

BANK HOLIDAY MONDAY 29th AUGUST 1983

A few surprises today:

RADIO JACKIE NORTH Thanks to a tip from Jim Brown of Central Radio, who told me that RJN were on the air from noon, firstly with a relay of Central Radio, and later with old tapes, I was able to do a search for them. Shortly after 2pm I found RJN operating on 944kHz and 1393kHz with the STEVE WEST SHOW. At 6:25pm, Steve West was again on air, announcing that he was doing the 6pm - 8pm slot, but the time checks were way out, so I guess that this was another old tape. At 7:25pm RJN had gone from 944kHz, but were found shortly afterwards on 1018kHz and 1393kHz. At the 8:45pm check they had gone from all frequencies, but close-down time was not noted.

CENTRAL RADIO signed-on at noon, and have been announcing all day that today is their "first day of 'live' broadcasting". The exact line-up was not established, but JON BRAND and PAUL ALLAN seem to have been broadcasting on a "1/2 hour on - 1/2 hour off" format, with other DJs, such as MIKE DOYLE and DAVE RHODES taking over for a 1/2 hour stint whenever they were in the studio. Jon Brand closed the station down at 7:18pm.

~~MERSEYSIDE FREE RADIO~~

MERSEYSIDE FREE RADIO Opened at 11:30pm on 1242kHz with 1/2 hour of ANDY DAVIES. From noon, ANDY DAVIES and STEVE BISHOP have been operating on a "1 hour on - one hour off" basis, with no sign of WILLY WOMBAT(alias NICK CATFORD). Shortly before 7pm, during one of Steve Bishop's slots, he asked Andy Davies to do a "guest appearance" and handed him a letter to read out over the air. It was a summons for Steve Bishop to appear in Wallasey Magistrate's Court on 12th September to answer charges of operating an illegal transmitter. For obvious reasons, the name and address on the summons were not read out over the air, although Steve's first name was given as "Paul". Format seemed to have been interrupted at 8pm when the station was operating with continuous music. They were announcing a phone-in at 8pm, so this probably had something to do with it. Around tea-time they were announcing 97.55 MHz FM and when checked, they were putting out a very good signal on this frequency, although the programme kept disappearing under signals put out by the local police!!!! As usual, the signal on 1242kHz is not the strongest, but it is by far and away the "cleanest". However, on the receivers at my QTH, MFR is causing a lot of QRM to MARCHER SOUND's "test transmissions" on 1260kHz. One day, the pirate stations might just "twig on" to the benefits of fitting filters to their transmitters!

For most of the day, Steve Bishop has been accusing people of trying to sabotage MFR's transmissions, although there hasn't been the slightest trace of disturbance to the signal, except for Police QRM on FM. By 10pm, Steve Bishop, as usual sounds "pissed" and is making all sorts of accusations against the other stations in the area. Earlier, he said that MFR were being "interfered with" by the other stations, and they would let all the other stations know the date of the next transmission so that they could come around and pull the aerials down. If necessary, MFR could arrange to show them where the aerial supports are, and arrange for transport to take visitors to the sites. From a listener's point of view, this is pure mischief, as broadcasts have been perfect up to now. From 10pm, the "gang" in the stdio have fully warranted a raid by the GPO. Latest sign-off time is now midnight, but the broadcasts have deteriorated too much to listen to until this time. The accusations made by the other stations against MFR are fully justified,

STATION "M" INTERNATIONAL 1413kHz Signed-on just after noon, with a musical extranaganza, but the tapes seem to have become very mixed up in the proceess. Tom Lodge, Eric Monaghan, Kevin Palmer and John Freeman have "held the fort" for the whole of the time until 10pm close-down, but DJ line-up has been extemely confused. DJs were thanked for previous hours that they had not fulfilled, and following DJs did not appear in the order announced. Overall, the experiment was not a success, although I do not particularly like the "two in a row" or "three in a row" format adopted for today's programmes. At times the music was continuous, which went down even worse. The station signed-off at 10pm, although Tom Lodge took every opportunity to say that the offer of £50 prize money for the name of Peanut Kenny's new station was no joke, and he hinted that "some strange carriers" might be heard later tonight.

Quite an eventful day!!