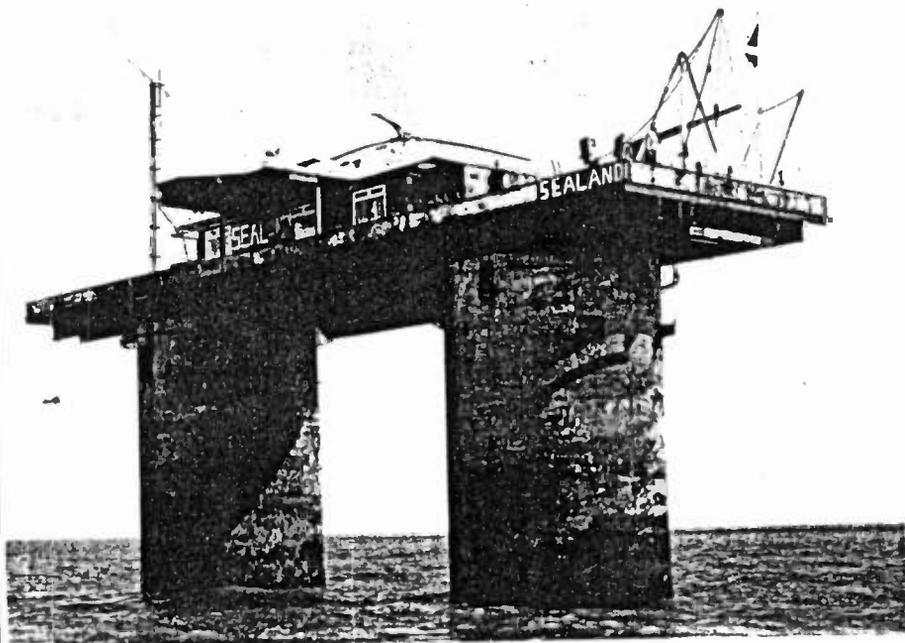


THE Magazine for Today's Radio Industry

# Now Radio

OCTOBER 6, 1987

ISSUE # 37



## Contents

NORMAN McLEOD SAYS "WATCH YOUR LEVELS!".....IBA TO READVERTISE  
RADIO TELETEXT FRANCHISE.....EDWARD COLE RECALLS RADIO  
390.....HI-TECH AND INDEPENDENT RADIO NEWS...PAUL EASTON ON  
LBC'S NEW PROGRAMMES.....PLUS LATEST NEWS & ALL YOUR REGULARS! :

THE Magazine for  
Today's Radio Industry

# Now Radio

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# EDITORIAL COMMENT

ISSUE # 37

OCTOBER 6, 1987

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A week ago the first issue of our new publication, NOW RADIO REPORTS was mailed out to its subscribers.

The idea of NOW RADIO REPORTS is to provide a complete and even more up-to-date service of news, information, background and job vacancy listings than is possible with this publication which is fortnightly.

NOW RADIO REPORTS is available only to subscribers of NOW RADIO MAGAZINE (this publication) at £15 for a year (26 issues - 1 per fortnight).

It is published in the week between this publication.

To subscribe to NOW RADIO REPORTS send your name, address and subscriber number (first four numbers on your address label) with a cheque for £15 (outside UK £20) to: NOW RADIO REPORTS, FREEPOST, KETTERING, NORTHANTS, NN16 OBR.

HOWARD G L ROSE  
Editor

## BBC TOP-40 CHART MOVE WILL HIT AT ILR SURVEY

RADIO ONE has moved the day it announces its brand-new TOP 40 as from last Sunday October 4th.

In the past the chart has been announced on Tuesdays, when BRUNO BROOKS ran down the new survey between 5 - 7pm.

The BBC say that the move to Sunday's 5 - 7pm will make it the most up-to-date chart "in the world".

They say that calculations of chart positions will take into account record sales right up until the close of trading on Saturday afternoon. So the new chart will be announced less than 20-hours after the last record has been sold.

GALLUP, who produce the BBC chart for the BRITISH PHONOGRAPHIC INDUSTRY have installed computers in 500 record stores around the United Kingdom, representing every kind of outlet from the smallest independent to the largest superstore.

After the stores close on Saturday, GALLUP's central computer spends the night automatically telephoning the 500 shops, collecting data from each of the computers and calculating the entire TOP 100. The print-out will then be delivered to RADIO ONE at about 3pm on Sunday afternoon. That will leave the TOP 40 show producer just two hours to prepare the broadcast.

"Saturday is a big record-buying day," said BRUNO BROOKS, "so it's important that we will be able to reflect Saturday sales. Still, I think the new chart may cause a few headaches until we get used to it. You see, to make the show finish on the dot of 7pm, we have to calculate the length of all the records we want to play before we can put the programme together...maybe we should get the computer to do that for us as well!"

## OCEAN SOUND TEST TRANSMISSIONS

The IBA have started test-transmissions on 96.7 Mhz VHF/FM from Winchester.

The new FM transmitter will provide a relay for OCEAN SOUND for the Winchester and surrounding area from later this year.

The signal has been reported over much of North Hampshire and West Berkshire by NOW RADIO readers.

## TCR SPECIAL EVENT BROADCAST GRADED A BIG SUCCESS

TCR, TURKISH COMMUNITY RADIO, say that their recent Special Event broadcasts at the Enfield Show in North London were a major success.

E M ALI, of TCR, told NOW RADIO, "The success of our broadcast must help pave the way for Community Radio. If our broadcast had been a failure, it could perhaps have been a step backwards for the movement."

The station, operated by an applicant group, carried a wide range of programming, including an interview with the Mayor, and public reaction was "very good". Some people travelled to the show just to hear the station, as did a group from the CRA.

E M ALI told NOW RADIO that a full account of the Special Event broadcast was to be sent to the HOME OFFICE, including a request that next year they be allowed to use 1 Watt transmitter power, instead of 50 milliWatts.

The broadcast by TCR was the first by any ethnic group in the United Kingdom, but the station received support from more than just the Turkish community.

"There was a considerable amount of goodwill from all sections of the community for what we were doing and what we plan in future."

## GOVERNMENT TO TOUGHEN MARINE OFFENCES ACT

The British Government wants to strengthen the Act of Parliament which outlaws Briton's working for, advertising on, supplying or promoting the activities of Radio stations operating from ships and structures outside United Kingdom territorial waters - The Marine (etc) Broadcasting Offences Act 1967.

The news, released in NOW RADIO several months ago exclusively, will come as another worry for the operators of offshore radio stations.

NOW RADIO understands that the DTI is to push the Government to introduce new sections into the Act which would allow Search warrants to be issued to officials investigating offshore broadcasting activities. At present no search warrants can be issued under the Act.

Government will also be asked to legislate to allow for the arrest of people thought to be involved in offshore radio activities.

The Government will also look into the subject of arresting vessels used for offshore radio stations on the High Seas when it is known that such ships are un-registered.

In International Law, a vessel which is stateless, is not bound to be protected by any country and could be arrested by the authorities

of any nation. However, after the arrest of the RADIO PARADISE ship MAGDA MARIA, off Holland, the UK authorities are very cautious of taking such action in case registration does actually apply to a radio ship. In the Dutch case the ship was registered in Panama and the owners took the Dutch authorities to court for wrongful arrest of their ship. The owners won the case.

DTI officials appear concerned that offshore broadcasters have bases used as offices inside the United Kingdom, yet the law, designed to close any loopholes to allow their activities, actually gives them a fair degree of protection.

This is especially the case where the station is managed by non-UK nationals, and where a station is not registered as a business in the United Kingdom, and where the primary function of the office is not the management of an offshore radio service.

Lawyers would have to carefully draw up new legislation for the Government, but it could pass into law without any opposition, as did the Territorial Sea Act, extending UK Territorial Waters from 3 to 12-miles, and which came into force last Thursday, October 1st.

Stronger International Co-operation is also being sought by British authorities for dealing with the situation.

## CHRISTIANS GET BIGGER VOICE

TRANS WORLD RADIO, the American-owned operation which leases airtime via RADIO MONTE CARLO, is paying £2,000,000 for a new transmitter which it hopes will improve its reception in Eastern Bloc countries, as well as in Western Europe.

## HIGH POWER MOUTH FOR BRITAIN IN HONG KONG

Bbc EXTERNAL SERVICES has opened its new £9,000,000 transmitter operation in Hong Kong.

The system is designed to put a better-than-ever signal into China, as well as Japan and Korea.

Programming in Mandarin is being expanded, and a further 10-hours per week of English-language programmes will be aired through the new facility.

The installation is a part of a massive 10-year programme of updating equipment, some of which was first used in 1940's, and will cost the BBC £100,000,000.

Parliament gave its approval to the development programme in 1981.

## STAFF EXIT RADIO SHROPSHIRE

RADIO ONE's NEWSBEAT has hired SYBIL RUSCOE away from BBC RADIO SHROPSHIRE where she was News Producer, DIANA KEMP has moved to PEBBLE MILL to assist present MIDLANDS TODAY and JOHN BROOKS, in charge of the stations TELFORD newscentre, joins BBC TV in WALES. Presenter TIM SMITH and freelancer PAULA AL-LACH are also departing the BBC local station to start new careers in Australia.

In come COLIN YOUNG and ROBIN LATCHER who rejoin the station after being away on loan to other BBC departments. The station has also

taken on ROB McCAFFREY as its permanent representative in South Shropshire.

## YORKSHIRE BBC STATIONS LINK-UP

BBC local stations LEEDS, HUMBERSIDE AND YORK are linking six evenings a week for specialist music programming featuring rock, classical music, brass bands, jazz, country and folk.

BBC RADIO SHEFFIELD also joins the network for three evenings per week at present.

## NO AIRPLAY FOR SPYCATCHER RECORD

The CAMPAIGN FOR PRESS & BROADCASTING FREEDOM has released a recording about the PETER WRIGHT Spycatcher affair, "THE BALLAD OF A SPYCATCHER".

However, no station is likely to air the record, leading to the organisation claiming it to be another piece of censorship by the British media.

## RED ROSE CUT NEWS OUTPUT AT RED DRAGON

RED DRAGON RADIO, the Cardiff/Newport ILR station taken over by RED ROSE RADIO of Preston in a rescue bid, has been forced to resume normal news coverage after cutting back the main evening news broadcast to just 15-minutes instead of 30, and cutting down other bulletins and scrapping a special bulletin for Gwent. Union sources claim that the changes were forced on the journalists by management and did not have IBA approval. Management is claiming that the cutbacks were brought in because of staff shortages and one person on maternity leave.

RED ROSE also claims that IBA approval would only be required if the changes were to have been permanent. NUJ members claimed to NOW RADIO that they believed the changes to be permanent. Journalists also have been told of a plan to record their bulletin at 6pm for on-air playback at 8, 9 and 10pm. Union members said they could never accept this "completely unprofessional suggestion".

### SHETLANDS STATION ON AIR SOON

SIBC, The Shetland Island's community radio applicant company, will be broadcasting 24-hours day within days.

At press time work was progressing on studio and other technical areas for the station which will provide an FM stereo signal for Lerwick and surrounding areas.

SIBC has purchased professional broadcast equipment and carried out all legal requirements for a business.

### RADIO SEALAND "STILL ON THE BOOKS"

Work on preparing a TV station from the Principality of SEALAND, the former wartime fort ROUGHS TOWER, will not prevent plans for one and, in time, three commercial radio stations broadcasting.

"It is all down to negotiations and they are continuing as I talk to you," said a spokesman for one of the main contenders for operating radio from the base now occupied by the BATES family. "We have everything ready technically, legally and could begin operations within weeks of the agreement from certain parties." He concluded.

SEALAND is denying that the new TERRITORIAL WATERS ACT brings SEALAND inside UK Waters which were extended on October 1st.

### CAROLINE FREQUENCY SHIFT

RADIO CAROLINE will be moving its 963kHz transmissions to 981kHz as soon as a new crystal has been delivered to the radio ship ROSS REVENGE.

At press time the crystal had been ordered and could be aboard the ship within a week or two at the latest.

The move from 963kHz has been caused by RADIO FINLAND increasing its transmitter output power on the same frequency to 600kW, and wiping out reception of money-earning VIEWPOINT 963 programming in the evening.

### COMMUNICATOR LATEST

A spokesman for STAR FORCE 576 and HARMONY RADIO in New York told NOW RADIO this morning that "there is great progress to report to you! The aerial masts are being erected and we are looking at an on-air date of no later than November 1st."

The two stations will broadcast from the m.v. COMMUNICATOR, former base for LASER, and use two AM channels and one on FM in stereo. The FM channel, when operational, will provide a signal of 100kW e.r.p.

STAR FORCE 576 will be Hot Hits Radio, broadcast daily 5am until 1am and HARMONY will be an easy listening music programme, also carrying an hour of religion at 11am to be repeated at 6pm daily. There will also be a prayer for the day on the half-hour and news, from the Good News Bible on the hour.

Engineers aboard the COMMUNICATOR are at present working on locating a new frequency for HARMONY following CAROLINE's decision to move to 981kHz. They will however, perhaps try to get on to that channel ahead of a crystal arriving aboard the ROSS REVENGE.

MORE  
L O O S E  
E N D S

Let's go back to that story we ran a few issues back about audience figures for BBC RADIO SHROPSHIRE which caused outrage at the desk of Programme Manager PETE WAGSTAFF at BEACON RADIO...You see PETE was unhappy because we didn't mention that the BBC survey was conducted before BEACON actually switched on its new transmitters for Shropshire. They're on 103.1 FM, by the way. PETE WAGSTAFF also says he is intrigued to know how BBC Local Radio manages to give a weekly reach figure, when for many hours of the day, their outputs are that of BBC National Radio. He is also amazed that anyone (and it was a RADIO SHROPSHIRE staffer who said it...) should describe BEACON's start-up in Shropshire as "a whimper"...PETE says BEACON gave away a car, a holiday for two in New York (bloody great radio choice there, matey!), a Sunshine holiday (is that a weekend in Ludlow???) plus they carried out an extensive TV advertising campaign and a mail-out of the BEACON RADIO TIMES (original) to every household in Shropshire...finally, in putting the picture straight, MR WAGSTAFF (who we love - don't think otherwise!) wants us all to know that in their latest survey BEACON RADIO's share in the West Midlands is now 56% and in Shropshire, 46%.....

PETE WAGSTAFF is actually P G WAGSTAFF ..could we suggest he then calls his Record of the week...PG TIPS???

Dare we suggest that it is now a case of...."Over to you, RADIO SHROPSHIRE!!!!"

The front-page picture in the last issue of NOW RADIO MAGAZINE, by the way, was of that original line-up for RADIO ONE and RADIO TWO...can anyone remind us of the person who happened to miss the photocall? And why?.....

OWEN BARRY has departed ZEE-103, a border blaster in Ireland, for the southern city of Cork, where he'll resume his broadcast career with a station there. Reason is the lad has just married. Our best wishes to OWEN and his wife. The young lad began his career at NORTH EAST RADIO, a commercial station based in Dundalk, County Louth.....

In case you missed it, JOHNNIE WALKER aired a short, yet most interesting feature on his STEREO SEQUENCE on RADIO ONE, the other Saturday. Pronoted by the man as "something for the anoraks.." it was on the making of Compact Discs - and in particular the recording of the new jingles for RADIO ONE on CD.....

The new package for RADIO ONE were, again, recorded in the USA....

In our travels we are continually amazed at some of the low rates that presenters are paid in commercial radio in this country. We now know of a station paying just £3 per hour - in the north, and another, just outside London and within spitting distance of a major motorway, that pays £6 per hour. The £3 per hour rate is just so disgusting we can't find the words to really express our horror that management are getting away with it. It just shows that certain people (and they know who they are..) just don't give a monkey's about programming! Perhaps we'll tell more sometime?...

## ILR PROGRAMME SHARING NEWS

GWR has produced a one hour documentary on Cryonic Suspension - the prolonging of life indefinitely by means of freezing. A group of American and British scientists claims that within fifty years human life could be extended indefinitely. This documentary examines the scientific 'inside information' and, with contributions from top names from the medical, scientific and religious world, discusses the practical, moral and ethical issues involved.

DEVONAIR has offered another POSTCARD FROM STRASBOURG with JIM GIBBONS continuing his lighthearted examination of European politics. This programme is one commercial half-hour in duration.

There are five one hour concerts featuring highlights from the CAPITAL RADIO JVC JAZZ PARADE 1987 featuring SARAH VAUGHAN & GEORGIE FANE, THE CRUSADERS, BRANDFORD MARSALIS & CHICK COREA, COUTNEY PINE, WYNTON MARSALIS & STAN GETZ, ROCKIN DOPSIE & IRMA THOMAS and MICHAEL BRECKER & STANLEY JORDAN. The programme was produced by CAPITAL and is presented by RICHARD SKINNER.

And LBC has produced THE BRITISH CONNECTION looking at the Mormon Church and its British connection. The programme lasts an hour.

Other programmes include THE SAGE OF CHELSEA (LBC) 1 hour, INTERVIEWS by BOB HOLNESS (4 x 1 commercial hour), and TIMBUK 111 and ALISON MOYET in concert from CAPITAL and lasting one commercial hour.

Stations interested should contact the AIRC's Programme Sharing unit at Regina House in London for details.

## IBA READVERTISES RADIO TELETEXT FRANCHISE

The IBA is re-advertising one of the two Radio Teletext franchises for the London area.

Discussions designed to lead towards a proposed offer of the franchise to TELEMET UK LTD, which started last November, have been discontinued. The IBA blames unacceptable delays in the group's implementation of its application proposals.

TELEMET had planned to operate a subscriber service giving up-to-the-minute financial quotations and news using a sub-carrier added to the normal programme signal broadcast on CAPITAL RADIO at 95.8 MHz FM.

The other Radio Teletext contractor, INDEPENDENT RADIO FEATURES (a company owned jointly by TELBRATE UK and LBC RADIO) began its service on the LBC sub-carrier on 97.3 MHz last April.

Closing date for completed applications for the re-advertised franchise should reach the IBA not later than noon on Thursday November 5.

The Authority says it hopes to award and announce the offer of contracts as soon as possible after the deadline.

## SUNSHINE POWER HIKE

Shropshire-based unlicensed community station, SUNSHINE RADIO, which recently returned to the air with a Sunday 7am - 6pm schedule on 1017 kHz with 40 Watts output is now planning to increase power output.

It is thought that the station will increase to around 100 Watts.

The signal from the station is serving a wide area and the operation is again getting wide listener and advertiser support.

L O O S E  
E N D S

SORE FINGERS OF THE YEAR AWARD - to LBC Engineer MARTIN COX, who had the job of carting up the station's latest jingle package...110 cuts!!!!.....

The the long familar clatter of typewriters is now all but a thing of the past at IRN. The news operation is now running with their new DYNATECH 'NEWSTAR' Computer system.....

That well-known news man and NOW RADIO subscriber HOWARD HUGHES is currently expanding his horizons by hosting RADIO WYVERN's breakfast airshift.....

SUNSHINE RADIO 'Community Radio for Shropshire' in Ludlow is actually on the air Sundays between 7am and 6pm. Stacked-up with commercials, running around 35-Watts and aiming to boost to round 100 Watts soon. They don't really need the extra power as they signal is very strong over a large area on 1017 kHz AM. You can write them at SUNSHINE RADIO, Ludlow, Shrosphire....

Ever asked yourself whatever happens to all those transmitters that the DTI remove from naughty pirate radio stations? Well, they are taken away and analysed by technical engineers before being destroyed. The DTI say that in just about every case they fail to come up to official specification and couldn't be used for legit radio stations.....

"INVICTA...FIRST WITH MUSIC!" said the DJ...who was introducing an oldie!!!!.....

In the last issue we spoke of a new programme service from Ireland called RADIO CRUSH...sorry! It

should have read as RADIO CLASH. Nearly! They're leasing airtime on RAINBOW transmitters on 1521, 6240 and FM Stereo for a programme that runs 11 - 12 noon Sundays. First one was last Sunday (October 4)....

Is there a shortage of DJs??? RADIO LUXEMBOURG are down to having only two deejays on the air some Saturday nights during this month of October!!!!.....

United States broadcasters are being urged to limit their AM signals to 10kHz - to avoid interference to stations on near-by channels. Some stations, including AM-Stereo op's, have been using up to 15 kHz of space up for their broadcasts....Channels are spaced 10 kHz apart in North America....

An interesting point for those following the SEALAND saga. It would appear that whilst the United Kingdom doesn't appear to be recognising the status of the former wartime fort as a Principality, Government sources have said that even if ROY BATES were to allow transmissions, under current International Telecommunications regulations, SEALAND could only provide a service within its own territory!!! Agreement with and through the ITU would be needed for any 'international' service - that is a station that reached beyond the tower itself! The story goes on!...

A new commercial shortwave station is being established in Salt Lake City, USA. With the call-sign KUSV the 100kW station (equipped by CARLSON COMMUNICATIONS) will carry a format of American Contemporary Classics and beam its programming at the people of Canada.....

NEWS???  
LET NOW RADIO HAVE IT!!!  
[0536] 51 44.37

## SALES OFFERS

The following items are available through NOV RADIO NEWSLETTER to subscribers at special prices.

To order, send your name, address, items required by title, and payment to NOV RADIO, FREEPOST, KETTERING, NORTHANTS, NN16 0BR. Orders from outside the United Kingdom should be addressed to NOV RADIO, PO BOX 45, KETTERING, NORTHANTS, ENGLAND, NN16 0NW. Prices include postage and packing.

NR001. RADIO CAROLINE. This 90-minute aircheck cassette recording features highlights from the JAY JACKSON and SIMON BARRATT segments of the stations 21st birthday celebrations. You'll also hear JOHNNY LEWIS. The DJs are playing through the DJ's All Time Top 200 tracks. Also included several competitions, JAY JACKSON's Coffee Break and memories of the station back in the sixties, including jingles, commercials and plenty of former CAROLINE DJs.

PRICE £3.99p

NR002. LASER. On this aircheck cassette recording you'll hear about an hour of LASER test transmissions (729kHz) with BLAKE WILLIAMS, JOHNNY LEWIS, etc. You'll also hear early LASER 558 output with names like DAVE LEE STONE, JESSIE BRANDON, RICK HARRIS, STEVE MASTERS, etc. This is great radio at its greatest!

PRICE £3.50p

NR003. KFRC-SAN FRANCISCO. In February 1986 KFRC celebrated 20 years as the market leader and the legend of California hit radio broadcasting by counting down the all-time 610 songs of the past couple of decades. (610 is the station's dial location...610kHz). Back come names of the past, live in the studio and on the phone.

Hear some of the greatest radio production ever, and some of the most exciting radio ever. This aircheck tape set features the name DJs, jingles, commercials and the highlights of an entire weekend of quality broadcasting. This is a two cassette set, 2 x 90 minute cassettes.

PRICE £6.99

NR004. THE PIRATES WHO WAIVE THE RULES by JAY JACKSON. Ever wondered how you could go about setting up an offshore radio station? This book by JAY JACKSON details how to go about it - and reflects on the operations of CAROLINE, MONIQUE, LASER, etc. It also covers the popular landbased stations of 83/4. More than 80-pages, including illustrations.

PRICE £3.99p

NR005. RADIO JACKIE LP. Why pay £8? Why pay £7? Just send £5 and we will supply this splendid album featuring airchecks, studio recordings, jingles, PSAs, commercials and dramatic highlights of South West London's very own RADIO JACKIE. Includes closedown broadcasts. Illustrated sleeve.

PRICE £5.00p

NR006. THE GREAT BRITISH PIRATE ERA. A double cassette feature from RBL lasting 2½-hours and featuring the period 1964 to 1968. Programme airchecks, top quality narration and interviews with ROBBIE DALE, TONY PRINCE, DON ALLEN, ROGER DAY, CARL CONWAY, DAVE CASH, MARTIN KAYNE. Most highly recommended. A collectors item in times to come.

PRICE £6.50p

PLEASE MAKE CHEQUES PAYABLE  
TO  
NOW RADIO COMMUNICATIONS.

## IT'S ALL CHANGE AT LBC RADIO

PAUL EASTON  
For NOW RADIO

The much talked about changes at LBC finally came into effect at 6 o'clock on Monday morning September 21st. New programming, new presenters, new jingles and a new logo have led to what is undoubtedly the single biggest change in station sound in LBC's history, and are designed to re-inforce LBC's premier position in London as 'The Information Station'. HENRY KELLY is presenting WEEKEND AM between 7 and 10 on Saturdays and Sundays, and MICHAEL ASPEL is bringing his own brand of relaxed broadcasting to a new Sunday lunchtime chat show at noon. Other programme and presenter changes include Sunday 2 - 5pm (leading into the NETWORK CHART SHOW) with the first hour presented by TOMMY BOYD (making a welcome return to the station) and a 2-hour programme STREET TALK hosted by MIKE ALLEN (ex-CAPITAL).

LBC's weekday morning programming does, however, retain a familiar feel, with the key AM team of DOUGLAS CAMERON and PETER DBELEY between 6 and 10am. At 10 BRIAN HAYES with a shorter, two-hour, programme. HAYES is now actually be running Sundays - Thursdays with JENNY LACEY doing the programme on Fridays. STEVE JONES has a new 12 - 2 slot, with a strong consumer element, a daily 'disaster clinic' and the LUCKY SEVEN QUIZ. PHILLIP HODSON's highly popular advice hour, offering personal, sexual and emotional advice, continues from 2 - 3. At 3pm, PETE MURRAY hosts a new afternoon chat and Call-In Show. RICHARD DALLYN continues between 5 and 7 with an evening news sequence, now re-titled UPDATE.

Another new programme, running each evening between 7 and 9 is THE NIGHT IS YOUNG, presented Mondays to Thursdays by GILL PYRAH (Variety Club Independent Radio Personality of the Year).

The specialist music programmes now run between 9 and 10 (except on Mondays, which is a repeat of Sunday's MIKE ASPEL show), and then at 10, NIGHTLINE - London's most popular late-night show, has a new presenter Mondays to Thursdays, with MIKE ALLEN. Friday, Saturday and Sunday will continue to be presented by BOB HARRIS.

The overnight programme has been renamed THROUGH THE NIGHT, and with presenters THERESA BIRCH, MIKE CARSON and CLIVE BULL has seen a lot of changes, many of which have broadened the programmes appeal amongst London's night time listeners.

LBC's Managing Director, BILL COPPEN-GARDNER, says "The new package will enhance LBC's already considerable appeal to advertisers and audiences alike. Everything we are doing serves to strengthen our commitment as a station to all aspects of news, information and community service designed to meet the needs of an increasingly sophisticated audience."

The introduction of a new jingle package brings to an end the well-known logo, composed by JEFF WAYNE, that has been in use in one form or another for 13-years. The new jingles, by MIKE MORAN and DAVID ARNOLD introduces a new theme, with variations for each of the main programmes. Voiced jingles have also made a return to the airwaves at LBC. When first introduced in 1974 the JEFF WAYNE jingles used the distinctive voice of TONY JAY, and also JULIET HARMER, for five years, before continuing as music-only IDs. This time, the station identity is being enhanced by DAVID TATE and SALLY GRACE.

Finally, a new multi-colour station log, for use on all stationery, merchandise and station vehicles has been devised by FIRST IMPRESSIONS under an exclusive two-year contract.

## WATCH YOUR LEVELS!

FEATURE BY NORMAN McLEOD

Quite early on in your engineering career, you must gain a grasp of the idea of levels and decibels if you are to make any sense at all of the equipment around you.

Before long, you will learn that there are such things as 'mike level' and 'line level' signals, and that the second are very much stronger than the first. Both categories cover a wide range of signal levels: 'mike level' signals can range from -80dB to -40dB, say, while line level signals are usually between -20 and +20dB.

### DECIBELS

Already I have flung in a reference to decibels, abbreviated dB. In specifications and test sheets you will come across various suffixes to the basic decibel unit: dBm, dBu, dBV etc. These arise because the decibel figure itself has no absolute value unless the *reference level* is understood. It's just a RATIO.

In most broadcast engineering, as opposed to the machinations of the recording industry, the reference level (0dB) is taken as the voltage required to produce 1mW of power in a 600 ohm load.

This reference voltage is 775mV rms (as shown on a voltmeter), or 2.2V peak-to-peak (if observed on an oscilloscope). On a PPM, it's number 4. On a VU it can be anywhere, because the majority of VU meters encountered bear no resemblance to a standard specification. If you're lucky, it'll be OVU, or possibly -4VU, depending on the situation. It's not for nothing that these things are known as Virtually Useless meters.

### VU METERS - NO THANKS!

Unlike our American counterparts, who rarely seem to use anything else, British and European broadcasters tend to look down on the VU meter for serious desk monitoring.

The VU meter over here is generally associated with inferior domestic equipment such as cassette recorders. In any event, these days it is tending more and more to be replaced by LED bar-graphs, which do at least have the merit of controllable response.

The practice which has devalued the VU meter is one of fitting any old meter with any old ballistics into any form of rectifier circuit and then sticking a label from -20 to +3 on the front, complete with red strip, to give the impression that the meter knows something about the signal levels it is being fed with.

### PEAKS AND AVERAGES

The VU meter is unable to follow the PEAKS of signal, but indicates instead the AVERAGE ENERGY of the signal. In this way, they are true to their description as "Volume Units" displays, and give some indications of the overall loudness of the programme being measured.

However, what usually counts more in broadcasting are the peaks of signal, because it is these which can overload tapes or transmitters. All professional broadcasters rely on some form of Peak Programme Meter or PPM on studio desks. VU meters are generally only employed as line-up indicators on tape machines.

Analogue PPM are usually marked from 1 to 7, with 0dB being PPM4 and there being 4dB between each mark on the scale.

## WHAT IS A DECIBEL?

I explained earlier that the decibel measure itself is only a ratio, and it can only relate to absolute values of voltage or power if the reference level is understood.

Mathematically, the decibel ratio between two voltages V1 and V2 is:-

$$20 \log_{10} V1/V2$$

To ease understanding, I have worked out the decibels which correspond to various voltage ratios:-

Voltage Ratio	Decibels
2:1	6dB
4:1	12dB
10:1	20dB
20:1	26dB
40:1	32dB
100:1	40dB
316:1	50dB
1000:1	60dB
3162:1	70dB
10000:1	80dB

Ratios expressed in figures multiply (e.g. if you take a signal through an amplifier with 100x gain, and then pass it through another amplifier with 10x gain, the resultant gain will be 100 multiplied by 10, i.e. 1000). But ratios expressed in dB simply ADD. So, in the above example, the first amp has a gain of 40dB, the second 20dB, and the combination 60dB. Easy, isn't it?

So an amplifier with a gain of 1000x, which turns an input of 1mV into an output of 1V, and which might be suitable as a microphone preamplifier, can also be said to have a gain of 60dB.

There are other applications, however, where the quantity being measured is not voltage but POWER. Most often this will occur when talking about transmitter outputs.

## COMPARING POWERS

It is important to distinguish carefully between voltage and power. Doubling the voltage in a circuit will *quadruple* the power. If a signal of 1V produces a power of 1W in a particular load, then increasing the signal to 2V produces not two watts, but four.

A ratio of 2:1 in voltage is 6dB, as we said earlier. That same ratio, 6dB, is also a four times ratio in power.

A two times ratio in power is only 3dB. The correspondence between power ratio and decibels is shown below:-

Power Ratio	Decibels
2:1	3dB
4:1	6dB
10:1	10dB
20:1	13dB
40:1	16dB
100:1	20dB
316:1	25dB
1000:1	30dB
3162:1	35dB
10000:1	40dB

Both RF and audio power are often expressed in decibels referenced to a milliwatt (dBm), or with 0dB being taken as 1W, (dBW). Field strengths are usually expressed in dB relative to 1 microvolt per metre - dB(µV/m). Signal-to-noise ratios are always measured in decibels, as is the gain of an amplifier, or aerial, or the loss of a filter or feeder. You will come across them all the time on your travels.

In subsequent articles I will look more closely at what sort of levels to expect in various places. In the meantime I hope you now appreciate something of the meaning of "dB"!

--- © N McLeod 1987 ---

EDWARD COLE  
REMEMBERS  
RADIO 390

*AN ARTICLE BY FORMER RADIO 390 ANNOUNCER  
EDWARD COLE...WHO IS NOW WORKING FOR BBC  
RADIO FOUR.*

Friday July 26th 1967; a fine morning. RADIO 390, Britain's sweet music station, was on the air as usual. The views from the windows and catwalks of RED SANDS TOWER were of sunshine and a calm sea.

But as I sat down to lunch with my three fellow announcers, three engineers and two record librarians, the radio set in the galley was tuned to not our own transmission, but to the BBC HOME SERVICE. For the one o'clock news was due, and was to include an item of vital concern. It came half way through the bulletin.

"The pirate station, RADIO 390 is going off the air today. ESTUARY RADIO, the company which runs the station on RED SANDS TOWER in the Thames Estuary, this morning lost its appeal against a HIGH COURT Judge's order in May, stopping it broadcasting without a licence...the firm's managing director said: "We shall close down as soon as we can get a boat out of Whitstable Harbour to the fort."

The legal wrangling had been going on for months. The POST OFFICE claimed that RED SANDS TOWER was inside territorial waters. The cause of the trouble was a nearby sandbank known as Middle Sand, and the point of dispute: did it appear above the surface of the water? The Appeal Court had now decided it did, and RADIO 390 was ordered to cease transmissions.

We weren't the first pirate station to broadcast from around the

British coast, of course. The two offshore giants, LONDON and CAROLINE, had already been on the air for more than a year when 390 made its debut in September 1965, and there were plenty of other, smaller stations scattered around the coast, some on ships, some on forts.

But on 390 we liked to think we were pioneers. For we were the first pirates to specialise in sweet music, instead of mindless pop, with civilised announcers instead of raving djs. Our audience weren't teenyboppers, but housewives, and all daytime programmes began with the words: "RADIO 390, presenting EVE, the woman's magazine of the air..." And the ladies evidently liked it, more than eight million tuning into our wavelength.

RED SANDS TOWER, "home" for the past 22-months, was a wartime coastal defence fort, comprising seven separate buildings each perched on four massive legs embedded in concrete below the water, and interconnected by catwalks 50 feet above.

We were all mad, of course; I realise that now. We must have been; why else would we risk our lives on a crumbling, rusty structure eight and a half miles from land? It certainly wasn't the salary that attracted us, nor the working conditions, although these had improved considerably since the early months, when we sat huddled round one electric fire, while the bitter November gales swept down the Estuary. Now there was a modern studio, central heating, television and ping-pong - but the fort still shook in the wind, and if anyone had fallen over the rail into the sea there was little hope of rescue.

Our tender was the MALLARD, a 39-foot Whitstable fishing boat which

called twice a week, weather permitting; on Wednesday, to take men on and off when the shifts changed, and on Saturday, to bring water, diesel fuel for the generators, and other supplies. On a fine day, the journey too just over an hour, but on a wild one, it could take two hours, with the seas washing the deck and us squashed in the wheelhouse. And then, one by one, we were winched up onto the fort, while the boat circled, pitching and tossing, below.

I had two shows to present on that final afternoon; **PLAYTIME** for the under-fives, and **MEMORY LANE**, our daily dose of the thirties for the nostalgia buffs. Normally, it was a show I enjoyed doing, but today I just didn't have much enthusiasm, somehow. We spent the rest of the time peering at the horizon, waiting for the first sight of the **MALLARD**.

At a quarter past four she appeared in the distance, and at five o'clock she arrived at **RED SANDS**. On board were **VIC DAVIS**, her Captain, and a handful of press and television men who wanted to be in at the death. I was chief announcer, so Vic handed to me the sealed orders from head office. I was simply to read out a farewell message, composed by managing director **DAVID LYE**, play all three verses of the National Anthem, and that was it.

I can remember feeling sick as I walked across the catwalk and up the stairs to the studio, reporters at my heels. Our **ON THE SCENE** programme was on the air, so I faded it out, drew a deep breath, and made the announcement. I fluffed my words twice; I'm surprised it wasn't more. On went the Anthem, and then there was silence. It was ten past five.

Two weeks later, **EDWARD SHORT'S MARINE (Broadcasting) OFFENCES**

**BILL** became law, and the pirate radio bonanza was over. It produced great comradeship, and was a unique adventure. Most of the 390 announcers are still broadcasting; some with the **BBC**, some with commercial stations, some overseas. But radio is like a drug. Once you've tried it, you don't want to stop.

Today, nine years later (RD: This was written in 1976), it all seems quite unbelievable. I don't think I'd do it again. But I'm so glad I did it once.

*BELOW: The actual script sent from **RADIO 390's** head office for **EDWARD COLE** to read...*



Edward Cole Ltd  
Quarry House  
Falmouth, Cornwall  
Telephone Falmouth 3342

Radio 390 (London) Ltd  
214, Bow Lane East Place  
London E 3 1J  
Telephone: Victoria 84142

The Director and Staff of Edward Cole Limited very much regret that due to an injunction issued to the High Court today at the request of the Post Office Radio 390 is now required to cease broadcasting.

We should like to express our sincere appreciation to the millions of listeners who have always supported us during the past two years and through our many struggles to stay on the air. It is very disappointing to all of us that we are not able to continue to provide you with the programme you enjoy, but perhaps you may still be allowed to do so temporarily, while there, on behalf of our Lymington Office, the Radio Staff and everybody here I should like to say Good-bye.

Please play the National Anthem - (to all three verses)

## WILL HIGH TECH NEWSROOM EQUIPMENT IMPROVE IRN SERVICE?

HOWARD G L ROSE  
For NOW RADIO

Even if you've never worked in a radio newsroom, you will more than likely have seen one. Tatty typewriters held together with rubber bands, a noisy teleprinter, piles of literature in just about every corner, dirty carpets, overfilled rubbish bins (files?!) and, of course, a television tuned into either CEEFAX or ORACLE for the latest news! From this corner of the station come all those words that flow every hour on the hour.

At IRN (Independent Radio News) they hope to have thrown out the typical newsroom image in favour of a costly but much needed computer system called NEWSTAR. It's not difficult to use, so even the most fumbling typist can use it. Honest! The particular system was selected by ROGER FRANCIS, the operations Chief Engineer. He is reported to have claimed that, after some testing with real live journo's, the NEWSTAR system came out tops, saying it is user-friendly, adaptable and easier than other systems checked-out at the operation which is responsible, at least until 'deregulation day' for providing news material to the country's 40-odd commercial stations.

The installation of the NEWSTAR system was rapid by anyone's standard. Ordered one month, installed and ready for 'on-the-job' training within about another month. From what we are hearing IRN staffers would never want to revert to using typewriters and are more

than happy with the new system. It did take a long time arriving, though, and there are scores of radio news people (here I talk of services outside of this country) who couldn't believe that IRN was operating manually in 1987. Opinion seems to be that they could have taken on such a move many years ago. Many years ago was, however, in days before the grand entrance of the Australians with their 'progressive' attitude towards both IRN and LBC RADIO. Now both are entering a brand-new phase.

After a stalling period, where the union's thought they might be able to use the old strike tactics to halt development, both in news and programming, the Australian's got their way. What they appear to want is a radio station, LBC, that really does grab the attention of London audiences, and a news service which becomes as well respected, known and accepted as ITN is for commercial television. No-one's said much about BBC NEWS as a comparison.

News material from agencies like REUTER and PRESS ASSOCIATION are currently available through the IRN system, with UPI and EXTEL shortly to be available. At IRN a journalist can check the news index and call up any story. It can then be written into 'radio-style' and to ensure no bulletin should over-run, a constant count of words used, is shown on the screen.

Out in the field, IRN correspondents can file reports direct via their own personal computers with the correct modem.

The bulletins are still read from sheets of paper - but clear white sheets which the system prints out in around a quarter of a minute - and a system which allows for last-minute detail or up-date material

to be available to the newsreader on the screen in the studio as he or she is reading the bulletin.

Another change brought in at IRN is the 'doing-away' with engineers having to feed audio material 'up the line' to stations around the country. This job will now be done direct from the newsroom by journalists. This should be helping to provide stations with a real around-the-clock service and more up-dates than until now seem to have been given.

There are more progressive developments on the way which will please subscriber stations. At the moment the teleprinter in ILR newsrooms which is slow. Very, very slow at printing out copy. Often one will discover after reading a bulletin that an up-date on a story began to churn out as it was being read. In the future the copy will be printed out so fast there should be no reason for main stories being missed in this way.

Later stations will be able to link with the main IRN computer and select their own stories from the main file. They'll also be able to link to background, obit files, and other general information much needed in small newsrooms without vast reference libraries. This particular development will interest programmers who until now have found that the amount of material provided by IRN, whether as teleprinter copy or audio feed, was not enough, and that the IRN bulletins, fed up the BT line was much too short for their requirement. This has led to so many stations putting their own bulletins in front of, or after, the IRN bulletin. Where some stations are happy with 3-minute news bulletins from IRN (only 2-minutes at weekends and certain other times), others are not. Having

direct access to all the news and information, would permit them to perhaps drop relaying the bulletins from London, and have them read locally. Especially, if the ROGER FRANCIS' dream of having audio material filed away on a digital storage system becomes a reality.

Of course, having IRN provide longer bulletins, with opt-out points along the way, might also serve the situation for the moment. If LBC RADIO in London, or for that matter RADIO TAY in Dundee, wanted to get out after 3-minutes they could. The others might like to settle for a five-minute bulletin.

But, will the new technology be the answer to IRN's prayers? Will it make it a more acceptable, in financial terms, service to the stations around the country? Will some stations want to pull the plug on IRN come deregulation of the airwaves?

I could imagine a good market for another news service for both the existing commercial stations and some of the proposed Community, Neighbourhood, Specialist Music and local commercial stations, planning to take to the air. This is not to say that what IRN is doing is bad. Of course not! Just that it would be healthy to have a choice when establishing a station of which national news service you could select from. At the moment, for ILR, there is no choice.

So, despite all the rumblings, the Australian invasion of Gough Square has done some good. It has placed IRN in the running for grabbing some new contracts from potential new local radio services.

At that is something that, not too long ago, would have seemed like an impossible proposition to make in any radio circles.

MORE  
L O O S E  
E N D S

They're a bit concerned in Dublin at the moment after discovering that a number of Hackers had broken into the RTE NEWS computer system. They've not only managed to get into files on the latest from the Gulf, or the Anglo-Irish talks, but private mail and highly confidential memos circulating around the service.....

Did you notice that the BBC cut sound from its live transmissions from the Liberal Assembly in Harrogate, West Yorkshire, as a section of PETER WRIGHT's SPYCATCHER was being read out? DAVID DIMBLEBY explained that the BBC could risk prosecution if it allowed the sound to be heard. Funny, to think, that the book has also been heard in part at the European Parliament and are available via HMSO - the Government's own book shop. Dog eats Dog???

PAUL BOON, Chairman of the ASSOCIATION FOR BROADCASTING DEVELOPMENT, managed to write-off his car off whilst he was driving to witness the operation of the special event station run by TCR (TURKISH COMMUNITY RADIO). Fortunately only a few bruises resulted....

One of the awful things about moving to our new office this past week has been the job of having to sort out reams of paper in one form or another! Sacks of all kinds of cuttings, magazines, newspapers, notes, have been deposited with the refuse collection service. You really wanted to know that, didn't you??!!.....

PAUL RUSLING says that he is surprised/shocked to discover that BEACON RADIO's new Shropshire station only provides about four hours of 'localised' programming for the county, with the rest of the time broadcasts coming from their main studio centre. Even more surprised/shocked, he was, to hear that NORTHANTS 96 also only broadcast one four hour programme each weekday from their Northampton studios. The NORTHANTS 96 idents and commercials are simply played in from the main studio on a separate cart machine for the Northampton transmitters. Paul made a query of why they need so many transmitters to cover their area - as the main transmitter can be heard in Northampton.....

Questions were also raised, by somebody else, about the equipment being used by some local stations for their outside broadcasts. Seems that some of it is actually more powerful than legally permitted. Oh dear?! ILR stations breaking the Wireless Telegraphy Act (1949)...what can we do??....

The next step in the major MARINE (etc) BROADCASTING OFFENCES ACT (1967) and a gaggle of people accused of conspiracy and offences in connection with LASER and even the publication of RADIO CAROLINE's frequency, will be a two-day hearing at Sittingbourne Court on November 10th. The dirt will fly!!....

Can we blame the Editor? Perhaps! Perhaps Not! But in the last issue we forgot to omit a line which said STAR FORCE 576 / HARMONY 981 hoped to be broadcasting by October 1st. Well, that was their aim, some time back. But, at press time for last issue, was not practicable and we should have deleted the line. At least we did give the whole venture some news coverage.....

Next year, the retail chain DIXONS will be selling a complete Satellite Receiving system for £300...giving us all the chance to pop down the High Street and bring ourselves a wide range of television and radio services we have so far been denied.

We've been denied this choice for a couple of reasons. One has been the cost of such equipment, and the other has been down to governmental restraint of our broadcast industry. Now the shackles are off as far as cost of equipment goes, and in some cases restrictions have been lifted. If you want to set up a radio service from studios in London, linked up to a satellite and then picked up by citizens in homes and offices across Europe - or by cable distribution systems - you can do so.

At this moment several former colleagues of mine, Robb Eden, Chris Cary and Willem van Kooten are in the running to put around-the-clock radio stations on the air next year this way.

Meanwhile, those of us who still want to broadcast using the humble AM or FM transmitter to a local audience, with a format of our choice, are unable to do so because the government still has not allowed any development in this area.

Either later this month, or early in November, the Community Radio Association, will be 'pulling a stunt' involving a ship (a Thames Cruiser) to promote the fact that there is a need for the Home Office to announce details of both legislation and a time table for the development of Community Radio.

Others, who want to run local commercial stations, are very much in the same boat. Waiting.

It is no surprise to us, nor the Government, that in the Shetland Islands a new local radio station is about to start broadcasting. It is wrong to really call it a pirate,

for management involved with SIBC have done just about everything by the book. They are a legally formed company, registered for National Insurance and VAT, have planning permission and just about everything else a local commercial station needs to have...except a licence. But, and this is quite an important factor, they have been after a licence for years - only to be put off time and time again.

Of course, IAN ANDERSON could beam his programmes up to a satellite, and provide all Shetland Islanders with a satellite receiver and they could hear SIBC that way...it would be possible, if not a little expensive.

One can only join with everybody else in wishing SIBC the best of luck.

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Some while back we did actually promote the idea that a station set up in the way SIBC has been should not promote the DTI into taking severe action for illegal broadcasting.

We now have had a suggestion from a source in that department that whilst a station operating professionally and not causing interference to other users of the spectrum might go right down the bottom of the list of 'problems' it would not prevent an ILR station in the same area suing such an unlicensed station for "loss of earnings".

Radio Jackie suffered this fate because of Radio Mercury - an ILR station not in Jackie's area - so it has been done before!

So, anybody following our line of thought should have a clause in any contract with an advertiser stating that he is not diverting possible funds away from any advertising due to an ILR station.

Surely that would stand up in Court should anybody attempt to be as petty-minded as Radio Mercury again.

## GREAT NIGHT OUT PLANNED FOR STUART HENRY

On the night of Tuesday October 27th, a NIGHT OF A HUNDRED DJs is being held at Le Palais, Hammersmith, West London, to raise funds for ailing dj STUART HENRY. DJs (and Pop Stars) who would like to attend or support the event in some way, are asked by NOW RADIO to contact TONY PRINCE for further details. Tony is on 06286 67276.

The aim is to make life for STUART HENRY and his wife, OLLIE, a lot easier...one example of support is the installation of a new satellite dish at the HENRY home in Luxembourg, a job carried out by former dj CHRIS CARY.

The deejay line-up for HAMMERSMITH will include names such as TONY BLACKBURN, BRUNO BROOKS, JONATHAN ROSS, ALAN FREEMAN, etc.

TONY PRINCE would also like to hear from broadcasters who have any radio-related items that could be auctioned on the night to raise funds.

## PIERCEY MARRIES

RADIO TEES breakfast air personality NICK PIERCEY married on Saturday 26th September.

NICK met his Bride, MELANIE, eighteen months ago whilst working for BEACON RADIO in Wolverhampton.

NICK is 26 and MELANIE is 18. Already word is out that she is the Boss...."When I'm out, that is!" claims NICK.

MEL has just signed a contract with a modelling agency and is aiming to become a page 3 girl...

## ASHLEY BACK

CHRIS ASHLEY has rejoined BEACON RADIO.

ASHLEY rejoins the BEACON team of broadcasters amidst the claim from management that he was the announcer with the highest ever Breakfast audience on BEACON RADIO. His career began at BBC RADIO BRIGHTON in the 'seventies.

## NEW LOCATION FOR NOW RADIO OFFICE

NOW RADIO COMMUNICATIONS is now located in the centre of Kettering, Northampton at a new base at 26, Gold Street, Kettering.

The move to larger second floor premises has been made due to the continuous growth of the operation. Our addresses and telephone number remain the same.

"We are now publishing every week and the extra space and more accessible location was very much needed." said HOWARD G L ROSE, Editor of NOW RADIO MAGAZINE and NOW RADIO REPORTS.

"It is most pleasing that, despite a delay in the development of UK Radio, our publication has grown at the steady rate it has since April 1986. We are sure that as the new Broadcasting Bill get's closer, and new local stations get nearer coming on the air under licence, our readership and usefulness will also grow. It is our aim to be the Voice of the entire radio industry - and accessible to all." he said.

"We now have to start looking carefully at further developments. But that will depend upon both the speed at which Government will allow more radio, and the time it takes us to further expand our team of correspondents and workers." ROSE concluded.

## EDEN SATELLITE RADIO PROJECT LOOKING FOR SPRING TAKEOFF

The satellite-delivered radio service being promoted by ROBB EDEN is hoping for a Spring launch. EDEN, talking to NOW RADIO this week, said that the first service being planned would be an around-the-clock all hit radio service. It was hoped programming would be in all main European languages, including English, German, French and perhaps Italian.

The project, until now known under the working title SATELLITE MUSIC NETWORK, is about to be registered under the official title SATELLITE RADIO NETWORK.

"We have plans for a speech-based channel as well as the all-hit channel, so a change of name is appropriate to avoid confusion," said EDEN.

"We are hoping for an Easter launch BRITISH TELECOM willing!" said ROBB EDEN.

A major launch party will be held in a couple of months time.

"We have a fantastic line-up ready for the service - but we don't want to say too much at this moment because of other groups also planning to launch similar services. Mind you, we really have done our home work, and I think that some of the others will make serious mistakes. They just have not carried out the kind of market research that our company has. That will benefit us greatly," he claimed.

ROBB EDEN started in radio in 1971 with RNI, and he has also had spells with CAROLINE and in ILR production areas.

Programme Directors of stations interested in the possibility of taking SRN programming are invited to contact ROBB EDEN on (0451) 30741 to discuss the matter further.

## ESSEX PIRATE HIT BY MASSIVE FINE

A member of a Canvey Island, Essex, unlicensed radio station, CANVEY RADIO, has been given one of the biggest ever fines imposed under the WIRELESS TELEGRAPHY ACT (1949) for operation of a transmitter without a licence.

He was fined £1,000 and ordered to pay £900 costs. The costs were to cover RADIO INVESTIGATION SERVICES tracking down of the station and the summary prosecution.

The WIRELESS TELEGRAPHY ACT makes it an offence for any person to install or operate equipment for wireless telegraphy without a licence from the HOME OFFICE. The maximum fine is £2,000.

---

### POETS CORNER

*So then Jimmy Saville  
Now that you are giving up  
your olde record club, Sunday  
will just be a day that falls  
between Saturday and Monday.*

*No more will we hear them  
there same old anecdotes  
about the Beach Boys playing  
at Stoke Mandeville or  
Elvis not taking drugs.*

*And who was this person  
known as "The King" whose  
records all reached number  
47 but luckily were  
caught in your "safety net"  
and I have scanned the  
Chart Files for mention of  
"Brian Poole and them Tremz" to no  
avail.*

*Keith's Mum reckons she once  
saw you in a motorway  
service station wearing a  
scullcap, proving, she said  
that you wear a wig  
Ultimately I think this  
proves nothing.*

ROB CHAPMAN

(With apologies to E J Thribb)

## WORTH HAVING: THE IDEA OF A 'GOLDEN AGE'

COMMENT BY NORMAN McLEOD

The Home Secretary, no less, thinks that we now face the prospect of a new "Golden Age" for Radio. These words of his were reported in Now Radio's fine Festival round-up in Issue 32, together with a suggestion that perhaps the last Golden Age occurred in the middle sixties.

Many readers who remember that period would agree, but their parents might prefer to nominate the war years as the special time when radio had a value and an importance it can never now recover.

Whatever may be your preference, it is certainly worth developing the notion that there was, or should be, such a thing as a Golden Age of Radio, because it carries with it the idea that things could be - or have been - much better than they are now. It's a good guard against complacency to devote a short but regular amount of time to contemplating just how much radio could be improved in an ideal but technically feasible world.

It does seem that people who listened to the radio in its 'Golden Age' got more out of the experience than they appear to now. It also seems that radio played a much more central role in the lives of people at certain times in the past than the mumblings of a beaten-up tranny in a busy shop ever do today.

It certainly did in my Golden Age. I was a few days short of thirteen when the infamous MOA became law in 1967, but I had already spent countless hours tuned to Radio Scotland, and was from then on destined to have a streak of anarchist blood in my veins.

## THE NEW GOLDEN AGE?

Certainly the time is ripe for a new age of radio, at least from the technological point of view.

Never before has so much good-quality technology been available so cheaply. Often I use an LCD battery frequency counter, which cost about £150. Twenty years ago a comparable unit would bend shelves under its weight, take half an hour to warm up and cost ten times as much for the same facilities.

Or take turntables: nowadays you can buy the Technics SL 1200 series turntables for a little over £200, and for most low-cost broadcasting use they are just the job. What would we have had twenty years ago for the same money in real terms? Garrard 301's with slip mats? Yuck!

Leaving the engineer's bench and the studio for a moment - what about the listener? Twenty years ago there were Dansette trannys galore: now we have everything from mammoth ghettoblasters to radios built into baseball caps. Anyone who wants a radio can have one, so cheap and plentiful is the supply.

And at last the myth of frequency shortage has gone. *How could there have been a frequency shortage when every local radio station since 1973 has been given two frequencies on which to broadcast the same programme to the same area?* Giving everyone twice as much spectrum as they need is hardly evidence of short supply.

So we have the technology, and there will be even more around in the future. But who will create the right conditions for a new "Golden Age" to happen? Back to you, Home Secretary!

--- © N McLeod 1987 ---

# Now Radio

# Openings

SOUTHERN SOUND have a vacancy for a PROGRAMME CONTROLLER who is skilled in music radio and has a good understanding of market research and listener analysis. They're after a person who is imaginative, committed, organised and a good leader. Company car and bonus added to your salary. A full c.v. should be sent to: The Managing Director, SOUTHERN SOUND RADIO, PO Box 1323, Brighton, East Sussex, BN4 2SS.....

BBC RADIO BEDFORDSHIRE is looking for a part-time PRODUCER/PRESENTER for its weekly religious magazine programme. You must have skills and an informed interest in religion and current affairs and the ability to lead a small, varied team. Application and aircheck cassette to MIKE GIBBONS, BBC RADIO BEDFORDSHIRE, PO Box 476, Luton, Bedfordshire, LU1 5BA.....

RADIO TEES has an opening for a SENIOR JOURNALIST. Applications in writing to JAN VERRILL, Programme Administrator, RADIO TEES, Stockton-on-Tees, TS18 1HE.....

OCEAN SOUND is looking for capable PRESENTERS to join the expanding service. Applications should be sent in form of written application, c.v. and aircheck cassette to PROGRAMME CONTROLLER, OCEAN SOUND, PO Box 99, Fareham, Hampshire, PO15 5TA.....

PRESENTERS capable of high energy air style delivery are required for a new private commercial station being established in Ireland. CV and aircheck cassette to: NORCOM ULSTER MARKETING, 102, Great Victoria Street, Belfast 2.....

METRO RADIO has an opening for a REPORTER. Write to: KEITH HAMILL, METRO RADIO, Swallowwell, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, NE99 1BB.....

The CHILTERN NETWORK requires a dynamic REPORTER to take charge of their Bedford newscentre. Excellent salary and prospects offered. Only experienced radio journalists need apply. CV and demo tape to: ANDY DIPROSE, Head of News, CHILTERN NETWORK, Chiltern Road, Dunstable, Bedfordshire, LU6 1HQ.....

BBC RADIO NORFOLK has a vacancy for a NEWS PRODUCER. Journalistic experience at sub-editor or reporter level, good microphone voice and current driving licence are essential. Salary £10,881 - £15,388 plus an annual allowance of £1,066 per annum. Contact BBC APPOINTMENTS immediately on quote reference number 4442) Telephone (01) 927 5799. Completed application forms should be returned by 15th October.....

BBC RADIO MANCHESTER also requires a NEWS PRODUCER with very much the same qualifications as those required by the above job at Norwich. The salary in Manchester is also on the same scale. For an application form contact BBC APPOINTMENTS on (01) 927 5799 and quote reference number 4413.....

**A selection of current radio vacancies around the country (and beyond!). Entries in this section are free of charge to subscribing stations. Details should be sent in writing or by telex.**

**OPENINGS, NOW RADIO NEWSLETTER,  
PO BOX 45, KETTERING,  
NORTHANTS, NN16 0NW  
Telex: 8951182 GECOM G  
(NOW RADIO)**

# Services Guide

# Now Radio

## EQUIPMENT

**WIRELESS WORKSHOP.** 25 Ditchling Rise, Brighton, BN1 4QL. Telephone (0273) 671928. Special Event, Community, Campus Radio Specialists. Transmitters, Processing equipment. Sales, Installation and hire facilities.

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