

Listening time during the week has been very spasmodic, and the operation of most of the local stations has been erratic, to say the least. Toward the weekend, many things seem to have been happening, but my details are sketchy:

NORTH COAST COMMERCIAL RADIO My newsletter dated 11th December, SAE and letter addressed to Tom Lodge, requesting some car-stickers, posted on 14th December were returned by the GPO on Tuesday 20th marked "No PO Box No.199". Later announcements made "on air" say that everything has now been sorted out with the GPO, and envelopes should not bear anything except for NORTH COAST COMMERCIAL, PO Box No.199, Chester. This station operated its normal schedule through the week, but at close-down on Friday night, Tom Lodge reported that a certain "high-rise" flat in Moreton had been raided by the Department of Trade and the Police at 10:15am that morning. In spite of there being nothing whatsoever in the flat to implicate the occupant with the running of NCCR, he was charged, and is to appear in Court on 13th January 1983. It was reported that the police personnel who accompanied the D.O.T. were, as usual, very courteous, but this did not prevent John Lewis of DoT from causing a lot of damage to the flat. It was also reported that a writ will be issued against the latter at the earliest opportunity in the New Year. In the meantime, the station has continued to operate almost normally, and have said that they will not be driven from the air while there is a need for an alternative to the local BBC and IBA stations. On Saturday, John Freeman was not on the air for his usual spot. Sign-off announcement said that he "had a 'bug'", but would be back on Christmas Day, and thanked Dave Walker and Pete Henderson for "standing-in". On Christmas Day, John was back, but Steve Bishop was missing from the 'line-up' and once again Dave Walker and Pete Henderson were thanked for 'filling-in'. In spite of the "raid", and missing personalities, NCCR were one of the only stations to fulfill their schedule over the holiday period.

RADIO ELEANOR were on the air on Saturday, announcing a 10am to 8pm schedule, with Tony Reeve/Nick James/Barry Cullen/Mark Wright and Paul Rogers doing two hours each. In the event, they decided to extend programming, and their close-down theme tune was heard at 8:30pm. The same line-up and timetable was announced for Christmas Day, but they extended to 9:00pm with Christmas music between 8pm and 9pm. This weekend they are announcing a new mailing address of:- 16, STOCKBRIDGE STREET, ANFIELD, LIVERPOOL L5 6FB.

RADIO FREE WIRRAL were heard in the early hours of Tuesday morning, using 1611kHz initially with continuous music, then for an "on-air" link up with Rick Dane on 945kHz for instant reception reports. Their close-down at midnight on Tuesday was also heard, but not their programming, which was probably continuous music with some "186m" IDs. They were also heard at 1:40am on Christmas Day with a similar format. Later on Christmas day, they were heard with the Dave Mc.Coy Show at 3:47pm, but they were not found again at subsequent checks.

STORETON COMMUNITY RADIO failed to appear on Monday, and were not heard at all until Thursday, when they closed down early, as the whole crew were working at a disco in Wallasey. They were heard on Friday night with John Sniff saying that he would be on the air until 5:30pm, when Paul Woods would take over, then that he would be on the air until 6pm. In the event, he was on the air until 6:30pm close-down, when the crew were once again providing the disco at a club in Wallasey. This station was not heard at all on Saturday. They were not noted on Christmas Day until 6:08pm, when Jill Sinclair was acknowledging all the cards that had been sent to the station. After this, Brian C and John Sniff did a joint show until 9pm, when the station closed down. This station now has a fine signal and some quite good DJs, but they remain incapable of organising or adhering to any schedule. Additionally, when more than one person is in the studio at the same time (which is most of the time!), they all sound like a bunch of 10-year olds. It may be "fun" to do, but it comes out over the air as very childish, and I can not see the DoT allowing this station to continue for much longer. Meanwhile, the station itself is announcing 24-hour per day operation 'soon', and operation with 125W on FM 'soon'.

CENTRAL RADIO INTERNATIONAL were heard signing-on with the Jim Brown Show on Christmas Day, but all later attempts to find them on the airwaves were very unsuccessful

MERSEYWAVES 1125kHz AM; 1242kHz and 94.8MHz mono FM. At 10:30am on Christmas Day, a loud hum was heard on 1125kHz, which, by 10:45am was carrying continuous music. At 11am, the station IDed as "the return of Merseyland Alternative Radio" with Dave Graham. The list of DJs included Steve West, and this station appeared to be an amalgam-

ation of Channel 5 and some of the personnel from Station "M" International. However, at 12:21pm, Bert Williams ID-ed the broadcast as an "Engineering Test Transmission for Radio MERSEYWAVES". Bert Williams was announcing the broadcast as his "Christmas 1983 Show" on 94.8 MHz. They were indeed putting out a very nice signal on 94.8 MHz when checked. The "test transmission" announcements were also heard at 4:01pm and 5:50pm, when Bert Williams was still on the air. Close-down time was not noted, but the station was on and off the air regularly during the early and late evening.

CHANNEL 5 (or was it?) was first noted at 3:54pm on Christmas Day. At 4:04pm, the DJ sounded like Pete Williams, but this was not confirmed. The station was still on the air with continuous music at 6:35pm, but close-down time was missed. Subsequent events suggest that this may not have been Channel 5 broadcasting

STATION "M" INTERNATIONAL were first noted at 4:06pm on Christmas Day, with Roger Dee playing "Silly Beggars" and announcing the station as "let's say Radio Caroline International". He was still on the air at 5:20pm. At 6:30pm an unrecognised DJ handed over to Roger Dee for the close-down, during which the correct Station "M" International ID and mailing address was given

BOXING DAY 26th DECEMBER 1983

RADIO JACKIE NORTH Biggest surprise today was not hearing RJN on the air for their 7th birthday celebration.

NORTH COAST COMMERCIAL RADIO were heard at 9:45am, when Dave Walker announced that he would be doing a non-stop music programme until 1pm. The station was still on the air when checked at 11:30pm, but had disappeared at 2:28pm. They were back on the air by 4:03pm, and at 4:09pm Tom Lodge announced that he would be taking over until 6pm close-down. However, at 5:57pm, their top record in the week's "Top 20", with which they always finish the day's broadcast, was already in progress, and any close-down announcement had already been missed.

MERSEYWAVES A strong carrier was noted on 1125kHz at 9:27am, but no modulation. A little later, Radio Merseywaves was heard on this frequency. Today they were announcing 1125kHz, as well as 94.8 MHz FM. At 12:15pm, the station had gone, but it was heard again at 1:56pm, with Paul Jay (ex Radio Alpha, FM) in the chair. At 2pm, Paul Jay handed over to Bert Williams, and both were announcing "test transmissions" of Merseywaves. At 2:04pm it was noted that this station was using a parallel AM frequency. Although there was no chance to check the other frequency, I am fairly sure that it was 1242kHz. The signal on 1242kHz was stronger than that on 1125kHz, although both sounded as though the speech was broadcast via an echo chamber, and was difficult to 'copy' at times. The signal had disappeared by 4:40pm, and was not traced after this time. No mailing address has been heard for this one.

RADIO ELEANOR operated their Sat/Sun schedule, with operation beyond the announced 8pm sign off time. They were heard at 7:36pm, but had gone by 8:35pm check.

CENTRAL RADIO INTERNATIONAL were noted at 12:15pm with the Mark Evans Show. Steve Turner was heard at 2:17pm, but the station had gone from the air by 4:19pm. At 7:36pm, Paul Rogers announced on Radio Eleanor that Central Radio "have had a few problems today, but Jim Brown won't give up. He will carry on". Not sure what this was supposed to mean, but I hope that it isn't problems with the authorities!

STORETON COMMUNITY RADIO were first noted at 4:38pm, with a combined John Sniff/Brian C 'fool about'. Close-down time was not noted, and the station was gone from the air by 7:18pm.

RADIO FREE WIRRAL have not been heard all day

