

HISTORY OF IRISH RADIO

CHRONOLOGY 1925

January 15th

A Dublin pirate radio station is reported on 480m on air broadcasting after the closedown of the BBC at 11pm. The station opens with 'Hello everybody, Dublin Calling' followed by a news report and gramophone records. Listeners reported,

'Though the voice was at times muffled, it was for the most part clear and fairly stable. It went on from 11.30 until close on 1 a.m. He filled in the time by reading poetry and indulging in mild persiflage also addressing remarks to the different counties to the cats in Kilkenny, and so on'.

March 17th

Patrick Gaffney from Kildalkey, Co, Meath, a fiddle player is heard in Dublin playing Irish airs on WBZ, Boston.

May 26th

The Finance Minister agrees to the proposal of J.J. Walsh, Minister for Posts and Telegraphs, that broadcasting in the Saorstát should be run by the State. There will be a main station in Dublin & a Cork subsidiary station. The Dublin station will be ready for use about December or January next. The following day the Dail is officially informed.

June 3rd

The Secretary of the Irish Post Office, Patrick S. Hegarty announces that work has begun at McKee Barracks (formerly known as Marlborough Barracks) to erect a transmitter hut and a 125ft aerial array. Thomas J. Monaghan seconded from the Department of Posts and Telegraphs appointed Chief Engineer.

September 17th

Advertisements appear in the newspapers seeking staff for the new station. Station Director Salary, £750 per annum inclusive. Musical Director, Salary £400 per annum inclusive. Assistant Engineer, Salary £300 per annum Inclusive. Announcer, Salary £250 per annum inclusive.

October 3rd

An interview board is convened to make station appointments. On the panel are Patrick O'Hegarty, T.J. Monaghan, the then managing director of the BBC, Lord John Reith and Sir Hamilton Harty, the Hillsborough-born composer, pianist and conductor of the Hallé Orchestra, plus three representatives from the Civil Service Commission.

October 14th

The Marconi Q 6KW transmitter arrives in Dublin. Taken from the port by military guard to McKee Barracks

October 24th

William Beatty appointed Assistant Engineer, Vincent O'Brien appointed musical director.

October 28th

Work to convert rooms and a washroom of an old warehouse on Little Denmark Street into a broadcasting studio continues.

October 28th

Advertisements for a Station Director appear in Irish newspapers.

November 14th

The first test transmission from 2RN on 390m. Transmission is from 6.45 – 9.30pm (The third anniversary of the opening on the British Broadcasting Company)

November 21st

The 2nd test transmission. An address in Irish was delivered by J. J. Walsh, the Minister, and a musical programme followed. The announcer states,

"This is 2RN. the Dublin Broadcasting Station. That was good, wasn't it? But we have more treats in store for you. only, remember, no licences, no programmes."

November 23rd

The Revenue Commissioners announce that wireless set built completely or partially in wooden cases are subject to an importation tax of 33 1/3 percent. The licence fee set at £1 per set.

November 24th

Seamus Clandillon appointed station director and Seamus Hughes as the station announcer.

December 5th

The stations advertises for musicians, entertainers and lecturers to apply to be on the station.

December 12th

More regular test transmissions begin with relays of 2LO, London and 2BE, Belfast plus a musical programme from the studios on Little Denmark Street, the three-act opera by William Wallace, 'Maritana'.

December 15th

Outside broadcast from the La Scala Theatre, Princess Street. The John Moody Orchestra, The Independent Choir, conducted by William McGouran, become the first choir to broadcast on 2RN.

December 16th

Outside broadcast from nearby La Scala again including the Independent Choir and Renee Flynn.

December 17th

8.10pm 'Mr William Manahan's Dance Band' played a selection of Irish airs and dance tunes. Also, in the studio performing that night was Miss Norrie Finn and tenor Mr P. O'Toole.

December 18th

Tonight's OB included Renee Flynn singing 'Ave Maria' and 'Silent Oh Moyle', London baritone Gordon Cleather replaced the choir and sang 'The Ould Lad' and 'Trotting to the air' and finally a duet by Bertha Tamworth and Dora Lavey

December 21st

Live OB from the St. Stephens Green Church and a performance of 'Messiah' with Madame Borel, Lombard Paterson and Victor Cole with organist Edwin Deale and orchestra director J Turner Huggard.

December 24th

Christmas music airs 8-10pm by the choir of St. Mary's Church, Donnybrook under conductor Vincent O'Brien.

December 25th

Christmas gramophone music is aired for three hours from 7-10pm.

December 26th, St. Stephen's night

The quartet of A. Tyrrell, John Neilan, J. J. Brennan, and C.J. Rooney entertained the listeners

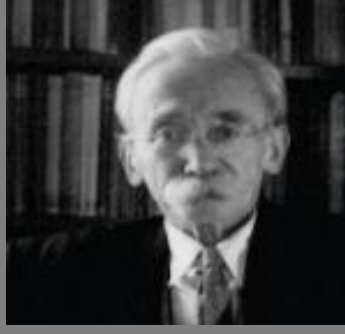
January 1st 1926

2RN officially opens at 7.45pm with the station officially launched by Dr. Douglas Hyde.

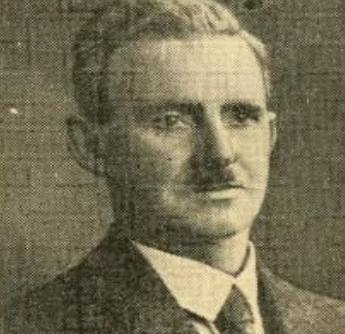
Mysterious broadcasting has recently been carried out in the neighbourhood of Dublin, generally after 11 p.m., when the B.B.C. stations have closed down. "Hello, everybody, Dublin calling?" is usually the first announcement, and then news, etc., is given out on a wave-length of 480 metres. On one occasion the speaker apologised for not sending out a programme in the daytime, but pointed out that his aerial had to be taken down in daylight as the authorities are trying to locate him.



Patrick Gaffney



Patrick S. O'Hegarty



Thomas J. Monaghan



The 2RN Transmitter



William Beatty



Minister J.J. Walsh



Seamus Hughes



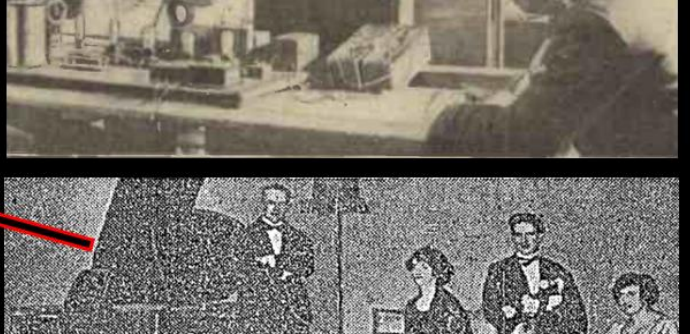
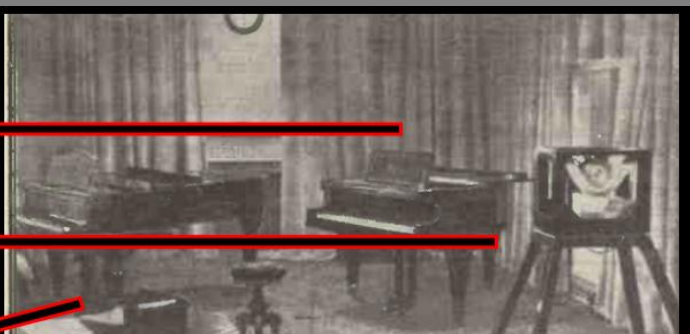
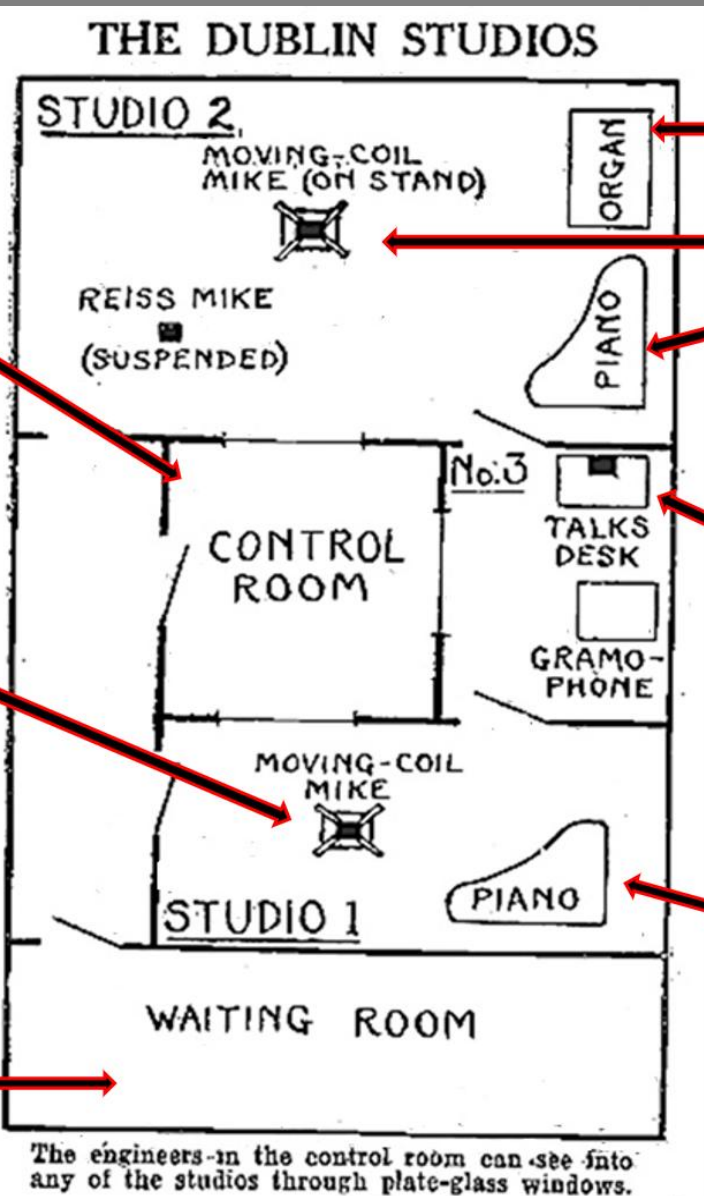
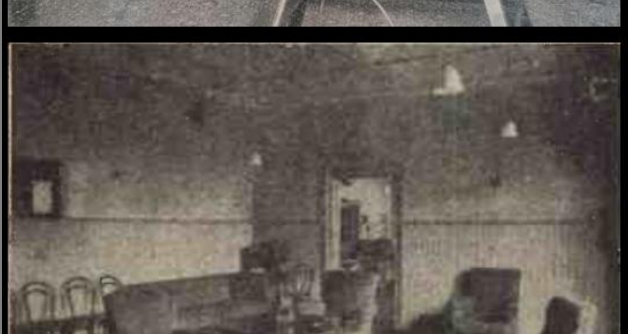
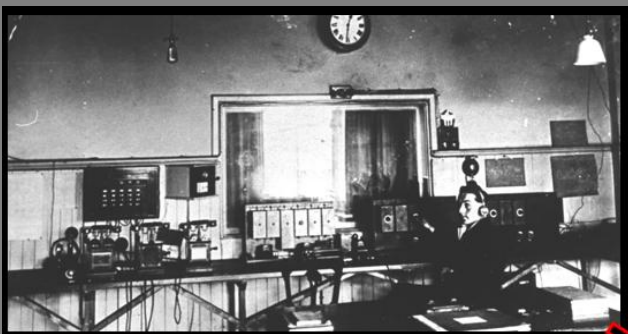
Little Denmark Street



Renee Flynn



Vincent O'Brien



The Marconi Q transmitter and aerial array was located in the grounds of McKee Military Barracks. The station frequency was 390m

