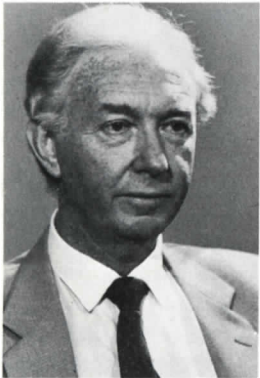


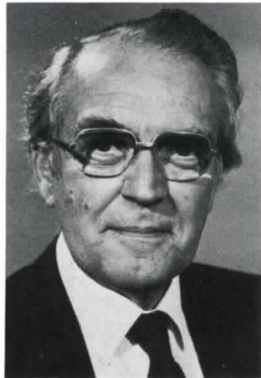


THE LENS

The Staff
Newspaper for
Independent
Television
News
Oct/Nov 1985
Issue No. 16



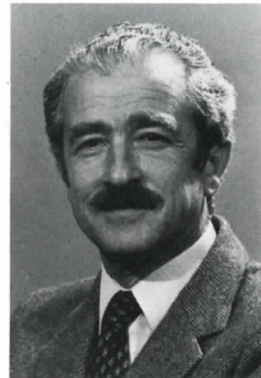
RONNIE HUBBARD
Head of Assignments



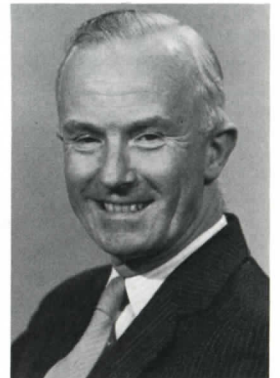
JIM BURNHAM
ENG Editor



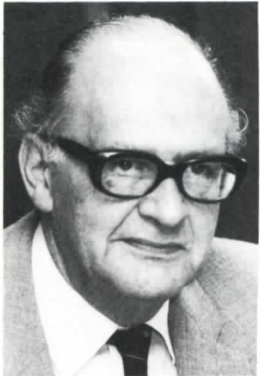
DI EDWARDS-JONES
Senior Director



LEO ROSENBERG
ENG Editor

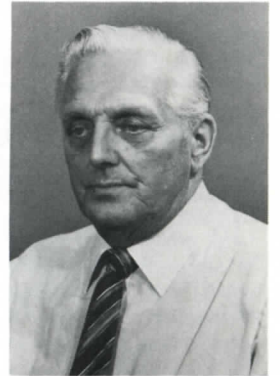


ERNIE PROCTOR
Production Admin.

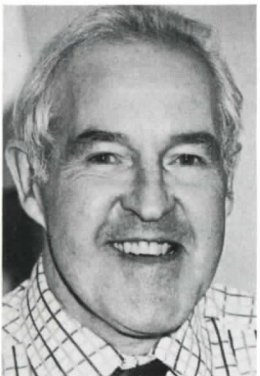


PETER BANYARD
ENG Production Manager

1955-85



TOM RELPH
Traffic Dept.



ARTHUR CLIFFORD
Journalist

A few weeks ago, Independent television celebrated its 30th birthday and ITN is the sole survivor of the handful of companies which came on stream on Day One - 22nd September, 1955.

It was an exciting era. The BBC's one-station monopoly was broken for the first time and, since those pioneer days, computers, satellites and ENG have revolutionised television news ... and news itself has become a much sought-after and highly competitive industry.

There have been revolutions, disasters, assassina-

tions and wars, and in this 30-year period Britain has

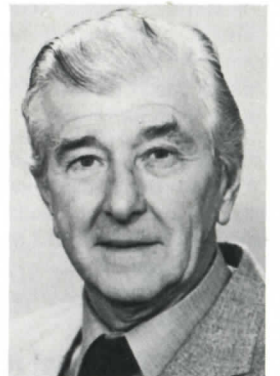


URSULA HEINZE
Film Librarian

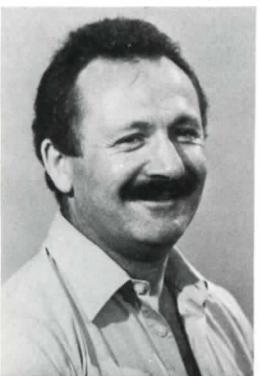
had no fewer than eight Prime Ministers.

A handful of ITN staff have seen it all and taken it all in their stride. Twelve of them have given 30 years of unbroken service. One (Alan Downes) had an enforced break of two years with National Service and two - Arthur Clifford and Stan Rawlings - were on board thirty years ago and returned after seeking pastures new.

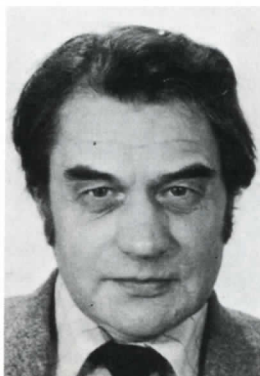
All fifteen have something in common. They are pioneers who helped build ITN into the best international news organisation in the world.



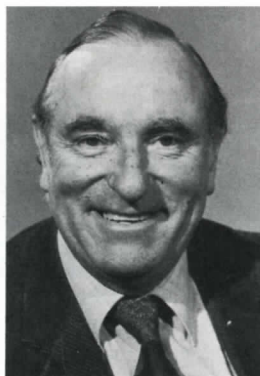
CYRIL PAGE
Senior Cameraman



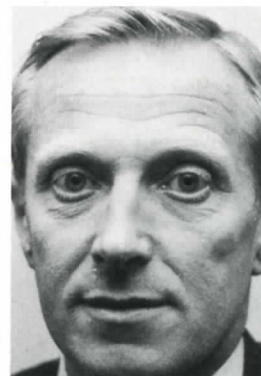
ALAN DOWNES
ENG Cameraman



STAN RAWLINGS
Studio Cameraman



JOHN LODGE
ENG Editor



PETER BROWN
ENG Cameraman



ALFIE WILSON
ENG Editor

Increase in Oracle coverage "by public demand"

A new era for ITN's Oracle teletext service started this month, with a wider coverage of sports and business information with a 25% increase in page output. New indexing will make the retrieval of information easier.

Manager of ITN's Oracle

newsroom, Peter Hall, says: "These changes are heralding a new era for our service. From now on our viewers will have a much deeper pool of information covering the main sports and news from the City and financial world. It comes as the result of popular demand.

"Our market research and general feedback indicated that

there was a great deal of interest in these particular areas getting more coverage," he added.

Already, Oracle's cricket scores service is highly rated, with many first class clubs using it, and there is now possibility of a tie-up between Oracle and the cricket authorities.

Oracle is planning a new foreign exchange page through a computer-

to-computer link with one of the big banks, making it possible to update exchange rates every couple of minutes.

There will also be a computer link with the Stock Exchange which will enable 200 share prices to be updated automatically.

Rapid updating of news information is one of the driving forces behind Oracle and the planned fast turnover of business and sports news front - which enabled Oracle to achieve 69 updates on the recent Manchester aircraft disaster as it unfolded in one morning.

On an average day ITN's Oracle team produces 1,000 updates on stories on ITV and Channel Four from topics including finance, sport, home and international news.

Oracle is used by approximately eight million viewers and nearly three million television sets now have Oracle capacity.

ABC News is Basys' 50th client

ABC Network News is to purchase the Newsroom Computer System for integration into the already existing ABC newsroom operation, and becomes Basys's 50th installation.

ABC News has designed and operated a general newsroom system for its New York Headquarters and all of its bureaux. This has been phased

over a period of two years. The ABC system, however, did not include all newsroom facilities, and ABC elected to integrate the existing Basys system rather than develop its own, as it had with library, assignment, election and program production systems.

Basys has also, against strong competition, been awarded the contract to computerise the new Granada Television news

operation in Liverpool.

The system will link Liverpool grith, and the subsidiary newsrooms in Manchester, London and Lancaster.

The system has been designed in such a way as to allow the bureaux to expand into mini-systems capable of independent operations but still able to log in to the main system as required.

People in the News

JO ANDREWS and NIGEL BAKER have joined the Newsdesk as writers for Channel One news programmes, and TONY JIMENEZ joins Oracle as a teletext journalist.

CHRIS HAMPSON, formerly political correspondent with the Daily Mirror, joins ITN as a writer in the main newsroom.

PEGGY MIZRAHI joins WTN as an administrative assistant in the newsroom, and SHARON O'BRAY has also joined Worldwide Television News as a Bought Ledger Assistant.

MARIA TREVERS has joined as Secretary to Derek Walker, the Deputy Editor.



Maria Trevers



Sue Garner

There's a new face in the travel office where SUZANNE NORMAN has been appointed secretary to Geoff O'Brien, and

SANDRA SHAUGHNESSY has joined ITN as secretary to the Head of Engineering.

After spells with the BBC as a Production Secretary (Radio) and, more recently, a Network Assistant on Presentation (Television) SUE GARNER joins ITN as a newsroom secretary.



Mandana Nadjafian

PENNY MARSALL comes to ITN House as a production trainee, and ROBERT MOORE joins as an editorial graduate trainee from Oxford, where he edited Cherwell and worked part-time as a freelance journalist.

HOWARD ANDERSON has been appointed as a television journalist, and JOANNE RUTNER joins ITN as a Studio Camera Operator.

MANDANA NADJAFIAN comes to us as a personnel Clerk from the Institute of Petroleum.

LEZLEY CLARK also joins the department as secretary to the Personnel Manager after two years with a cosmetics firm.

leak in India, the Miners strike, the Brussels stadium tragedy and the famine in Ethiopia.

Before joining ITN he spent five years as a reporter/presenter with Thames Television, where his main stories included the Iranian Embassy siege and the death of Airey Neave M.P. in an IRA bomb attack at Westminster.

Earlier, he spent a total of nine years living and reporting from Northern Ireland, working first as a freelance, and later as a staff reporter for both Ulster Television and BBC Northern Ireland.



Colin Baker

Baker, aged 37, joined ITN eighteen months ago as a general reporter and has since covered such major stories as the the Bhopal gas

Colin Baker has been named as ITN's first full-time crime correspondent with a special brief to monitor drug and terrorist offences.

Announcing the appointment, ITN Editor David Nicholas said: "We have always kept abreast of crime stories but with the tragic increase in drug abuse, terrorist bombings and urban unrest, it has become necessary to appoint a full-time specialist.

"Colin Baker has the right background and experience to investigate and report upon these developments with authority."



Lezley Clark

Baker gets crime job

TERROR- AND HOW WE CAN BEAT IT

The British Government has three clearly-defined objectives when dealing with the increasing problem of terrorism:

- To bring the incident to a swift and peaceful conclusion without loss of life and with the minimum of force;
- To apprehend and bring to justice the perpetrators of the crime;
- To demonstrate that terrorism does not pay.

These tenets of Government policy were emphasised by Sir Robert Armstrong, Secretary to the Cabinet, at a recent IPI forum on Terrorism and the Media.

Prominent Politicians

The seminar, chaired by Sir Alastair Burnet, included contributions from prominent politicians, the security forces and leading journalists including David Nicholas, Editor of ITN. Its aim was to highlight the growing problems of reporting terrorist activities, and the problems of restraint faced by the authorities.

In summing up, Sir Robert added "When handling situations, it is our aim that other terrorists will say 'That didn't work' and it may help to prevent future incidents."

He emphasised too, the importance of co-operation with the media: We should continue to use the word 'request' to the media. We are not about censorship or compulsion. It is in the nature of a bargain. If the authorities or police make requests they have a duty to tell the media all they know and they should say when it can be published."

Merlyn Rees M.P. and the ITN editor were also among speakers in the summing up session. Mr Rees urged journalists to try to under-

stand the problems of the police. But Mr Rees added that he was against a code of practice. "The strength of the media should be its independence of anyone in authority," he said.

David Nicholas took the 'code of practice issue' still further - particularly where hostages are involved: "The only guideline we consider paramount is the principle that we would not do anything to imperil life or endanger the safe rescue of the captives." He added that, in a situation lasting four or five days, ITN might have to deploy as many as 150 as a result of the shift system, but it was vital that everybody should be aware of the company's policy about covering terrorism.

Underlining the value of good editorial judgement, he pointed out that while Ministers and senior police officers "are often here today and gone tomorrow, we old Gromykos of the media accumulate a fair bit of street wisdom about handling these situations."

Neil Davis was probably the finest and the most dedicated news cameraman of his time. His film of the Vietnam and Cambodia wars was certainly the most graphic and the most personal coverage anyone could hope to make. Neil was a thinking man's cameraman, highly literate and articulate; he wrote well on Indochina from his wealth of knowledge of the region and as a raconteur he was unsurpassed.

I first met Neil in Vietnam in 1966 when he was working for Visnews and over the following years he became a good friend. It was a measure of his self-



DAVID NICHOLAS

He emphasised that a journalists commitment to the public is as binding as an M.P.'s obligation to his constituents, or that of a doctor to his patients.

He added that he was becoming increasingly irritated by being preached at about the responsibility of the media when these same considerations sat lightly on some people in authority.

Killers go Unapprehended

I appreciate the pressures on governments who negotiate deals for the freedom of hostages, but I really must say that I find it an odd thing to point to the media as sponsors or encouragers of terrorism when Cop killers and the Leila Khaleds go home unapprehended. I do not think, on these occasions, it is helpful for us to point the finger at each other."

Last month, NBC cameraman Neil Davis and his soundman Bill Latch were shot and killed while covering the attempted coup in Bangkok. ITN have not lost a man in 30 years but tragedies like this highlight the dangers they constantly face. ALAN DOWNES pays tribute to a colleague:

* * *

confidence that he would readily share background information and advice with colleagues, even those of rival organisations. His appointment as NBC's Bureau Chief in Bangkok was further evidence of his calibre and versatility as he both organised the Bureau and continued as Cameraman.

In a world prone to 'bullshit' and self-congratulation Neil was a breath of fresh air; he was always one to relate an event for its human interest rather than how it reflected kudos on himself. Neil had already lost the feel-

Jack's alright after forty years!

The Union Jack that was lowered by the conquering Japanese at the fall of Singapore during World War II turned up again recently at ITN House.

A former British Army captain walked into ITN's studio and then unfurled the faded flag marked with bullet holes.

Within hours pictures of the Union Jack appeared on News of One to introduce a story on the commemoration of the famous V-J Day.

ITN reporter Ray Moloney said: "The gentleman who was in the King's African Rifles said that the flag was taken off a dead Japanese soldier after a battle in Burma towards the end of the war.

"On it was Japanese writing saying 'Commemrating the fall of Singapore - February 19th 1942. Sgt. Mjr. Uchiyama.'

"Apparently the officer had used it as a blanket and later brought it home to England, and it has not been seen by the public since then."

The Imperial War Museum has authenticated the flag and has said that it is keen to display it.

ing in his left, lower leg as a result of mortar wounds sustained in Cambodia and it was prophetic that he should have said that he was only frightened of being badly wounded; death didn't concern him - 'when you're gone that's it', he said.

I am grateful to have spent three weeks in Neil's company last March and to have got to know and like his soundman Bill Latch who was to die beside him while covering the abortive Bangkok coup. Neil Davis wasn't just a great cameraman he was a terrific bloke - we are all the poorer for his passing.

"West 57th Street"

It sounds like a musical I know, but at CBS that is what its all about. Not so much News as a way of entertaining.

The American style Evening News is what the aspiring News at Ten in '67 was modelled on; twin 'authoritative' anchormen - splendid in their in grand settings.

In adopting American techniques News at Ten was original only in the British context, so I began my day's spectatorship at CBS's Manhattan headquarters expecting a fascimile NAT with only the face up front and the newsroom accents changed.

The show has two producers plus an executive overlord, a kind of fat cat Phil Moger, named Lane Verardos, a pleasant and seemingly unflappable man who gave me the standard corporate teach-in.

National Concern

Lane considers he is producing something more 'Global' than anyone else. Unlike us they have long dropped the *rapid-fire-wrap-of-this-is-the-way-the-world-is-at-a-minute-thirty-topwhack!*

I exaggerate of course but you know the feeling. He says nothing rates nowadays unless it is of 'national or international concern' which sounds laudable enough.

Perhaps it was a soft news day but this was the first half of his show for the evening of the 17th September which seemed to make his point. The Yarns were:

1. West German Spy Scandal: Satellite Bonn
2. New Laser Test Firing: Satellite Pentagon
3. Greenpeace Charges Against French Govt: Satellite Paris
4. South African Riots: Satellite Cape Town
5. Grenade Attack Italy: American Injured. Satellite Rome

Remember, the show is 27mins 50secs running time - and that includes over six minutes of commercials and programme 'promos'.

The Megastory

All the Networks evening news shows are preceded by up to two hours of local TV news. So all that is of 'local' interest wherever you live, has been reported by one CBS affiliate station or another.

American TV has a rapidly expanding new ENG-age jargon which makes it difficult to follow otherwise normal newsroom conversations. A reporter package is a 'Spot' and every reporter has a field producer who is editorially

It's Global News, CBS style! But do viewers really care?

responsible for all the reporter does and says. Its called 'Spotcraft'.

Then there's the *Megastory*. The Mega-story is the story behind the story viz: the Watergate break-in was Big story - the cover-up was Mega-story.

And how about "anxiety levels". Too anxious and it upsets viewers they can't cope and they switch off mentally and don't absorb. Not anxious enough - well that's just about total disinterest.

I gathered CBS some years ago published the results of research on viewers response to its news programme with

devastating results. Not only did most viewers not have any opinion on they way stories of the previous night's programmes were presented. They couldn't even remember most of them!

There is very little editing done on West 57th Street; they write the leadins, supply the electronics, and cue the anchorman.

Ah! The anchorman!

Dan Rather is Kingpin and is treated like Royalty. They call him Mr which is possibly what you'd call Sandy if he, like Mr Rather, was on a three year contract

reputedly worth three million dollars a year!

According to the corporate message, Mr Rather has extensive editorial influence - they wouldn't go as far to say 'control'

He can decide which reporter covers a story and can change the emphasis of stories and even the running order to suit himself.

Rather made his name as White House correspondent in the days when Walter Cronkite was starbiling. He is the kind of newcaster most of us in ITN House would like to be.

Personally I'd settle for the cash!



MICHAEL NICHOLSON takes a look at the American news business and envies the money paid to anchormen!

THE COST OF MOB VIOLENCE



Risks of the job: An ITN Volvo gets turned over during recent riots in Handsworth. Fortunately, the crew weren't in it at the time!

ITN, thirty years ago, did not seem altogether promising. There were no cameras until the day before first transmission and Robin Day and I, the first two newscasters, solemnly rehearsed into a wooden picture frame.

Within a few months commercial television was losing so much money that many people thought the whole thing would just have to fold.

'No ads for Auntie...'

CHRISTOPHER CHATTAWAY sounds a warning

So it did not always feel like a national institution in the making. But it was.

It was also the start of a media revolution. Today most people rely principally upon ITN and BBC Television News for

information about what is really going on in Britain and the world. Most newspapers are rightly regarded as full of prejudice and rubbish and are bought because they are a bit of fun.

It is television (and radio) that is trusted. It may not always be like that. It is certainly not like that in other countries where the government calls the editorial tune on television. It certainly wasn't like that thirty years ago.

Perhaps I am still biased, but as I remember, the BBC before competition was fairly pathetic - a wooden figure stiffly intoning the news like a Psalm, a little montage of film at the end (mainly launchings and openings) and the occasional amazingly deferential interview. "How do you view the current situation, Sir?"

SINK-OR-SWIM TRAINING: FUN, BUT HOPELESS!

You'll be glad to know I'm sure, that ITN has picked up the ball and is running with it. The ball, in case you didn't know, was dropped by the National Broadcasting School, when this summer it fell down dead in mid-field.

The field is Editorial Training, where ITN's record, until a few years ago, was about as impressive as the ITN cricket team without Jamie Donald (ITN trainee 83-85).

Seventeen years ago, when I joined ITN as a graduate trainee, I was attached to a senior writer, who refused to acknowledge my existence by so much as a nod of morning greeting. He shall be nameless (but his initials are MA and he's now Senior Editor at TV South in Maidstone). My questions occasionally prompted him to move the matchstick he chewed from the left canine to the right. It was miserable.

I was then condemned to write "spares", 12 seconds, unillustrated newscaster stores which might be used to pad the newly-born News at Ten in an emergency.

After six months came my big chance. Five to Ten. Me the only writer in the Newsroom. Reuter announces the world's first aircraft hijack. I do the only thing I know how, and convey the whole drama in 36 words. I gingerly place them under as hard a nose as ever was found two feet above a Chief Sub's chair.

Within seconds, the scowling overlord, who shall be nameless (but now Deputy Editor of ITN) reduces my script to a crumpled ball, and writes the lead himself.

It was, I suppose, character-forming.

And certainly Peter Sissons, Peter Snow, Sue Tinson and others did survive the first head-bangs of this hurl-them-in-at-the-shallow-end system.

But many didn't. Within one a two-year period, four out of six editorial trainees quit. That decided my predecessor, Mike Morris

Editorial Manager

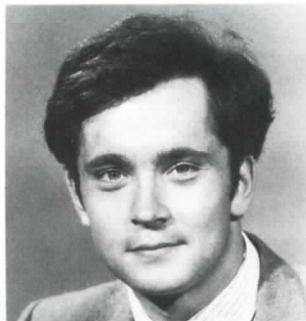
DEREK TAYLOR

mourns the passing of the NBS but promises the hit-and-miss days have gone forever.



(trainee 65-68) to organise a structured training scheme.

This he did by getting the National Broadcasting School, till then a trainer solely of radio recruits, to run courses for ITV newsrooms.



ROBERT MOORE
Editorial trainee

This scheme was but two years old when the NBS, financially dependent on the waning profits of Independent Local Radio, collapsed.

At ITN, we were determined that there should be no return to the Dark Ages. We made common cause with a former ITN reporter,

now Head of News at Central Television, Bob Southgate. We brought in another ex-ITN staff reporter, Sue Lloyd-Roberts, who at one month's notice has organised seven sessions, totalling 12 weeks of training in the skills of TV journalism.

As many as possible of the sessions have been so designed that they stand in their own right, separate from the rest of the course. So, as well as ITN and Central graduate trainees who will take the year's course, some ITN desk assistants and new-joining journalists without TV experience will go on selected sessions.

ITN's graduate trainees will still get plenty of nose-grinding in-house experience, 18 months of more of it, under the unflinching supervision of Frank Miles.

So, the crumpled scripts, or their computer equivalent, may remain. But we hope that the editorial trainees will too.

After all, if we believe we're the best in the world at what we do, there ought to be just a few tricks we could pass on.

Below Stairs

Nobody much took television seriously. I remember a woman asking me about my job.

"Television? Really? Of course, we don't have one but cook sometimes lets us watch hers." One felt television belonged pretty much below stairs, or was "quite good for support."

People said ITN began the process of building television in this country into an important trusted news medium.

Why did ITN succeed? Undoubtedly, because of the calibre of people who worked for it. A succession of outstanding editors, certainly. But much, I think is also due to the particular balance of competition between BBC and ITV with their different sources of funding.

Changes?

Good television news is an expensive commodity. From the licence fee the BBC has had the means to provide it and so from advertising has ITV. That might be about to change. Once the Peacock Committee has made its recommendations, the BBC might be required to take advertising.

Both could be fighting for a pot of money that is certainly not going to double in size and neither would be able to afford quality news.

Of course, television's binary system is not going to last forever. With satellite, cable, changing needs, ITN will no doubt evolve one day into something else.

But I, for one, should be sorry to see the achievements of thirty years imperilled by forcing the BBC to fish for revenue in the same waters as ITV.

IT'S DAY ONE AGAIN!

Some strode into the Berners Hotel with a jauntiness that belied their years. Others leaned heavily on sticks. But they all bore the unmistakable stamp of pioneers; of shared achievement against tough odds.

For this curiously mixed bunch of men and women had started something which succeeded beyond their wildest dreams. And in doing so, they had made a chunk of television history their own.

At that founder members' dinner on September 13 to mark ITN's 30th birthday, the memories came flooding in. Forget the cliché. It did *not* seem like yesterday. Thirty years is too long for that.

But as the stories flowed, as the old-timers pumped hands and guffawed at shared recollections, those heady days of September 1955 began to emerge from the mists of three crowded decades and you could almost hear the Kingsway traffic again...

Many a film has commenced on such a note, accompanied by

suitably soaring music. But this was real and the music was in our minds.

My own memories of that autumn remain a jumble: an assortment of scraps and fragments. But perhaps they reflect the mood of ITN's covered-wagon days more truly than any more measured account ever could.

I like to think so. It makes writing about it so much easier!

So what did I remember, looking across that crowded room alive with talk of old times?

● Being despatched by company secretary Tommy Trail (now 83) to buy some cheap typewriters. It was my second day with the company pledged to revolutionise broadcast journalism. And here I was, haggling in a dimly-lit junk shop off High Holborn. I wondered what the hell I had got myself into. But I came away with ten battered machines for £50 and Tommy grunted approval. I felt absurdly pleased. If ITN flopped, I could always be a general dealer. BBC News Division had never been like this.

● Scraps of CBS mute newsfilm flickering on the bare white wall of our first Kingsway office as we tried to simulate proper newscasts. One was of a prison riot in Texas. Editor-in-Chief Aidan Crawley bellowed to Lynne Reid-Banks: "Just throw in a line of commentary, will you?" She put on a Lauren Bacall voice and rasped: "I'm gonna break this riot if it's the last thing I do". That was meant to be the prison governor, she explained rather nervously. "Splendid," Aidan beamed. "Gives the flavour, don't you think!"

● Having an appalling row with film boss John Cotter soon after we moved across to Television House. It ended in a wrestling match by the reception desk, just as Aidan appeared with a party of ITV chieftains. He simply stepped over our writhing bodies murmuring: "Gentlemen, meet my news editor and my head of film...a policy discussion, I think". The matter was never mentioned again. John and I, of course, stayed close friends. An early example of true ITN style.

● Remarking absent-mindedly to the sad-faced RSPCA official I had brought in for studio interview that Russia's launching of a sputnik with a doomed dog inside was "a wonderful turn-up for a thin news day".



Three wise men: ITN Editors David Nicholas, Sir Geoffrey Cox and Nigel Ryan.

Members a difference of opinion with the Head of film . . .

● In interminable telephone talk with a Foreign Office official soon after our launch. A foreign ministers' conference was about to open and I wanted ITN there. The FO man apparently never heard of us. I went on and on. Finally, he said: "Yes, I think your chap should attend. Look forward to seeing him". I said the reporter and camera crew would arrive in an hour. "Camera!" he exploded. "Did you say *camera*?"

Good God, man, d'you mean you actually want to take *snaps!*"

Then there was the receptionist buzzing the newsdesk to report "There's a man here keeps swearing and banging his stick on the desk who says he's Randolph Churchill...."

Film Assignments' Freddy Partington announcing at conference that his latest African stringer had been devoured by a crocodile....

One of London's first traffic

wardens stonily booking the film crew, as the camera rolled, before consenting to give an interview....

A Television House lift failure and newscaster Chris Chataway sprinting up seven flights of stairs to the studio like a mountain goat, wondering while the non-Olympic stars in his wake were so puffed....

But every ITN founder member has a similar personal stock of memories, mostly hilarious and

often outrageous. Which is why the Berners Hotel was awash with laughter on the night of September 13.

At one point someone said brightly: "Now on to our 40th..." and conversation stopped. But the moment soon passed and the jokes began to roll again. We know the list of surviving founder members must dwindle and finally vanish.

The last anniversary of all has to be an empty table in a silent room. But the spirit of ITN's pioneers will go surging on, filling that room with benevolent ghosts.

Indeed, many such ghosts were nudging us at this 30th birthday celebration. And as glasses were filled and the roseate mood cast its golden glow over the past, they seemed to become flesh and blood again; as alive as when we all toiled together in that rickety old Kingsway newsroom.

Sir Geoffrey Cox has written: "ITN is fun". David Nicholas says just as emphatically: "ITN is a family and always will be". Those truths were never more happily demonstrated than at the 1985 founders' dinner.

So let us say it again.... "On to our 40th".

Some of us will not be around to enjoy the occasion. But it's still good to know it is going to happen!

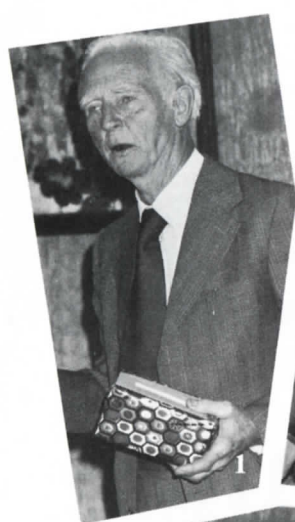
In celebrating these thirty years of ITN we who had the great food fortune to pioneer television news in those distant days in Kingsway like to think that we built firm foundations for ITN.

But I would also like to record my admiration for the way in which, first under Nigel Ryan and now under David Nicholas ITN has been established on these foundations as one of the great news organisations of the world.

This has been achieved in an era of highly sensitive and often dangerous news events, particularly in Northern Ireland, and during the Falklands War and the miners' strike.

These events not only called for nerve and skill and judgement, but for the exercise of these qualities, at every level of the operation, day in and day out.

Sir Geoffrey Cox
Editor of ITN
1956-68



1: Freddie Partington, former Assignments Manager. 2: Norman Dixon, John Cotter and Arthur Clifford all close friends since 1955. 3: Cyril Page's speech was one of the highlights of the evening. 4: Allan Trainer and his wife arrive at the reception. 5: Remember when.....? John Corbett and Doug Amour recall some lighthearted moments. 6: Perhaps its better not to know.....

Misgivings ... then three 'unforgettable' stories

It was 29 August 1955 — just twenty four days away from ITN's first news transmission — when I first entered the doors of Television House, Kingsway.

Until then, I had been employed by Pathe News editing the Army Kinematograph news for which they had the War Office contract. As I waited for the lift I wondered if I had made the right decision. After all, Pathe was a company of some considerable reputation, and here I was taking my chance with an "unknown" commercial station.

When I entered the eighth floor cutting rooms, my worst fears were realised — I wanted to rush back to Pathe immediately! There were only three 16 mm Moviolas (our film editing machines) but worst of all we had to edit on 16 mm negative and I was used to more professional 35 mm film.

By the end of the first week at ITN I was beginning to master the handling of 16 mm negative film. Ironically, just one hour before our first transmission, some 35 mm rota print arrived for inclusion in the programme. It was the wedding of 31-year-old Prince Alfonso Lanfenburg to 15-year old Princess Ira von Furstenberg.

I was given the film to edit down from 10 minutes to 40 seconds.

Strangely, when I started editing the 35 mm film it felt cumbersome to handle. In only a few short weeks I had deserted a gauge I had worked on for many years in favour of its little brother. The boot lace gauge had won me over!

Incidentally, that little 15-year-old princess is still in the news; after two divorces she is now engaged to Prince Rainier of Monaco!

Most ITN pioneers can remember events from those early days, and I can recall three with startling clarity:

The first was in May 1958 during the Algerian uprising. The crew had shot some first rate material, but unfortunately there was no way it could be back in London in time for our late transmission.

Sir Geoffrey Cox, the Editor, came into my cutting room and asked me to accompany him to the seventh floor.

His plan was to tele-record the rushes over the Eurovision link.

That night, the edited story of the Algerian uprising was seen by viewers throughout Britain and, while I must admit the film quality, was fairly poor, ITN was starting to make history.

To some people, this story may seem laughable, but remember in those pioneering days we had no VTR or satellites to ease the burden.



Jim Burnham . . . in form after 30 years

Fears and panic - but it was fun

Thankfully, we did have satellites in 1966. David Phillips, (an ITN producer) was asked to put together a package of the day's events in London. The completed film was then going to be beamed by satellite via VTR to Australia at 6.00 am the following morning.

David and I worked throughout the day and a good part of the night to complete this experimental project which was ITN's first ever satellite link with Australia!

My final story concerns ITN's reporter Keith Hatfield who was covering the Civil War in Amman. He arrived back in ITN House early evening on 23 September 1970 bringing with him the first film since fighting started seven days before.

Cameraman Paul Carleton had shot some fantastic material, and the many rolls of film rushes went through the laboratory at break-neck speed. In fact, the quality of the material was so good that it was

decided to give saturation coverage to 'The Battle for Amman' in News at Ten.

I was the film editor assigned to Keith but it was impossible for one man to cope with such a volume of rushes with only three and a half hours before the programme. Fortunately, I had help, and David Phillips and Reg Spragg worked in one cutting room and Keith and myself in the room next door to keep a close liaison during the editing. We made it — just! The

JIM BURNHAM reflects on ITN's 30 years

projectionist just finished lacing-up the film as the bongos hit the airwaves!

But this story has sting in its tail! Very few people knew that when Keith returned with the Amman rushes he was suffering from dysentery. The editor decided it would be a good idea for Andrew Gardner to interview him and obtain a first hand account of the war in Jordan. During the live interview, dysentery struck in the only way it knows how but, in the

true tradition of the ITN reporter, Hatfield carried on with the interview as if nothing was happening!

By the time this pot-pourri of mine is in print my working days at ITN will be over, but even so I have many wonderful memories to reflect upon and the privilege of knowing such wonderful people. Some of these people in their own right have become household names. Best selling authors like Lynn Reid Banks, Peter Driscoll,

Gerald Seymour and not forgetting the late Robert Bateman. And I can even remember a chap coming up to me in television House, Kingsway and saying in a Welsh accent, "I'm a new scriptwriter, can you tell me where the preview theatre is? My name is David — David Nicholas".

My indebted thanks to librarian and friend Ursula Heinze for her research in the various news stories mentioned.

By the way . . .

ROYAL SUCCESS

The ITN Book of the Queen Mother turned out to be a spectacular success, heading the best-sellers list in August and September.

The book, which was written by Sir Alastair Burnet, is in full colour and includes many shots taken from exclusive ITN film used in the 85th birthday tribute. The hour-long programme attracted 13.5 million viewers and was placed fourth in the overall ratings for the week.

But back to the book. Clearly, if it is remarkable value at £5.95 via retailers, it must be sensational for members of ITN staff who can still pick it up at the knock-down price of £3 from ITN Stores. But hurry.....

A sharp-eyed reporter from the West Lanchashire Evening Gazette spotted a nice diary para at the TUC Conference in Blackpool when a young boy was distracted by the TV cameras in the hotel lobby.

An anonymous ITN cameraman offered the boy a first-hand glimpse through the viewfinder and a fan was born.

He was so impressed by the crew's attitude and their work that he followed them around for the next half-hour, and it could be that the TUC has won a potential ACTT recruit.

How about this for being really on the ball A national newspaper recently ran a story about an ITN man who was overheard saying that he had "no interest in football."

Apparently, the man was mildly wiggled by a senior executive who kindly suggested that "he had bloody well better learn."

This, whether true or not, is zero-rated in news terms, but the Fleet Street scribe then suggested that this was linked to the "recent" even when a stand-in was reading the football results. He penned the hoary old tale about the man who began: "League Division One, Arsenal two," and was left with one stray team at the end of the results sequence.

This classic fluff - widely attributed to an ITN freelance, - is at least eight years old. But, after all, it is the silly season....

Remember the heady days "Dick Barton - Special Agent" in the late 1940s and early 50s? This pre-Archers daily serial was a "must" at 6.45 every night, when the theme tune "Devils Gallop" heralded the latest in a series of unlikely exploits for radio's intrepid hero and his henchmen, Snowy and Jock.



Duncan Carse

The first Dick Barton was actor Noel Johnson, but his successor - Duncan Carse - played the role for six years until the programme finally came off the air in 1953. This gave him more time to spend with his family ... including his attractive blonde daughter Liz, who later became an announcer with Harlech Television. And later still, she married a promising young reporter called Martyn Lewis ... Trust him to have Dick Barton as a father-in-law!

Actress Glenda Jackson turned reporter for a day when she became involved in a special ITN item on the effects of the massive relief work going on in Ethiopia.

She was at ITN House record a commentary on footage shot in the arid areas of Ethiopia following a trip she made there with Oxfam workers in a Land Rover.

Working with reporter Simon Cole she spent most of the day in the second floor edit suite, where he took notes from her account of the 10-day journey and prepared her script.

Miss Jackson spoke in the voice-over of her "anger and outrage" that in "a world bursting with food, people are condemned to the long, slow, painful death that starvation

Following last year's Brighton bomb tragedy, security arrangements at the recent round of party conferences have been stringent.

Evidence of this vigilance came in the opening session of the SDP Conference at Torquay when proceedings were delayed as alert security men gingerly removed a suspicious-looking briefcase, and blew it up.

It was empty, and the owner - a red-faced ITN man who we have been bribed not to identify - put in a claim for a new case!

Following the success of the 60-minute tribute to the Queen Mother on her 85th birthday network chiefs have asked ITN for a 52-minute compilation of this year's Royal Tours. The programme will be transmitted in all ITV Regions between 2 and 3. pm. on Christmas Day, and will precede the Queen's speech. Inevitably, it will be presented by ITN's court correspondent, Anthony Carthew.

Nice to see Hollywood taking note of Channel Four News ... several notes in fact, for the theme music for the ubiquitous Clint Eastwood's latest offering "Pale Rider" is a tarted-up version of "Best Endeavours", the Alan Hawkshaw composition which introduces Peter Sissons and Co five nights a week.

entails."

She said later: "Oxfam got in touch with me and asked if I would take part in a video they were making about Ethiopia, slanted rather more to their long-term development projects.

"I said yes, of course I would, it would be a privilege. To be able to do a bit, however small over and above writing a cheque, would be a plus."

She added: "I think our government's response has been appalling. I did not see one sack of grain labelled 'a gift from their people of the United Kingdom'. I did see sacks of grain from India, and if they can find grain to send I'm damned sure we can. There are 15 million tonnes of EEC grain sitting around this country."

Thanks from Ethiopia

It is for all those who responded so generously to Nicky Preston's request for donations to bring to Ethiopia on her visit out here last November, that I write this. The money you gave has made a difference and will continue to do so in the lives of many in the villages around Bushullo.

Until last Autumn the hospital/health centre here at Bushullo, was devoted essentially to curative medical services. With the fund made available I was able to begin two different preventative health programmes aimed at children and mothers; the highest risk group in any developing country.

Within the hospital a pediatric nutrition programme was established: cooking demonstrations given daily along with a teaching session, followed by the mothers supervised in the feeding of their children....

Home Sciences

On a larger scale was the establishment of a mobile Mother and Child Health Programme to the surrounding villages.

Our programme has also been able to integrate a home sciences project to provide education and practical skills to the village women in sewing, agriculture, handicrafts and general home economics within the structure of our monthly mobile clinics. Each month an additional village is incorporated into our programme, and future plans include expansion of all existing services.

I hope that you will feel that your own personal contribution has made a difference, not just for today, but for tomorrow. It has.

And I thank you on behalf of many.

Maureen Mears S.R.N.
(Coordinator of
Preventative Care and
Community Services)

ANN ASSERATI

It is with great sadness that we report the recent death of Ann Asserati in hospital, after a courageous fight against cancer. She was 53 years old.

Ann joined ITN as Secretary to Peter Banyard in 1977. She was not married but is survived by a sister and a brother.

A 'first - eleven' cameraman for 23 years

Three ENG stalwarts who recently departed from ITN House, have held their farewell celebrations since the last issue of *Lens* was published.

Cameraman Ken Taylor, a top news cameraman for ITN for 23 years, retired officially on his 60th birthday. He was previously a film cameraman with British Movietone News for six years, and also spent seven years as a photographer with PA. Reuter, for whom he took many classic cricket 'Stills'.

He is described as a "member of the first XI throughout his ITN career", and his tremendous range of assignments included the Aswan Dam opening, Nehru's funeral, the Cod War, Vietnam and the Torrey Canyon wreck.

Together with reporter Alan Hart, Ken and his soundman (Ronnie Hubbard) succeeded in boarding the stricken vessel *after* the crew had been taken off for reasons of safety. When they finally got back to shore with their dramatic pictures, they were in for a disappointment; film of Sir Francis Chichester rounding Cape Horn had knocked their story off the bulletin!

His ENG colleagues presented him with a miniature camera made by Richard Andrews, and the company retirement gift was a 26-inch colour television set with teletext.

Sound recordist Eric Vincent, who also came to ITN in 1962, has spent the past three years working from Manchester with cameraman John Will. Another "frontliner" who has spent 23 years working at the sharp end, Eric will be retiring and emigrating to Brazil.

Because of the unsuitability of traditional farewell presents to someone who is travelling half way across the world, ITN presented him with a one-way ticket to Rio de Janeiro as a retirement gift.!

Owing to recurring problems with his eyesight, cameraman John Will has been transferred to the Salary Security Scheme and is unlikely to work again. He spent many years in the North of England, Originally as a sound recordist. He later became a cameraman and freelanced for ITN for many years until joining the staff in 1981.

He is a keen radio man and selected as his retirement gift a sophisticated Radio Transceiver, with a voice synthesiser.



Patsy Sykes-Wright at Farewell Celebrations

'FOUNDER' JIM GOES IN STYLE

Jim Burnham, who celebrated his retirement from ITN earlier this month, was a founder member of the Company and will always be remembered for being "an editor's editor".

He came to ITN from Pathe, and had previously worked as a projectionist at the Gaumont Cinema, Watford, where his manager was scriptwriter-cum-T.V. personality Dennis Nordern.

Jim earned a strong reputation as a fast and accurate editor at ITN, and became known as the man to watch if you wanted to learn how

to edit. But he always tended to underplay his professionalism. If he skillfully doctored a piece of less than perfect work, he would use the phrase - "I faked it for you". This earned him the nickname The Faker - although sometimes his theatrical mannerisms earned him the handle of The Actor.

The company presented him with the customary 26 inch T.V. set with teletext, and colleagues presented him with home movie equipment.

See The Burnham Report - page eight.

Photofinish for Ted

Ted Irving, who reached retirement age in August, has been on the Salary Security Scheme for the past three years. Prior to that, however, he had worked in the Camera Workshop for over twenty years.

He joined ITN in February, 1962, from Bell and Howell. He had been a service engineer and a technical adviser for twelve years and he brought considerable camera expertise to his job here. This, coupled with his first class craftsmanship, as the Editor said in his letter to Ted "kept many a cameraman on the road when they were most needed."

A back injury ended his active career in 1982 but, happily this has not prevented him from continuing to enjoy his principal hobbies of coarse fishing and 'following the horses'! He and Mack (Andrew Mackie, his immediate superior throughout his workshop time) had endless arguments about the relative merits of coarse fishing versus sea angling. As a horseracing enthusiast, he could be seen thumping the TV set, when the racing was on, shouting "Come on my son"! and has the reputation of being a consistent winner.

We wish him every happiness in his continued retirement.

PATSY WAS A FRIEND INDEED

Patsy Sykes-Wright, who retired last month, joined I.T.N. in November 1974 as the Administrative Assistant in the Personnel Office.

By I.T.N. standards, her stay has been a short one, but her willingness to help and befriend anyone with a problem, and her very human concern for people in this technological age have built up for her an enormous fund of goodwill and respect throughout the Staff. Nowhere were her qualities more in evidence than during the Angola incident when she spent an enormous amount of time comforting Tom Phillips' and Mickey Doyle's families.

During Derek Young's illness in 1983, Patsy took over the running of the Personnel Office and now, after handing over the reins to Richard Patterson she is retiring to a 17th Century cottage in Painswick in Gloucestershire, which she has recently bought and intends to refurbish. How this accords with her almost legendary destructive influence on all technical apparatus, we do not know! She received a Sony 18 inch portable television as a gift from the company, and her colleagues at ITN and WTN presented her with a gold watch.

Yes, it's noisy, it's brash, almost vulgar; and it's hot... very hot.

The presence of Linda Evans, star of *Dynasty*, sitting nearby, raised my temperature even higher. But the abiding memory of this year's US Open is of a unique sporting occasion, which could take place only in New York.

During my ten years of covering the dignified and comparatively sedate Wimbledon Championships, I have experienced the heat of 1976 and this year's torrential downpour; but nothing like the extremes of Flushing Meadow. For most of the week that I was there as a guest of the United States Tennis Association, the temperature on court was in the 90's, and was often higher than 110 degrees, with humidity to match. As a guest of the Committee, I was given a straw hat for the week, which at least saved my bald patch from incineration...

Escaping into the air-conditioned cool of a packed Carnegie Hall one evening, I listened to the evergreen Frank Sinatra sing of New York: "If I can make it here, I'll make it anywhere..." and I thought it particularly applied to the tennis players at Flushing Meadow. Anyone who can survive such tough conditions and emerge victorious deserves to be a champion.

I can now understand why Bjorn Borg, seeded No.1 for four successive years, never won here. It makes Ivan Lendl's final victory over John McEnroe, which broke the seven-year American stranglehold on the men's title, all the more remarkable.

Hana Mandlikova's victory over Martina Navratilova in the

U.S. TENNIS IS REALLY HOT STUFF!

What sends temperatures soaring in New York? It's Krystle clear to Ian Edwards...



women's final was another reason for Czech cheers, while Britain's Virginia Wade, partnering Kim Warwick, beat Mandlikova and Nastase to reach the quarter-final of the mixed doubles. Two points from victory, Ginny had to break away from serving in order to shoo away a pigeon on court, and she still kept her composure, before returning to her "other job" as a commentator for CBS Television.

I was privileged to be at Flushing Meadow because of an invitation received at Wimbledon from the new President of the USTA, Randolph Gregson. All he'd said was: "Just you come to

New York, and we'll look after you."

He was as good as his word, for as soon as I arrived, there were invitations waiting for me in my hotel room to the top social occasions as well as to my court-side seat, which itself was worth 550 dollars!

The first full day I was there, I enjoyed the unexpected honour of a seat in the President's Box, rubbing shoulders with Buzzer Hadingham, chairman of Wimbledon, and key members of the international tennis circuit.

But there was more to come: for the Navratilova-Mandlikova final, I found myself sitting within a few feet of Krystle herself, Linda Evans. I had seen her from a

distance at Wimbledon, but never thought I'd be so close to her in New York, and I must admit I am now an admirer of hers. She obligingly agreed to pose for my camera between games, and remained a beautiful focus of attention throughout the match, even when the temperature reached 112 degrees!

Yet another surprise came the following day, when Randy Gregson interrupted my breakfast to invite me into the President's Box for the final between McEnroe and Lendl. But the chap who arranged the seating plan went one better, for who should sit next to me but another strikingly beautiful blonde, Donna Mills, one of the stars of the other popular soap opera, *Knot's Landing*. Sadly, however, she'd brought a boyfriend with her from California, where she'd taken a weekend break from filming.

I may not have returned home with a new girlfriend, but they did allow me to keep the straw hat, and some pleasant memories.

And yes, I love New York!

A variety of interests, and cheap drinks . . .

Are you making the best use of the ITN Club?

Apart from the wide range of associated organisations offering cut-price and subsidised rates for a wide variety of outside interests, the drinks in the bar are also much cheaper.

Which must make it the best three quidsworth going. And if you aren't yet fully au fait with the benefits of the Club, or how it works, here is a brief rundown of the operation:

It was founded in May 1969, and is open to members of the staff of ITN and associated or subsidiary companies. Membership currently totals 689, which includes 545 ITN staff, all of whom can enjoy the facilities and functions of the club for a humble membership fee of £3.

Refreshments at competitive prices are provided in the Club Bar which is self-financing, the mark up on purchases covering the expenses incurred in operating the bar for a full seven days a week, 365 days a year.

Profit from the gaming machines sited in the bar provides

funds for the General Committee which, under the Chairmanship of John Copleston, distributes donations to the affiliated groups.

These interests include the Golfing Society, Gun Club, Tennis Club, Football and Cricket Clubs, Computer Club, Fishing Club and Squash Club.

The members of these organisations—over several hundred people—can benefit in a variety of ways: Golf Society meetings are subsidised, grounds are hired and equipment purchased. Donations from the General Committee have reached sums in excess of £2,000 annually.

ITN CLUB NEWS

At Christmas the Committee arranges a special function for children and friends of members. The majority in recent years have been held in the American Church Hall in Whitfield St, where upwards of 200 children have been entertained. This season a similar number are being invited to the matinee performance of

'Cinderella' at the Palladium Theatre on Saturday 11 January 1986. This month, a day trip to Dunkirk was arranged for 50 members and other functions include occasional discos at the The Phoenix in Cavendish Square and earlier this year a day out at the Derby proved so popular that it may well become an annual event.

All these functions are free or subsidised, as is the Christmas Buffet Supper Disco at the Regent Crest Hotel on Thursday, 20th December, which gives an indication of the ITN Club's fantastic value for members and guests with tickets at £3 and £5 respectively.

So, if you're not already a member, think about it. And if you are, have we had your subscription.....?

ITN CLUB XMAS DISCO & BUFFET

Crab and Pineapple Cocktail • Gazpacho Andalouse
 Regent Crest Hotel, Carburton Street, London W1
 Roast Sirloin of Scottish Beef • Roast Crown of Lamb • Tender Loins of Pork filled with Damsons, Apricots and wrapped in Puff Pastry • Roast Norfolk Turkey
 Blanquette of Veal with Mushrooms served with Pilaff Rice
 Mixed Seasonal Salad • Russian Salad • Waldorf Salad • Fresh Coleslaw Salad • Jacket Potato with Chives or Minted New Potatoes
 Selection of Fresh Cheesecake • Blackcurrant and Lemon Sorbet
 Coffee or Tea

Crab and Pineapple Cocktail • Gazpacho Andalouse
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 Roast Sirloin of Scottish Beef • Roast Crown of Lamb • Tender Loins of Pork filled with Damsons, Apricots and wrapped in Puff Pastry • Roast Norfolk Turkey
 Blanquette of Veal with Mushrooms served with Pilaff Rice
 Mixed Seasonal Salad • Russian Salad • Waldorf Salad • Fresh Coleslaw Salad • Jacket Potato with Chives or Minted New Potatoes
 Selection of Fresh Cheesecake • Blackcurrant and Lemon Sorbet
 Coffee or Tea

Season ends with defeat of Beeb

CASUAL WATER? THIS MAN HAS NEVER EVEN HEARD OF IT!



BRIAN EDMONTON:
The man.....

It was, by any standards, a most enjoyable year for ITN golfers.... and, with one notable exception, the captain even managed to do a Canute with the weather conditions!

Even when it bucketed down everywhere else in the country, a few acres near Tunbridge Wells - the Nevill Golf Club to be exact - were spared the deluge, and even managed a little sunshine. But it was Captain's Day and it should never rain on the skipper's own parish on his once-a-year day!

The day was made even more memorable by the fact that Harry Jones, a 28 handicap player, came in with 42 points after a long lay-off the steal the captain's prize!

Other venues - Woodcote Park, Wally Moss's day at West Herts, Worthing and Cuddington - all produced most reasonable conditions and it was only at East Herts that the revered Captain waggled his little wand to no effect. It was wet. Very wet!

Successful end-of-season

The season ended with two highly successful gatherings at Sundridge park (which is great when you can find it) and a return to West Herts for the last ITN meeting of the season which doubled as a match against the BBC.

The Sundridge meeting was played in warm sunshine, and the fast, true greens seemed to suit Bill Frost who played the best round of his fairly long life (!) to come in with 42 points (41 net). James Lancaster did not allow the humorous advice of John Copleston or Martyn Pedrick to put him off his stroke, and he took second prize with 36 points.

The day also marked the return to the fairway of John Wakeman after a recent accident which

severely damaged his hand. He completed the round, although in some pain, and all members hope to see him more regularly in the future.

The year finished on a strong note for "gentleman" Brian Edmonton. The return to West Herts saw the ITN team convincingly defeat the rival from the Beeb by 250 to 228. The ITN tournament, run in tandem with the match, was won by Mike Tucker - with 38 pts. Wally Moss was second with 36 pts.



.....and his magic?

LONDON RUNNERS - UP



Members of the ITN team which finished in second place behind Thames in the London Companies meeting at St George's Hill, Weybridge (left to right): Brian Pendry, Jim Mitchell, Peter Wicking, John Gallagher, Dan Moloney, and George Harrison, Owner of the inscrutable smile on the right is Richard Pun, a sales executive of Fuji who sponsored the meeting.

The Next Issue

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The next 'Lens will appear in two months time. All copy, letters, advertisement and comment for consideration should be forwarded to the Press Office by the middle of November, 1985.