

July 9th came the sad news that Jack Curtis died in Seattle. I asked Look Boden, who worked together with him to write some memories:



Jack Curtis in 2009

At the beginning of November 1966, there was a small article in the Dutch newspaper Telegraaf about a new Dutch radio station. It was to provide Dutch broadcasts from a ship anchored in international waters somewhere off the coast of Harwich.

The management had holed up in an Amsterdam hotel looking for new Dutch DJs. At that time, I was already a fanatic radio freak who made recordings for Veronica and Phonogram and later a radio programme about various artists in the country, so I was already somewhat infected with the radio virus.

I wrote (without my parents knowing) a short note and sent it to that hotel. In response, I was phoned up and asked to come to Amsterdam for a vocal test. That is where I met Jack Curtis for the first time. A, in my eyes, tall stately and extremely friendly man of around 23 who, as it turned out, was already a well-known DJ. He had been hired to sample new DJs together with, among others, the South African Basil van Rensburg.

After I had done the test recordings with a Coca Cola commercial etc. I had to wait in the lobby. A little later, Jack came down the stairs and asked me if I wanted to work for their new station.

Because I was still a minor (I was 19 at the time) and studying at the conservatory, I had to ask my parents if I could go. My parents were there within the hour and so the talks with Jack were held that resulted in my being allowed on board the planned new offshore station Radio Dolfijn (14-11-1966 - 28-2-1967).

Jack was our manager on board; he taught us the trade of DJ in the English style, especially the easy-listening style. It was my first life experience to make radio independently (without technicians) on a real radio station. He brought it quietly and was in my eyes, but also in the eyes of the others (Lex Harding, Tom Collins a.o.) the man who gave us the chance to start a great radio career.

After Radio Dolfijn changed its format and became Radio 227 (the first real Dutch pop station) Jack suddenly disappeared and we had no contact for a long time.

Years ago I met him again through social media and we often spoke on the phone and he wrote the foreword to the book "Radio Waves".

A good friend has passed away...78 years.

Look Boden.