ANORAKS IRELAND NEWSLETTER / MARCH EDITION / Sunday,31st March 1984.

Dear Friends,

- 1 APR 1984

Welcome to the third newsletter from Anoraks Ireland. The past 4 weeks have been quite exciting on the free radio front especially here in Dublin. Among the interesting events are a further update on the Nova situation, RTE's latest jamming victim, Robbie Dale checks his bank account! And we have news on two new operators, perhaps three? All in all, plenty of dx news to keep your listeners content and glued to the freq you tx on.

RADIO NOVA :- Chris Careys' Radio Nova which despite tx'ing on 819khz only continues to be the most popular audience puller in Dublin. However, all was not well early in March when striking journalists secured official NUJ sanction for an all out picket on all premises assocaited with Nova Media Services Ltd., the holding company for Nova. Harry Carey was rather annoyed to see a Sunday newspaper reveal 'confidential' info concerning profits made in Herbert St. during the run up to Xmas 83. For a full 14 days Nova earned £1920 IR every hour 0730-2100 while the staff netted £8.30 IR., a meagre return for spinning discs over the same 60mins. As the stike escalate it produced some unchivalrous behaviour from Nova mgt. A whole row of concer tickets for the group Imagination making an appearance in Dublin were distributed free to Nova staff over Xmas. These tickets were cancelled a week prior to the band arriving to prevent strikers from embarrassing the station. Existing staff claim they were threathened with the sack if they as much as spoke to their former colleagues on the picket line outside the station hq at Nova Park, Rathfarnham. Nova's problems reached a climax on 03/03 when the Revenue Commissioners served a demand for £150,000 IR vat owed on adds for the year ending March 84. Just a few days before the last withdrawal from the Nova bank A/C of £36,000 IR was paid to one of Carey's leasing companies in the UK. This payment was 4 weeks rental on tx gear for Radio Nova. On 07/03 Harry arrived in Dublin after a two month absence and called a staff meeting for Thurs 08/03 to implement austerity measures in an attempt to revive Nova's lagging audience and add revenues. To relieve pressure caused by the strike, Chris suggested re-employing all those dismissed on Jan 21. Existing staff voted by a show of hands against this idea but Chris being the boss went ahead anyway, Chris Barrie and others are back on Nova at weekends since 17/03. Odd man out is former Nova/Sunshir newsreader, David Malone whose joined the BBC's Radio Ulster. Tom Hardy, another megastar may return to Nova soon depending on whether Carey pays Tom 8 weeks wages accumulating while on picket duty. March 9 and Nova Media Services Ltd was liquidated. In a surprise move, general manager, Mike Hogan phoned in his resignation on the following Monday. Harry cut all pay rates by 20% and considered slashing add rates by 50% to attract the lucrative agencies back. Harry returned to the UK on 10/03 leaving Eugene Brady, a silent director formerly in charge of running Nova. In a phone call from London on 22/03 Carey stated a consortium of Irish/US business interests would be taking over Nova soon and the vat bill has been cleared. ABC Music Productions is the new company taking Nova under its wing. Anoraks Ireland can reveal exclusive info that a major Dublin company, Smurfits Ltd is the main shareholder with Chris Carey remaining in the background and still getting a big slice of the profits. Info leaked from Nova Park suggests a new promo is planned for the summer - £15,000 IR Giveaway! Pam, the Dallas based jingle firm is supposedly making a new Kiss FM package - time will tell whether this very popular station returns! Declan Meehan, Nova top jock is officially on holidays til 16/04 and was spotted in London job hunting. Word is Deci took an bag of demo tape with him! Anchor man, Jason Maine, one of the very first voices heard on Nova in June 81 departed the station on 30/03 after a disagreement with Cgris Carey. Ending off the Nova saga this month, the 10kw rig for 88fm along with 2 containers of other gear was shipped to the UK in mid March. 19 Herbert St., former hq for Nova/Kiss FM and Careys' recording company, Swift studios is now just a memory ~~for~~ treasured by many Anoraks who graced the interior for 2½ yrs. Nothing remains, not even the name plates or prominent tv camera over the front door.

SUNSHINE RADIO :- A local gossip mag, Phoenix remarked on 16/03 that Sun-shine boss, Robbie Dale, was 'quietly chuckling in his centre city office at the misfortunes of his bitter rival, Harry Carey and Radio Nova'. Then

.../..cont'd..../pto

at 1121 gmt on 21/03 Sunshine Radio was blotted by a strange noise on 100.52 fm. The tables were turned and Robbie fell victim to the RTE Jammer! That was the second occasion Dale was snared, After the Nova raid by the author--orities on May 18., the Post Office hit Sunshine by surprise! Robbie was convinced the Gov would not interfere with his Portmarnock based pirate as he maintained his political friends would stand by him. This time round Dale was confident Sunshine didn't pose a threat to RTE so why jam them? As in the May 19th /83 raid, RTE struck in the middle of Robbie's own morn--ing show Mon-Fri 0900-1200 gmt. On 23/03 both Sunshine's fm freqs 101.56 were effectively jammed but tx continued uninterrupted on 531khz am. From 21/03 Sunshine jocks prompted listeners to lodge complaints with their political representatives, write to the papers and generally rise hell over the jamming. During his progs on 22/23/03 Robbie invited loyal fans to report the outcome of the complaints through an on-air discussion. To balance the argument, one irate caller accused Dale of erecting the Sunshine mast with--out first getting planning permission from the local Council. The pro jamm--ing supporter explained to listeners that the mast was under a flight path for incoming aircraft to Dublin airport and Dale in his usual dictorial manner fumbled with an answer ending with disconnecting the telephone line! Pressure on T.D's (Irish term for members of Parliament) intensified and several attempted to question Jim Mitchell, Minister for Communications in the Dail (Irish Parliament) were ruled out of order by the Speaker of the House. On 27/03 the opposition party, Fianna Fail again questioned Mitchell and yet again the matter was dismissed, a case of the Gov avoiding not just the jamming of Sunshine but the entire issue of 'freedom of choice' a concept enshrined in a democratic state. During a session of the Dail on 29/03 M. Mitchell replied that he had not authorised RTE to jam anybody or test freqs above 100Mhz. At the same time, he didn't condone illegal radio and said legislation would be introduced soon to eliminate pirates in Ireland. The next day, the RTE Authority had a meeting where we understand Sunshine jamm--ing was discussed but so far no word has been received at the outcome here at the Anoraks Ireland newsdesk. We'll report fully on that next month. Meanwhile Sunshine are still inaudible on fm.

Now for some facts Sunshine prefer not to reveal to their audience. Robbie Dale claims that his station had a turnover of £258,000 IR in 83 and stated the station made a small profit for the first time. Sunshine Radio Prod--uctions Ltd is the holding company for S.R. and in their published accounts for 81 Robbie's salary was £49,260 IR. Dale claimed further in a newspaper interview on 25/03 'there are no millionaires in Sunshine Radio'. Many of his former staff would dispute this as existing jocks are paid £114 IR a day and work 6 days per week. Nova are paying their jocks £7 IR an hour / £35 per day which is considered a fair wage by staff in the Nova Park. Robbie has said in various txs since the jamming started that his 43 employees jobs are at risk if Sunshine is forced off air. In reality, Dale has 15 people on the payroll fulltime including all jocks, newsreaders, office and sales staff. The other 28 are parttime personnel doing a few hours at weekends, 43 is a figment of Dales' imagination. The Sunshine Review, a free paper is supposedly distributed by Syndicated News Ltd. On checking the companies registration office, SN is not registeredc newspaper, another fiddle of Robbie Dale's. Finally, Sunshine claim their annual auction due to be held next month is in jepordy. Central Remedial Clinic, a local charity gains large funds from the auction but a minor detail if not publicised is a director of the CRC is also on the board of SRP Ltd. As Tom Hardy remarked recently both Chris Carey/Robbie Dael started Nova/Sunshine to make money for themselves. There the case rests..

Radio na Gael is the latest newcomer to the Dublin airwaves. On tx from Swords, north Dublin RnG are testing nightly from 1900 bst on 1251am/97.14fm. Co Monahgan near the northern borders has the second new station, Clones Local Radio are also on test on 1251Khz. We have no further info on that as yet, more details later. Finally, Galway on the western seaboard has decided to re-enter the Irish pirate scene with Eyre Radio on 1026khz am.

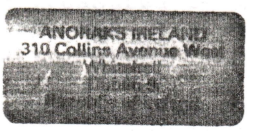
Credits this month for assistance with info too Radio na Gael, CRF Swords, and numerous Anoraks in Nova/Sunshine who prefer to remain anon.

Until the next time, keep you dial tuned to Free Radio Stations wherever you live.

73's,

Paul Davidson

Editor, ANoraks Ireland Newsletter.



Info from the newsletter maybe used on dx progs provided Anoraks Ireland is credited.