

This week has been another very bad one for the Merseyside stations. Central Radio, Radio Mersey Waves and Storeton Community Radio were all raided by the DTI on Monday, with varying degrees of success at each. No FM stations were noted here during the week.

CENTRAL RADIO 1404kHz: 18, Glynne Street, Orrell, Bootle, Merseyside L20 6DF.

The station's carrier was noted first thing on Monday morning after apparently being on the air all night. By mid-morning they were broadcasting a tape of a show that Phil Davies did for Concept Radio over the Christmas/New Year period. Concept Radio were also on the air at the same time, but FM reception was too limited to determine whether the Concept programme was being relayed by Central Radio, whose signal was also extremely weak. At Noon, Phil Davies appeared "live" on Central Radio, and there was a dramatic increase in signal strength. At the same time, Concept Radio appeared to have closed down, and I had no reception of them, even with line-of-sight to their approximate location. All didn't seem well at Central, with Phil appealing every few minutes for Jim Browne to turn up, as there was a lot to discuss. At one stage, Phil said that it would be impossible for the station to continue operation from that location. Jim Browne turned up at 1:15pm and the station closed down almost immediately, after a short announcement. I understand that the location was raided by the DTI just a few minutes later. By that time, the transmitter had been safely removed but the fate of the other equipment is still in doubt as they have not been able to gain access to the location or to contact the occupier. Jeff Stone, an ex-Central Radio DJ, who recently had a High Court judgement in his favour, had his records and tapes returned by a large force of DTI men on Monday. In spite of warning that "something big" was about to happen, most of the warnings seem to have been passed on too late.

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

This station failed to sign-on at 7am on Monday, and were not noted till 12:59pm, when they said that they would be ready to start regular programming in 5-10 minutes and they carried on with continuous music till 1:08pm, when DJC opened the station and was heard till 3pm, when Peter Thomas, standing-in for Alan Bates, took over. I feel sure that the latter was still on the air at 4pm, but gone by 4:35pm. Other reports say that the station was raided by the DTI around 3:30pm. They were not heard again till 11:15am on Friday, with DJC from 11:15am-1pm. He was followed 1pm-3pm by Peter Thomas, standing-in for Jeff Starr. The former also confirmed that the DTI had returned his records, but didn't say on what day. In his broadcast from 5pm-7pm, KtC said that the DTI had dropped a very strong hint that they weren't prepared to tolerate 7-day operation by attempting a raid on Monday. All they got for their trouble was a length of aerial wire. This station is the only local MW station operating over the weekend and heard have been:-
 FRIDAY: 11:15am-1pm DJC; 1pm-3pm Peter Thomas; 3pm-5pm Paul Woods; 5pm-7pm KtC; 7pm-9pm carrier only; 9pm-10pm Dave Collins; 10pm-Midnight Mark Newman; Midnight-1:30 KtC and 1:30am-4(?)am Paul James. SATURDAY: The station was first noted with a noisy carrier and a lot of background voices from 9:50am-10:30am. Schedule from then on was:-
 10:30am- Noon Mark Wright; Noon-2pm Martin Miller, in for Barry Noble; 2pm-4pm DJC; 4pm-6pm KtC & Paul Woods; 6pm-8pm Tara; 8pm-10pm Mark Burgess; 10pm-Midnight Mark Newman; Close-down was Midnight. Heard on SUNDAY were:- 9am-11am Mark Burgess(?); 11am-1pm DJC in for Wayne Scott; 1pm-3pm Paul Jay; 3pm-5pm Mark Wright in for Burt Williams; 5pm-7pm KtC; 7pm-10pm Peter Thomas; 10pm-Midnight Mark Newman; Midnight-1am KtC; and 1am-3(?)am Paul Woods

STORETON COMMUNITY RADIO 1026kHz: 91, New Hey Road, Wirral, Merseyside L49 7NE.

This station wasn't noted till 4pm on Monday, when Kenny Gee was heard to thank John Sniff for getting the station back on the air. Heard were: 4pm-5pm Kenny Gee; 5pm-7pm Les Martin; 7pm-??? Uncle Ern. The latter was supposed to have been on the air till 10pm, but the signal was not heard at 8pm. Other reports suggest that they were raided by the DTI at about 7:30pm. They have not been heard since then, which must suggest that the station lost most of the equipment

KISS-FM 102.7MHz stereo: 150 Rake Lane, Wallasey, Merseyside L45 1JW

This station was noted at 10pm on Thursday at 10pm, presumably with a test transmission, but they closed down at 10:04pm. On Sunday, they opened at Noon, announcing their first day of broadcasting with a schedule of:- Noon-1pm John Mitchell; 1pm-4pm Paul Thompson and 4pm-6pm John Mitchell. In the event, only a blank carrier was noted at 3pm and this had gone a few minutes later.

