication of the Danish Short Wave Clubs International, DK-8382, Hinnerup, Denmark:

ABC-EUROPE: This small station which broadcasts on 6250 kHz is still increasing in popularity, in staff and in air-time. Last month, the well-known "Northsea Goes DX" presented, A. J. Beirens, joined the station to present a DX programme, and from September 1st former Radio Atlantis-Radio Mi Amigo deejay, Rob Ronder, also joins the station's staff. The new programme schedule reads as follows:

0800 hours GMT	"ABC Goes International" with Danny Thomas
0900 hours GMT	"ABC-DX" with A. J. Beirens
1000 hours GMT	Paul Dane Show
1100 hours GMT	Lee Alvin Show
1200 hours GMT	"Lunch with Stan Evens"
1300 hours GMT	Rob Ronder Show
1400 hours GMT	"ABC Goes International" with Danny Thomas
1500 hours GMT	"Goodbye" - close down.

A new feature on the station is the "superstar" record which is played every hour on the hour.

ABC-Europe may be contacted at the following address: ABC-Europe, P.O. Box 28085, Rotterdam, Holland. To receive a verification card it is necessary to send three international reply coupons with your report.

PAUL FOGED

ABC-Europe is often heard here in Ireland. The transmissions mentioned above are on Sunday mornings. I received a QSL card from the station quite some time back and it was very impressive, showing a map of Europe on a blue background, and with full verification text. I understand the station now has a different QSL card. This would be a very interesting QSL to add to your collection, as the station must be operating under very unusual conditions. It is, of course, illegally operated, but perhaps it might be best to refer to it as a clandestine station. The authorities do not seem interested in silencing the station... Long my this situation continue...

JOHN DOWLING

RADIO AUSTRALIA AT CARNARVON: A temporary Radio Australia transmitting station will be established at the former NASA tracking station site at Carnarvon in Western Australia.

Postmaster-General Senator Bishop said that the new station was designed to improve Radio Australia's voice in the Asian region which had deteriorated with the loss of the Darwin Relay Station which was devastated by the disastrous cyclone which hit that city. Since the Darwin disaster all Radio Australia transmissions have had to be derived from the older, lower-powered station at Shepparton, Victoria.

The new station, which was selected after several other sites had been investigated, will receive its programmes from the ABC Radio Australia studios in Melbourne over existing relay links, and it is expected to be operational by the end of 1975.

The Minister said that his department had already placed orders for the necessary equipment. One 250 kW and one 100 kW transmitters are proposed.

MEDIUM NEEDS YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS ... DON'T FORGET OUR DEADLINE - NOVEMBER 20th

ODDS AND SODS

WITH MARK TEE AND JOHN DEE

Tony Allen has finally landed himself a job with a land based station - he now works for Radio Forth in Edinburgh - MT

New Dublin pirate is Capital Radio on 220 metres with Ed McDowell (ex Radio Empathy), Alan Russell and C.B. The station is a welcome arrival to fill the void left by the raids of the past few years - MT

Our old friend, CJON in St. John's, Newfoundland, was heard coming in loud and clear at 2200 hours GMT on Sunday 21st September, 1975, down here in Borris. Hardly any interference - frequency was, of course, 930 kHz... Was using the loop antenna..... - JD

Going strong on short wave - just outside the 49 metre band - is Radio Westside with the funky physician, Doctor Don! Radio Westside is heard loud and clear in Sweden, according to several reports received by the station operators.... By the way, a report has arrived at the IRM for Doctor Don - so you know where it is! - MT

Congratulations to IRM member, Pat Callaghan, Ballinasloe, for getting his item of DX news included in the DX programme of Adventist World Radio on Sunday morning the 21/9/1975. Must say that Alan Steele's pronunciations of the Irish place names - Athlone, Tullamore and even Eire - were rather weird! - JD

It has now become quite common to see Caroline car stickers in the Dublin morning traffic (see ODDS AND SODS in MEDIUM 4). This is mainly due to the fantastic work being done by Roy Brooker for Caroline over at the FRC in London - MT

Ian Anderson (ex Caroline and RNI), the programme director of Radio Forth, openly admits he has based his station as much as possible on Radio Veronica which he sees as the best commercial station Europe has known - MT

Stevi Merike has left Piccadilly and will be the man in charge of Bradford Radio, Yorkshire's new commercial station - MT

Radio Sweden's Sunday letter show recently featured a report about Radio Nord and an interview with an ex-deejay. - MT

After a long silence, the Echo Charlie band is now hotting up again, but where are the Irish representatives - BAR6, DX1, A9, C1, DO3, etc. I recall the time when A9's family could be heard on the band - MT. And so do I - JD

I wonder what do our readers think of this new format for ODDS & SODS!?! - JD

When on a flying visit to Dublin on Sunday 21st September, your editor managed to locate Capital Radio - the new Dublin station - on 220 metres. Signal was good but voice modulation could do with just a little improvement... Nice work, lands... Sorry, I do not appreciate the type of music you play! - JD

One of the best programmes I have heard is the BERLIN SERVICE on Radio Caroline (Saturday mornings at 1 a.m.) Recorded in Berlin for Caroline, this is well worth a listen - MT

Recent mentions for the IRM include Radio Prague, Radio Australia, HCJB and WINB - MT.

Fine publicity work there by your Secretary - congratulations - JD

Radio Bangla Desh picked up loud and clear here in Dublin during the recent coup d'etat - MT What frequency? - JD

The Voice of Turkey recently promised to send out a tee shirt to those who reported on their POP MUSIC programme which is broadcast on Wednesdays at 2305 GMT. I've heard the programme on 9515 kHz with a very strong signal. English on this channel is now on between 2200 and 0030 hours GMT - JD

The Voice of Turkey now send out a very nice QSL card and a large programme schedule. Still no sign of my tee shirt! - JD

Your editor has a confession to make... No matter how much he tries he cannot work up any feeling for the music being played by Radio Caroline.....!! I can recall hearing only one song on Caroline which appealed to me, and that was an old Hank Williams' number which had been revived and had SOMEHOW got itself into the Caroline charts - how it contrasted with the rest of the music! - JD To avoid any misunderstanding, I should make it clear that I am referring now to the PRESENT Radio Caroline on 259 metres - I am certainly not referring to the "old" Caroline - J

While Capital Radio (Dublin, not London) has been trying hard to stop spurious transmissions HF and LF on their wavelength, they need hardly worry as RTE have been putting out a healthy harmonic on 2.5 MHz as long as I can remember and the P.O. never noticed! -

ABC-Europe is adequately filling the void left by WMR - ABC Europe's frequency is 6250 kHz and one of the deejays is Paul Dane, ex WMR - MT. See article on page 18 about ABC-Europe - J

I wonder how many land-based stations have been raided following information passed on by the BBC? - MT 'Bye MT&JD

DX NEWS BY JOHN DOWLING

We have a rather condensed section this time due to severe pressure on space in this issue, but now down to business:

ANDORRA: Information circulating recently which indicated that LW transmissions would commence from this country were without foundation as there is not even a long wave transmitter located in Andorra.

AUSTRALIA: Radio Australia now broadcasts to Europe in English daily from 0645 GMT on 9570 kHz and on 11765 kHz from 0700 - both frequencies sign-off at 0915. "DX-ers Calling" is now broadcast at 0730 GMT.

GREAT BRITAIN: Pennine Radio can now be heard on 1279 kHz. Loop antenna helps to separate from France on same channel, but reception is best after 2300 hours when France has signed off. Address is: P.O. Box 235, Bradford.

PHILLIPINES: Kevin Ryan has certainly been digging out the DX recently and he reports hearing FEBC at 0930 GMT on 11920 kHz. Do not confuse with HCJB which broadcasts around the same time on 11915 kHz.

TANZANIA: CONTACT reports "good" reception of the External Service on 15435 kHz at 1700 GMT with news bulletin in English.

TOGO: CONTACT also reports that Radio Togo carries an English language news bulletin from 2030 to 2040 on 5047 kHz. I haven't had the opportunity to tune in to this one, but when ever I've heard the station in French in the evenings reception is very good.

U.S.S.R.: Some more news from our faithful reporter, Kevin Ryan: Radio Vilnius in the Lithuanian SSR can be heard in English on Sat/Sun 2230-2300 GMT on 665, 1106, 1554, 9505, 9735, 11770, 11790 and 15400 kHz, and Sun/Mon 0030-0100 on 9505, 11770, 11790 and 12000 kHz. Radio Kiev broadcasts to Europe on Mondays, Thursdays and Saturdays at 1930-2000 on 7390, 7205 and 6045 kHz, and on 1241 kHz MW at 2200-2230 GMT.

MALTA: Adventist World Radio broadcasts from Malta on 9755 kHz daily at 2015- 2045 GMT. "World DX News" is broadcast on Saturdays. Radio Malta broadcasts to Europe in English on Saturdays at 2045-2100 GMT.

Bye for now,

EXCLUSIVE

Radio amigo

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MAKING CONTACT.....

BY JOHN DOWLING

When holidaying in the west of Ireland during the summer I availed of the opportunity of meeting two IRM members, Patrick Callaghan and Kevin Ryan.

I met Kevin in Roscommon town on the afternoon of July 16th and we travelled out to his house in Beechwood. There I was treated with the kindest of hospitality by Kevin and the other members of his family. In particular, I should like to thank Kevin's mother for providing such a nice meal... Kevin showed me his receivers, of course, and his collection of QSL cards. I noticed with interest that Kevin had several cards which are not in my collection! And from correspondence recently received from Beechwood, I note the postman there is bringing in more exotic QSL's for Kevin's collection. All these exotic stations are logged on a domestic receiver, which does, indeed, perform very well. I'll have to do some serious DX-ing on my TRIO shortly or Kevin will put me to shame!

On the following morning (July 17th) I met Pat Callaghan in the town of Ballinasloe, and, as the day was very pleasant, we walked about the town for some time, before adjourning to the local Hotel where Pat treated me to a very nice lunch. In the afternoon, we travelled out the six miles to Pat's home, and there I had the pleasure of meeting Pat's parents... This was really a re-union, as I had met Pat in Dublin a few years back. I viewed Pat's excellent collection of QSL cards, including a treasured one from Radio New Zealand, and also a very good verification from a station of the Australian Post Office. Pat is also the proud possessor of several Certificates from various stations. He recently purchased a World Portable and I do wish him every success with it. But most of Pat's DX-ing has been done on domestic receivers... Pat, like yours truly, has been a member of the World DX Club since 1966, and Pat continues in his role as an active member by regularly contributing to the various sections of CONTACT, the monthly publication of the World DX Club.

I should also like to thank the IRM member in Roscrea who wrote to me (sorry, but I've mislaid your letter, but I know it'll turn up again!) If I had known we had a member in the Roscrea area I could have paid him a visit as I passed through the town on my way back home from Galway....

Bain tairbhe
as an
tarbh-le
BOVRIL



MEDIUM is the quarterly publication of THE IRISH RADIO MOVEMENT

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ARTICLES AND OTHER ITEMS FOR PUBLICATION SHOULD BE SENT DIRECTLY TO THE EDITOR

SECRETARY: MARK STORY PRESIDENT: KEN SHEEHAN

EDITORIAL

Well, we have finally arrived at the last page of this "bigger-than-ever" issue of MEDIUM... Yes, despite, recessions, inflation, etc, MEDIUM continues to expand. In this edition, you will note the increased use of graphics which we hope will add to your enjoyment of the magazine. The suggestion was made by a member who felt that the pages were "boring" because of the lack of graphic relief. While not conceding the correctness of this assertion, we have nevertheless decided to make more use of graphic relief in this and in future editions of MEDIUM. We should like to receive comments from members on this aspect of the magazine.

In my editorial in MEDIUM 6, I made a strong appeal for support in the way of articles and contributions from IRM members. Well, I received no contributions from members who had not already lent us their support. This was a disappointment, but I feel I must express a special word of thanks to all those regular contributors who were so generous with their articles. Mark Story, who has been up to his eyes in exams, assisted me in every way possible, providing articles himself and passing on articles from other members, especially the very fine "Off-Shore Diary" written by Josef Segers, who is the Belgian Representative of the IRM. In the next edition of the magazine, I hope we can count on the support of some of those members who have not contributed to the magazine so far. I do appreciate the fact that members might be reluctant to come in out of the beautiful summer weather and make out their contributions for MEDIUM, but now with the longer nights and the winds howling outside there is no excuse!! I know I can rely on the continued support of our "regulars".

By the way, I can now accept contributions and articles on cassette tapes, but please enclose at least 10p for the return postage on the cassette. I would like to emphasise a few points in relation to contributions on cassette: please speak slowly and spell names and addresses. If you speak slowly this will assist me when transcribing the article or contribution on to a stencil...

In a recent letter from Eoin McDonagh, one of our Dublin members, he describes a "dramatic" afternoon in June when the VHF/FM band was alive with continental stations, stations from France, Spain, Germany, Portugal and Zagreb in Yugoslavia were coming in loud and clear. Eoin says he has all these stations on tape. That's very good, indeed, Eoin, I would surely like to hear that tape sometime. Recently, I had the experience of picking up the police from Wales and the south-west of England on my car radio while parked on an elevated position overlooking the town of Carlow. The Welsh police stations were particularly strong. Unfortunately, I could hear nothing when I visited the same location a few weeks after that...complete with my cassette recorder!

MEDIUM would not be complete without a few words of greetings to our Scottish representative, Kenneth Macinnes. Ken spent a very long holiday away from home, and consequently he did not have very many cuttings for us this time, but we do look forward to receiving your contributions for the next edition of the magazine, the dateline for which is the 20th November, and I do hope we will have it out to everyone before Christmas.

Before I close I must say that it was with regret I read about Ken's decision to resign as President of the IRM. Being a close friend of Ken, I fully appreciate his reasons for resigning. I do hope, though, that we can count on Ken's support in the future, and no doubt we'll see his name in MEDIUM many times again in future.

In closing, I would like to thank all our supporters and contributors. I appeal for a big supply of articles for MEDIUM 8, and I hope all those members we now have will re-join again when their membership renewal falls due.