

It has been another bad week for free radio in this area, with C-104 heard for only two hours on Sunday, WFM and KISS-FM not heard at all and the Radio Mersey Waves' studio raided yet again by the DTI on Thursday afternoon.

RADIO MERSEY WAVES 1242kHz: 9, Meadfoot Road, Moreton, Wirral, Merseyside L46 7UW.

The station were on the air on Monday, but they opened late and were first noted at 9:02am. Heard were:- 9am-11am Dave Collins; 11am-1pm DJC (saying that he could only stay till 1pm); 1pm-?? Mark Newman. The remainder of the afternoon line-up wasn't noted, but heard later were :- 5pm-7pm KtC; 7pm-10pm Martin Miller; 10pm-Midnight Tony Coltrane; Midnight-1am KtC; 1am-3am(?) Peter Thomas. The station said they would be on the air all day Tuesday to advise listeners that the venue for their Night-out had been changed and to give directions to Ma Baker's from various directions. Come Tuesday, the station was all at sixes and sevens. They opened at noon with DJC till 2pm. He was followed by Alan Bates till 4pm. Mark Newman did 4pm-6pm, as Dave Collins was not able to turn up. It was then announced that the station would close at 6pm instead of 8pm, as Mark had brought forward his show by two hours. By 6pm, KtC had turned up and close-down was extended to 7pm, then 7:15pm, then 7:30pm. By 7:30pm, Dave Collins had turned up and was supposed to be doing 7:30pm-10pm. In the event, he closed the station down at 9pm and went to the Night-out. On Thursday, their next scheduled broadcasting day, they opened at 8am with Dave Collins till 11am followed by Paul James who was scheduled till 2pm, but could only stay till 1pm. From 1pm-2pm Peter Thomas(??) "filled-in", but modulation disappeared from the air very abruptly at 1:53pm, just a few minutes before the end of his show. Although the carrier remained on the till 2:44pm, there was no sign of anyone attempting "adjustments" or "repairs" and it was thought that the station may have been raided by the DTI yet again. The DJs on Concept Radio confirmed the worst on Sunday. Mersey Waves are still off the air.

C-104 104.0MHz stereo FM: No mailing address.

This station have announced a number of changes to operate over the next few weeks. They opened at noon on Sunday and heard were:- Paul Kay from Noon-1pm and Andy Davies from 1pm-2pm. They said that this would be their last "daytime" broadcast for a while as John Dwyer, the Programme Controller, was on holiday in Ireland, where he would be heard on Radio West (765kHz). While he is away, they intend to operate Sundays only from 9pm-Midnight with 9pm-10:30pm Paul Kay and 10:30pm-Midnight Andy Davies. It was announced that on 29th/30th December there will be a "marathon" link-up between C-104/WFM/WABC(Tom Lodge??). The frequency is expected to be 97.6 MHz.

CONCEPT RADIO 104.4MHz: 18, Glynne Street, Orrell, Bootle, Merseyside L20 6DF.

This station had a stronger signal than normal and although blocking out Signal Radio, there was no trace of interference from the latter. They opened at noon on Sunday and featured some of the DJs from Central Radio, who say that CRI will be back at 10am next Saturday with a brand new transmitter, a new crystal and from a new location, which is "the highest point on Merseyside". Heard were:- Noon-12:30pm Tom Webb; 12:30pm-2pm Jim Browne; 2pm-6pm Phil Davies' Marathon Golden-Oldies Show; 6pm-9pm Jim Lowe; 9pm-Midnight (or possibly 1am) Tom Webb. At Midnight, Tom Webb handed over to Jim Lowe, saying that he would be back again at 12:15am, but the broadcasts after 12:05am were not noted.

MERSEY FM 103.8(?)MHz. Flat B, 42, Aspen Grove, Toxteth, Liverpool L8, OST.

Although the frequency was checked earlier, this station wasn't noted till 9:45pm on Sunday. The signal was strong, but there was a very loud "hum" over everything. Modulation level on speech varied from "too much" to "non-existent" and was difficult to read at the best of times. The name of the DJ wasn't noted, but it wasn't Dave Ross or Mike Smith, who have been noted previously. The same DJ continued "over the top of the hour" at 11pm, but the station had gone from the air by 11:41pm, when next checked.

One point missing from the above notes is that C-104's signal on Sunday was very, very poor in comparison with their normal signal, which suggests that their "stop gap" broadcast came from a temporary location.