

ITN

THE LENS

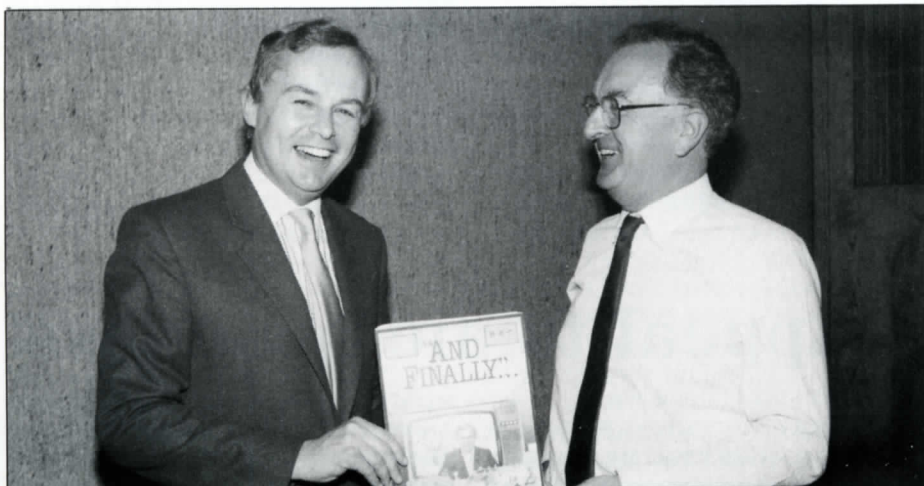
The Staff Newspaper for Independent Television News Oct-Nov 1986 Issue No. 21

The trainees now arriving ...



The young ones arrive in Wells Street, eager to help carry ITN into the age of cross-frontier television... All four trainees taken on this year for the two-year editorial course had already gathered impressive experience before joining ITN. They are (from the left): **Judy Aslett**, who did reporting spots for ABC in London and Metro Radio, and also presented programmes on Thamesmead Radio; **Jonathan Charles**, who has done BBC-TV and radio reporting and newsreading for IRN; **Michael Jermey**, who comes from Central Television current affairs and earlier did part-time research work for ITN; and **Simon Marks** who was in America at the time of the Mexican earthquake. He served IRN and TV-am with satellite packages on the disaster every day for a week.

... and the newscaster now gone



Meanwhile, an older ITN newshand bowed out. After sixteen years of sterling service, it was the final leave-taking for newscaster Martyn Lewis at a packed boardroom party. The 41-year-old six-footer (once described by a tabloid columnist as "diminutive") had been lured to the Beeb by chief headhunter Michael Grade, mainly to host a revamped lunchtime news show. The talents of a crack outfit like ITN will, of course, always be sought by desperate rivals. So Martyn's farewell was no occasion for hard feelings, but one marked by generosity of spirit. Indeed fellow Welshman, Editor-in-Chief David Nicholas said it was like losing a son. Martyn responded with equal grace and unconcealed emotion. Working for ITN, he said, had been a privilege and a pleasure.

Inside...

DEREK DOWSETT looks back on ten years of "the 545", the newscast with pace and style

PETER WARD reports on IBC 1986 which drew television engineers from across the globe

DAVID NELSON, in a new Opinion feature, asks: Should ITN "do a Reuters" and go public?

CAROL BARNES, so cool on News at Ten, confesses that she also has her nightmares!

SANDY GALL, home again from Afghanistan, talks about the future of that war-torn land

MICHAEL NICHOLSON recalls his summer assignment in South Africa and life outside the townships

ANDY TILLEY, News at One supremo, explains how he's meeting the BBC's new daytime challenge

BOB SPARKS reviews an ITN Angling Society year of fine catches. **BRIAN PENDRY** rounds up a successful season for Wells Street golfers

Also...

ITN set for 1987 Euronews ...
Historic coverage of Queen in China ...
"Charles and Diana" a hit ...
People on the move ... Time Off ...
Letters ... Christmas Appeal ...
ITN Club in Paris.



Presenter Stewart

Changing faces and changing places at ITN House on a grand scale this autumn...

On the newscaster front, **Carol Barnes** has joined the News at Ten team, 11 years after moving to ITN as a reporter from BBC's World at One.

Editor David Nicholas summed up her qualities: "The complete news professional, with that rare blend of authority and popular appeal". (See Carol Barnes interview).

Alastair Stewart is the new presenter of News at 545 which recently marked its tenth anniversary. (See special birthday feature).

Thirty-four-year-old Alastair joined ITN in 1980. For the past three years he's been a presenter/reporter with Channel Four News. David Nicholas praised his dedication and "all-round abilities at every level".

New roles for Channel One newsgeters...

Ian Glover-James has been appointed as ITN's new Moscow correspondent, and **Jeremy Thompson** has been assigned as our special correspondent in the Far East for a minimum period of six months.

Peter Wallace has been appointed



Secretary Boath

Sports Editor. Granada's political correspondent **Peter Allen** is joining ITN as political correspondent for Channel One. **Tim Friend**, who came to ITN from BBC radio news, is to become a 545/NAT writer.

And three new writers have joined the Channel One newsroom...

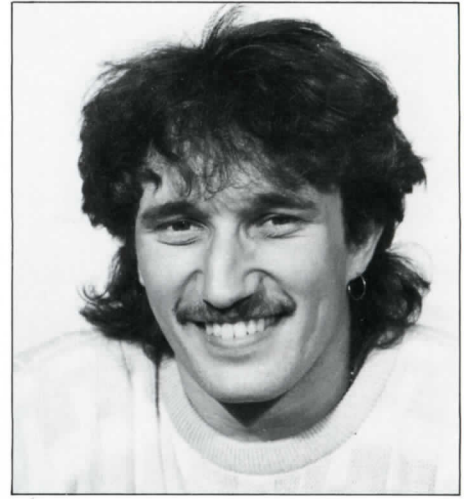
Nick Valentine comes to Wells Street from TV-am and before that the BBC-TV news subs' desk. **Kevin Marsh** comes from BBC radio news where he finished as a senior producer. **Ann Carroll** joins ITN from BBC-TV news.

James Mates has now been appointed as a reporter, and **Andrew Simmons** is joining ITN as a reporter from TV-am.

Robert Parker has joined the Channel Four News reporting team, and **Tony Millett** is appointed a programme editor on C4 News.

Paula O'Shea comes to Wells Street as a newsdesk assistant. **Stephen Brown** has joined the slides section of News Information from the Sporting Pictures photo agency.

Nicola Boath joins ITN as a secretary in the Editor's office, and **Susan Waters** has been appointed secretary



DR Bishop

to the Head of Engineering Communications. **Elizabeth Dorrell** has joined as a secretary in the Operations Department.

Death of Howard Thomas

As **Lens** went to press, ITN staff were saddened to learn of the death at 77 of **Howard Thomas, CBE**, chairman of this company from 1974 to 1976 and a board member for over 20 years. One of the founding fathers of Independent Television, he was involved in many of the major decisions which shaped ITN's development throughout the 1960s and early 1970s.

Thomas Relph comes to Wells Street as a despatch rider from a similar job with BBC-TV news. Motorbikes are also a hobby, along with skiing — and Kung Fu.

David Godfrey has also joined ITN as a despatch rider. Another recently-arrived DR is **Christian Bishop** who includes interior design among his previous work. He's also a soccer player, and has just taken up golf.

Our Christmas Appeal to aid homeless

Many of you were kind enough to contribute to last year's Christmas Appeal. You may remember we asked all ITN staff to buy one new toy to be distributed to families who could not afford to buy anything new for their children at Christmas. The toys were given out for us by experts from a registered charity and made Christmas a much happier occasion for many parents and children.

This year we are planning another appeal along similar lines, but designed to benefit a very different section of the

community ... the homeless.

The number of "street people" is increasing at an alarming rate. They are people from a surprising variety of backgrounds, many of them young. It is true that some have contributed to their own problems, but many have become homeless through no fault of their own.

During the very cold winter months they are in severe danger of literally freezing to death.

The appeal therefore is this: We ask all ITN staff to buy one item of warm clothing. It does not matter how cheap

or how expensive, but we do ask that it should be NEW. We suggest the most useful buys would be gloves, thermal socks, warm hats or warm scarves. All your gifts will be collected at ITN for distribution through the Crisis at Christmas Charity. Their volunteers will ensure that your gifts go *directly* to those most in need.

Please buy your gift as soon as possible (by the end of November if you can) and deliver it to either Terry O'Sullivan in News At One or David Mannion in Channel Four News. Thank you.

EURONEWS PROJECT MOVES ITN INTO NEW TELEVISION AGE



Euronews pioneers Suchet and Hunter

ITN's breakthrough into cross-frontier TV journalism came with the announcement in Brussels that the company is to start beaming a nightly news programme via satellite throughout Europe from the end of January 1987.

As a Wells Street "task force" readied itself for take-off, Editor-in-Chief David Nicholas summed up the significance of the move: "Trans-national news broadcasting is one of the most exciting challenges ITN has ever had to tackle".

The half-hour programme, ITN News, will be specially produced for a European audience. It will be seen at 10pm central European time and at 9pm in Britain.

And it will reach five million homes in 11 countries — from Finland to Spain — which are equipped with either a satellite receiver dish or are connected to a cable TV network. Around 100,000 homes in the UK which subscribe to cable TV will be able to receive the service.

The Euro-programme will be presented by John Suchet, a regular newscaster on both News at One and the 545. Editor is Bob Hunter, a former News at Ten programme editor, who also played a key role in bringing TV-am to Britain's screens.

ITN News will be transmitted in English and relayed throughout Europe via a satellite stationed 22,300 miles above the equator.

It will offer more of a global and pan-European perspective than domestic news programmes. It will also feature a nightly business and financial report, sports news and a European weather and travel service.

Nicholas again: "Over the past 30 years, ITN has demonstrated again and

again the British public's appetite for quality news programmes. I am convinced there will be a substantial audience in Europe for a nightly news programme offering an independent, alternative view of the world and of Europe".

He emphasised that ITN would not be trying to compete with domestic news bulletins in Europe. Instead, for the first time, it would be offering viewers access to a truly "International information pack" on television.

"Charles and Diana" an audience hit

ITN's two-part programme on the working and private lives of the Prince and Princess of Wales was a resounding success with the public.

A total of 25 million people saw part of one or both productions screened on September 21 and 22. An independent poll by Harris Research said 90% of them found "In Private, In Public" enjoyable. And almost two-thirds (64%) rejected the view that it had intruded into the privacy of the royal couple.

The Harris poll also showed that 85% of viewers believed the programme gave the public a better understanding of the way of life of the Prince and Princess. Filmed over the past year, it was the first comprehensive look at their private and public worlds.

Profits from overseas sales and video cassettes of the programme will go to the Prince's Trust Youth Business Appeal and the royal couple's Charities Trusts.

It has already been seen coast-to-coast in the United States, Canada and New Zealand. The programme is also being shown in Australia, and many more countries throughout the world will screen it in the coming months.

BOOK REVIEW

Splitting the difference!

This book should carry an official Marital Health Warning. It is certainly not a suitable Christmas stocking filler, for wife or husband, unless the marriage is about to fall apart.

That aside, Tony Hetherington, Channel 4 News business and economic affairs pundit, has written what I suppose must be seen as an essential tract for these unhappy times.

He calls it "How To Split Up — And Survive Financially" (Unwin Paperbacks, £2.95) and, like the crisp writer he is, Hetherington's title says it all.

Divorce may be simpler nowadays but carving up the marital spoils is not. It's a financial battle. This book will help both partners to wage it, though Hetherington warns there are few winners: just good losers and bad losers. If the couple are simply living together, much of the guidance remains valid.

The 120 pages are crammed with detailed, up-to-date and practical advice

embracing (no, let's say covering!) lawyers, legal aid, maintenance orders, tax laws and the rest of the divorce/separation jungle.

Of course, publishers being what they are, the blurb includes the now almost obligatory nudge-and-wink line that the book is written "with a dash of humour".

One sample: "If you don't get married you miss all the excitement of getting divorced". A happy family man like Hetherington may well regard that as funny. Many others may not.

But that's a minor quibble. For this little work reflects pretty accurately the character and style of its author: well-informed, totally realistic and never dull.

I could even be wrong about its suitability as a Christmas gift. It may be that a guide like this works in the manner of some insurance policies — simply buying it will ensure that the worst never happens!

— ARTHUR CLIFFORD

TIME FOR ITN TO FOLLOW REUTERS AND GO PUBLIC?

By DAVID NELSON, Channel One Writer

The recent public share flotation of two ITV programme companies, Thames and Yorkshire was a success in stock market terms — and for those companies. There is now no major programme contractor without a stock market quote. While the decision by Thames and Yorkshire to go public was prompted by the need to satisfy demands from the IBA for wider ownership, the outcome is that they are financially stronger companies. And it raises the question: should ITN consider a stock market flotation?

There is a precedent for a company of similar structure to ITN going public. The Reuters news agency, which had been owned by 34 newspapers, went public in June 1984. Reuters were able to do this because they had diversified into a lucrative market — computer linked financial information available to bankers, and stockmarkets around the world at the touch of a button. They started making a profit for the first time in 100 years. The 34 newspapers found their previously worthless holding in Reuters worth millions. Reuters, in turn, were able to fuel further growth and secure their future.

But, you may say, ITN does not make a profit. Who would want to buy shares in a company that doesn't make a profit?

The only reason this is so is that the regional ITV companies have taken away our capacity to make a profit. They sell the advertisement breaks around our news bulletins — and those are worth between 40 and 50 million pounds a year, depending on how buoyant the advertising market is at the time. It's still enough to cover our annual budget.

So the first prerequisite to any share flotation is that ITN should receive the revenue generated by those adverts. At the moment each region sells its own advertising. There is no national sales organisation for the main ITV network. ITN would be in a unique position if it was selling its own advertising space. But why should the regional companies give up that revenue? If they did, they would not have to put their hands in their pockets to pay for ITN. We would have a reasonably good idea of our annual income, and would not have to go cap in hand to the regional companies every



year for our budget.

But, you may say, that would mean ITN setting up its own advertisement sales organisation. It would still be cheaper than having advertisement sales staff in each of the 13 regional companies.

So if ITN were a public company, how would it fit in with the rest of the network?

Firstly, the programme contractors who currently own ITN would still hold a majority shareholding. They would still constitute the ITN board of directors. And their shares in ITN would be an asset on their books — instead of a liability as at present. The programme companies have a duty, under the Independent Broadcasting Acts, to carry news bulletins. That duty would remain so ITN would be guaranteed its main function of providing news to the ITV network. And the shareholding of ITN would give the regional companies a financial incentive to continue that arrangement. Companies like Granada and Yorkshire, who have made noises in the past about taking over ITN's role, would find it against their interest to try and usurp ITN's position — if they did they would find their shareholdings worthless.

Secondly, as a fully fledged Independent company, ITN would have more say in the scheduling of its own programmes. We would rightly demand full status on the Network scheduling committee, thereby giving us a stronger base to push for the transmission of any

special programmes we might produce.

One of the main arguments against a public flotation for ITN is that we would jeopardise our editorial integrity in a race for ratings, going down market to capture viewers. But you cannot take ITN's ratings in isolation from the programmes scheduled round the bulletins. Our greater status on the scheduling committee could result in our criticisms of some scheduling decisions which affect ITN ratings — and maybe achieve changes for the better.

There is also an argument that by becoming a seller of advertising space ourselves, editorial integrity would be threatened by a need to keep advertisers sweet. It is possible that some advertisers might withdraw their custom if they were upset by a particular news report. However, there is also a vast area of financial advertising that remains largely untapped by television — a prestige spot in the centre of News at Ten would be attractive to these advertisers. In other words, if one advertiser pulls out, there are usually others waiting to take his place.

So what are the advantages to ITN of having a publicly quoted share?

Our long term planning would be considerably easier. Without the annual ritual of the budget submission, financial plans can be drawn up further in the future.

In the event of major capital expenditure becoming necessary, a stockmarket quote opens up many means of raising capital in the City currently unavailable to us. Future developments in satellite television will put ITN directly in competition with companies such as CNN, NBC and Sky Channel, to name but three. These companies are all in the big league, able to command huge sums of money to put their plans into operation. ITN is not even in their league while we remain the financial child of the regional companies.

Finally, in the event of any ITN share issue, shares would be made available to ITN staff. This would give ITN employees a direct interest in the future of the company, while share option schemes offer tax benefits currently unavailable.

Smoking — let's clear the air

Since the first issue of the new-style Lens, several readers have approached us with a request to "do something, or at least say something" about the smoking problem in ITN House.

Each was urged to write to Lens about it. They all declined. One, a fairly senior staff member, said: "Sorry, but I dare not". Lens told him that was absurd: life in Wells Street was not exactly Russia under Stalin. He still would not write that letter. Lens will therefore have to speak for him and the others concerned.

For the smoking problem will not go away. The conflict between ITN's puffers and non-puffers will go on. Indeed, the heightened awareness of tobacco as a killer means it will become increasingly bitter.

One of the readers mentioned above suggested that non-smoking ought, in future, to be a condition of employment at ITN. "Then," she added coldly. "Retirement and premature death, often directly due to smoking, would eventually phase out the problem".

Well, that's one way. But could you really see ITN rejecting a first-class

applicant simply because he or she smoked cigarettes? And if it did, would such a policy truly merit solid support?

So what about smoking and non-smoking areas in ITN House? Again, a non-starter. In most departments the nature of the work would make it quite impracticable. Could you imagine a "smokers' bulletin" and a "non-smokers' bulletin"? Apart from anything else, it would be a rostering nightmare.

But two small steps *could* be taken. The first would involve nothing more than good manners.

It is often said by the anti-fox hunting brigade that hunting types tend to be the worst possible advocates for their cause because of their appalling behaviour.

In the same way, the slobbish habits of many smokers in ITN House are enough to make a bishop kick a hole in his stained glass windows (as Raymond Chandler once observed in a not dissimilar context).

They seem positively to delight in blowing their smoke directly down the throats of non-addicts, or leaving their smouldering missiles in ashtrays parked

in places guaranteed to cause even more casualties of secondary smoking.

The result is to cause the maximum inconvenience and distress to ITN people not intent upon shortening their lives. And those overflowing ashtrays are seldom, if ever, emptied by the smokers themselves. That sick-making chore is left to their hapless victims. Why should non-smokers have to suffer like this? A little more consideration and courtesy by the smokers in our midst would not solve the problem. But it would make our working lives a little more agreeable. Lens can think of many worse New Year resolutions.

The second step would involve a new ITN House rule. The need here is best summed up by yet another staff member who was reluctant to write to us.

"Why," she asked, "should I be required to use a mobile coffin not once, but several times, each working day?" She was referring, of course, to the lifts and suggesting that smoking in them should not merely be discouraged, as at present, but strictly forbidden. Lens fully supports the idea.

LETTERS

STRESSED SCRIBES

SIR — I must congratulate you on the success of your first issue as editor of The Lens, I feel that you achieved the ideal for a house journal: a reflection of the image that the company would like to project both to its staff and to the outside world at large.

Thankfully, there were only a few references to the insignificant 50% of staff connected with that rather distasteful process of actually producing and distributing the golden words (and pictures): eg, Audrey Gullick's retirement and Brian Edmonton's retirement.

In the latter, I was delighted to see references such as, "It is difficult for engineers to accept the discipline of TV journalism", and not any of those namby-pamby ideas that a journalist moving into television news should bother to find out how the medium works, how it is different from radio or newspapers and what limitations or knock-ons can occur.

This glorious and consistent approach continued to the inside back page, where I noted that a survey "put journalists in

third place in a stress league". In future I'm sure that many of us, including myself, the production gallery crew and the editor in VT1 (who at four minutes to one has just received track and rushes for NAO's Story 2) will be much more sympathetic to the poor stressed journalists!

—DAVE SIMPSON, Sound Recording.

FIXER CAUGHT OUT

SIR — Keith Hatfield's story of the 70th anniversary of the Somme made interesting reading. Until I had seen the military cemeteries in the area myself, the vast number of casualties is difficult to comprehend and Keith's article brought this out very well.

I was, however, surprised that Robin, his fixer, was caught out by the traffic jam on the arrival of the VIPs.

As a despatch rider with ITN for many years, I and my colleagues in the department are only too aware of this problem and of the need to have one's vehicle well clear of the area to ensure a quick run to the feed point, as we had previously done in France for the D-Day Anniversary.

A case for horses for courses, perhaps? — M. G. HILLS, Despatch Riders.

LENS ON VIDEO?

SIR — From reading The Lens, it appears to be mainly by journalists for journalists. But there are so many other disciplines within ITN.

So, people, why not write about your own particular slot or cog in the ITN machine? We could all learn about each other's problems and ways of mitigating them. Additionally, why not create a regular *video* edition of The Lens, where we could swap job functions?

Who knows, we might discover some hidden talents!

— MARTIN GENTLE, Hire of Services editor.

SMALL COMFORT!

SIR — I see ITN has been economising again. Yes, I am referring to the brand new super-non-absorbent hand towels which have been installed in the "comfort stations".

What a masterpiece of economic planning: a roller towel system which never needs changing because it never gets wet. What price chapped hands operating the VDU terminals!

Perhaps we are soon to be issued with a special ITN anti-chafing lotion?

— JILL DENNIS, Press Office.

Every two years, broadcasting engineers from across the world gather in Brighton for the International Broadcasting Convention. ITN's Director of Engineering, PETER WARD — a valued contributor to the technical symposium — sums up this year's exhibition and conference.



ITN SHINES AT IBC '86

This year the IBC's well-respected technical symposium included papers on a wide range of subjects — Direct Broadcast Satellites, High Definition Television, Satellite and Cable Services and data on Radio Channels, as well as the more mundane subjects, such as telecine, transmitters and outside broadcast facilities.

Amongst the Brighton papers was one by myself, Michael Neusten (ITN's Head of Communications Engineering) and Brian Beech (a Development Engineer with the IBA at Crawley Court).

The subject was "International Satellite News Gathering" and included a description of ITN's unique flight-pack mobile ground station. In addition to use in the UK, this has brought back stories of President Reagan's visit to Bali, Indonesia, where it worked for the American networks as well as ITN, and from Central Africa where the Sport Aid programme was covered from Burkino Faso. Its latest overseas assignment was to cover the Queen's visit to Canada. IBA engineers developed a unique device called a "threshold extension demodulator" which allows the low-power transmitter to be received satisfactorily at the British Telecom Madley ground station, even in quite poor atmospheric conditions.

Although the exhibition is much smaller than the annual American National Association of Broadcasters show, several interesting trends emerged.

ENG VTR FORMATS—

Here the question is — will the long established high band U-Matic format, which is the international standard for ENG, soon be ousted by something else?

Sony is concentrating its sales efforts on Betacam — the combined camera VTR package already used by some ITV programme companies. Sony now has a 3 CCD chip camera — stable photo-sensitive microchips have replaced the less stable camera tubes. These give a lighter camera/VTR combination which weighs no more than our existing camera/lens/battery pack. This was the first exhibition showing of the CCD camera working on 625 lines, although we have had a pre-launch demonstration at ITN, and also had a 10-day field trial arranged for 27th October-5th November.

However, our tests of the Betacam VTR show that quality degrades more

rapidly through tape generations than with U-Matic, particularly when compared to the newer SP (Special Performance) version of the U-Matic which performs particularly well. To overcome these performance limitations Sony is introducing an SP version of the Beta. This was shown for the first time in 625 at IBC, but initial reaction to 5th generation tape quality was that Sony will still have some way to go to match Panasonic's new M II format.

Panasonic is pressing hard to break into the broadcasting market and introduced M II at the US NAB show this year. There was doubt whether they would swiftly enter the PAL market as well. Now both Betacam SP and M II are to be available in the second half of 1987.

Demonstrations of M II at IBC showed remarkable quality and give considerable hope that it will prove adequate to replace both U-Matic and 1" VTR with a single format in the future. NBC are sufficiently convinced to have placed a multi-million dollar order. Field equipment is somewhat more compact than Betacam with the Ikegami camera/M II VTR combo a particularly attractive unit. No CCD camera is available yet, but one is promised for next year.

Meanwhile, the greatest threat to M II taking off appears to be the number of established broadcasting manufacturers who have committed themselves, perhaps prematurely, to market or produce Betacam gear. These include Ampex and Philips-Bosch — Bosch having dropped their Quartercam format. Thomson, who also back the Beta format, have produced their own CCD camera using the Sony chips.

SNG

A very disappointing turnout of satellite equipment with only two manufacturers (Mid-West and Marconi) showing SNG gear. The Mid-West equipment is really only suitable for American domestic satellites, although they showed a small SNG truck claimed to be compliant for INTELSAT. In conversation Mid-West reckoned that about eight flight pack SNG systems have been sold in USA, whereas truck-mounted SNG has sold on a large scale to American local stations.

GRAPHICS

A notable feature was the arrival of the "Write once — read many" optical disk

for stills store archives. These are available for the Logica/Rank and Quantel systems, storing 2,000 stills per disk. Using a "juke box" type of player electronic access to huge numbers of stills is now becoming a practical possibility.

Graphics work stations, similar to the Rank system we plan to acquire for SuperChannel, are now becoming very much the norm. These combine painting, captioning and stills storage in one unit. Thomson and others have similar systems.

HIGH DEFINITION TELEVISION

Sony gave their usual demonstration of 1125 line pictures notable this time for material played directly from an optical disk player. If, and when, these arrive as a domestic product they could pose a major threat to conventional broadcast TV.

Following the postponement at the CCIR standardisation meeting of a proposal to accept the Japanese system as an international production standard, the pressure is on European manufacturers and broadcasters to come up with a viable alternative. This needs to be suited to European conditions and with the emphasis on evolution from and compatibility with existing standards. To this end, a remarkable demonstration was given by Philips who showed large screen, high quality pictures claimed to be capable of being contained within a single DBS channel. The absence of engineers to answer questions was obvious and probably necessary to keep the Japanese at bay.

STANDARDS CONVERSION

AVS have a new converter claimed to be in advance of ACE.

MONITORS

Barco has introduced a microprocessor controlled automatic set up monitor which may be useful for areas where expertise in monitor alignment may be slim.

PYXIS

This is an ENG VTR time base corrector which also includes a vision mixer providing cuts, wipes, mixes and several other effects. It handles audio, too. This sounds too good to be true at around £8,000 but a look at the brief specification suggests it will not be up to broadcast standards. We shall be bringing in a unit for test.

The move to News at Ten has not changed her, merely heightened viewers' perception of her qualities. She still blends engaging modesty with quiet assurance. Colleagues still say she is a joy to work with. But that's not the end of the Carol Barnes story, as JONATHAN CHARLES has been finding out ...

COOL CAROL HAS HER NIGHTMARES, TOO!

What is a newscaster's worst nightmare? According to Carol Barnes, it goes like this ... The time is 9.57pm, but the News at Ten studio is locked. You have to swim a raging torrent to reach the desk. You finally make it, but too late — NAT has already begun!

It's hard to believe that Carol, of all people, could have such dreams. But the cool, calm 41-year-old ex-reporter now presenting News at Ten three nights week is totally open about it. And that certainly is in character.

She says the NAT job came as a surprise. "While on holiday I read that Pam Armstrong was leaving, then that Martyn Lewis was also going. It was quite a shock. When I returned to work, David Nicholas offered me a place on the NAT team."

Today, Carol is sharply aware of the pressures that go with newscasting at the summit. "I'm the last person at the end of the production line. If I get it wrong on-air, everyone's work goes out of the window. The most perfectly written piece can be destroyed by bad delivery."

Her broadcasting career began with Independent Radio News in the early 1970s. Earlier jobs had included managing editor of Time Out and PRO at the Royal Court Theatre. She "strayed" into broadcasting after friends urged her to apply for work with the newly-formed IRN.

"I joined as a scriptwriter," she recalls, "but before long I was reading the news. They were the pioneering days of commercial radio. There were no firm guidelines; we all learned as we went along".

For Carol it was also a good time for making friends in the world of broadcast journalism. "Quite a number of ITN's present staff, among them Jon Snow, Joan Thirkettle and Peter Cole, were recruited from IRN."

She went on to join BBC Radio News, then came the breakthrough when ITN offered her a post on News at One.

But, just as she dislikes being "glammed up and prettified all the time",

Carol refuses to make a great drama of it. "I decided to make the move to television because it seemed a natural progression. Once you've been in radio news, you begin to think, well, why don't I work with pictures? Surely, as a journalist, you want to use all the resources that are available".

Carol is happy to say she has not found newscasting on News at Ten too nerve-racking — in sharp contrast to the first time she made her debut as an ITN newscaster on News at One.

"That was an absolutely terrifying moment, but then my adrenalin started pumping, and I realised I had to put my own feelings aside and simply get on with the job".

It seems that most ITN newscasters agree that News at One is a particularly difficult programme to present: a swiftly-moving twenty-two minutes, with the newscaster often having to contend with live interviews as well as the constant crosstalk of instructions barrelling down the earpiece.

Carol takes the view that while News at Ten may have eleven million people watching any mistakes you make, at least there's another newscaster to help you out *and* a commercial break for a blissful gulp of water!

As she settles into her new role, Carol feels it is important that she presents precisely the right image to ITN's audience.

But there is nothing complicated about her recipe for successful newscasting. "I try to be authoritative, for people have got to believe what you're saying. I also try to be friendly and relaxed — but not so relaxed as to be flippant."

And she believes it is vital for the viewer to have faith in the newscaster. "That's why I treat every item as though I'm speaking to a person and not to a camera."

Even for the practical, level-headed, no-nonsense Carol, getting to the top has not been easy. But perhaps the toughest part has been the need to reconcile the pressures of being a wife and mother with the constant demands of the job.



But she is determined to ensure that, somehow, she always *does* find enough time for her family. Her husband is award-winning ITN cameraman Nigel Thompson and there are two children, Clare, seven, and four-year-old James.

"Of course my career is very important to me," says Carol, "but when I'm with my family, it is essential that nothing else interferes".

A typical day involves organising the children at the Barnes family home in Brighton before even thinking of setting off for Wells Street.

Carol says, with evident relief, that both Clare and James have got to the stage where the regular appearance of their mother on the nation's TV screens is nothing unusual — "In fact, they're totally blasé about it now. I suppose they've just got used to it as they've grown up. Nowadays, they can't understand why all their friends' mummies aren't on television as well!"

Carol's eleven years in TV news have given her what can only be described as a calm confidence. That, to put it mildly, is a vital asset for someone who has to look composed before the cameras for thirty minutes at a stretch.

But the genuine modesty is always there. It comes out in the rather self-conscious smile when you mention the praise of her colleagues. They all agree that, given her brand of steely professionalism and ability to think on her feet, Carol's future as a national newscaster seems assured.

So what of the future? Carol grins and gives a little shake of her head. "It's hard to think beyond News at Ten at the moment. But, if I'm given the opportunity, I *would* like to carry on doing some reporting in the field."

Since the mid-1970s, the terse label "Five Forty-Five" has been enough instantly to identify one of the outstanding successes of television journalism. Editor DEREK DOWSETT (pictured in party mood on the opposite page) looks back on ten years of ITN's snappy early-evening newscast ...

NEWS WITH PACE, NEWS WITH STYLE — THAT'S THE 545!

Sixteen minutes to six o'clock on Monday, August 30th, 1976. It was August Bank Holiday and every journalist will tell you that Bank Holidays make bad news days but now, after weeks of discussions and arguments, false starts and dummy runs, we were in the Studio Two control room for the countdown into the first News at 545.

Sixteen minutes later Alastair Burnet had wound up the programme with the day's headlines and, like a new batsman who'd broken his duck, we breathed slightly more easily now we had one under our belt.

Ever since its inception more than thirty years ago, ITN has had an early evening news programme but when the then Editor, Nigel Ryan, prised a few extra minutes out of the network it was seen as an ideal opportunity to revamp and relaunch the programme. David Philips, who had been producing News at Ten, was chosen to head the team and he spent a hectic few days wheeling and dealing to get his team together. I was wined and dined several times to convince me I was an ideal chief-sub for the programme. Frank Miles was given high speed exercise walking round the block outside ITN House as David Philips persuaded him he was the man to become lead writer. Barbara Mandell was chosen as copy taster and with James Goulding as director we had the nucleus of the editorial team.

Alastair Burnet returned from Fleet Street to anchor the programme and from the outset we set out to provide a television equivalent of an evening newspaper — the main news of the day presented in a compact, lively way using as much picture and visualisation as we could.

The aim was a tightly edited, brightly written programme which balanced the

hard news with sport and entertainment.

Newsroom legend has it that Alastair's first words on air were: "They're putting Notting Hill together again" — this after the serious race riots there. Unfortunately for us and for the legend, the Notting Hill riots did not start until *after* the first programme. In fact, the very first story was a report on torture in Namibia from Trevor McDonald.

Because sport was an essential part of our concept that first programme had three stories devoted to racing, soccer and athletics. And as well as Trevor McDonald there were reports from Michael Nicholson and Martyn Lewis, both of whom were to present the 545 at a later stage.

In those early days there was a vast amount of experimentation. We had the headlines *after* the first story; we tried different visual systems to improve the effect; we used live interviews when we could — not always a good idea because of the difficulties in stopping the interviewees once they got into full flow.

There were problems aplenty. In those days the majority of the reports were on film which meant processing delays: then there were the battles with the regions when they had a good local story; the time difference with the States and the time schedules of Parliament often meant a major story was still running when we went on air.

Alastair Burnet reintroduced the idea of newscaster involvement. He wrote some of the programme and contributed ideas for stories and interviews. With the nucleus of a regular team we were able to provide the continuity and involvement which helped create an individual identity for the programme.

It wasn't all smooth running. There were critics. NUJ Chapel meetings attacked the system because some

specialists and writers felt they were not getting a share of the action. After one programme when we controversially led on the death of an ailing Zoo giraffe, three senior journalists felt moved to make a formal protest to the Deputy Editor.

After a few months Paul McKee produced the research to show a profile of our viewers. Not mum in Wigan exactly but certainly a strong following in the provinces outside London and the South East. It was with this in mind that to mark the Queen's Jubilee Year we took the show on the road as the Queen and Prince Philip went round the United Kingdom.

The most memorable stories? Well, the royals are always good box office. The Jubilee, the royal weddings, the Queen's sixtieth and Queen Mum's eightieth birthdays. Then there were the big natural disasters like the starvation in Africa and the Mexican earthquake with their devastating emotional images; the Manchester air crash and the Challenger explosion, which happened within an hour of airtime; the Elections and big political stories like the resignations of Heseltine and Britten. The list is endless.

Where do we go from here? Well obviously DBS will be the big thing between now and the end of the century but I reckon there will be a place for the 545-style programme over the next ten years. There will be changes in styles and taste and the competition will be fierce, but providing we keep a finger on the public pulse we can still keep our edge — and keep Ron Neil on his toes.

Ten years of News at 545 means more than 2,500 programmes. It can be exciting and satisfying, it can be frustrating and disappointing, it can leave you short of fuse and short on nails but one thing is certain — it's never dull.



ITN's "CHINA LIVE" MAKES TV HISTORY

ITN viewers helped to make television history during the Queen's trip to China in October — for the live ITN and TV-am pictures of that memorable visit proved a pace-setter for the most adventurous TV coverage from abroad ever mounted.

Projected from the outset into the heart of events, given a ringside seat on every slice of pageantry, those viewers must have felt this company's slogan — "See It Happen on ITN" — to be almost an understatement!

Clocked in his tracks ...

Once the 545 had built up the biggest audience of any TV news programme in Britain, reporters were enthusiastic to get on it. But that wasn't how it was at the start.

The daily directive from David Phillips, "A minute and a quarter — top wallop!" upset the egos of some, who tried a virtual boycott of the programme.

I remember one irate reporter storming across the canteen, where I was wondering why the curry smelt good but tasted awful, shouting: "You can tell him (David) there's no way I can do my story in under three minutes. He'll have to

go without".

As Chief Writer, I'd been assigned to look after this masterpiece. "To tell you the truth," I lied, "I haven't had time to study your story. What's it all about?"

The moment the reporter began, I clicked a stopwatch in my pocket. At the end I held it out and said, "That took you just 47 seconds. I'll tell David you'll be able to get it into a minute".

I believe the story was about a minute-five when it went out. And, bless News at Ten that day, they ran it at the same length!

—FRANK MILES



Presenter in Peking

For the first time ever, the Chinese allowed ITN to send back live pictures using its portable satellite transmitting dish. That made the Queen's long-awaited Chinese tour a spectacular, living occasion for her people back home as well as the royal party.

At the same time, ITN laid on extensive foreign coverage to capture the sights and sound of everyday China; to reveal how this mighty nation has at last come of age, ready to compete in the 21st century.

As well as full reports in all ITN's regular bulletins, there were nightly live reports from Peking presented by Leonard Parkin, and ITN special programmes on every aspect of the tour. More specials followed when the Queen travelled on to Hong Kong.

It all produced a constant stream of remarkable pictures. ITN Editor David Nicholas described the coverage as marking a high point in the company's reporting of royal visits abroad.

He added: "We have harnessed the best journalistic talent with the latest in communications technology to guarantee comprehensive reports for the viewers at home".



In three perilous trips to Afghanistan, Sandy Gall — a veteran war reporter in the classic tradition — has demonstrated his deep interest in the rebels' bitter struggle against the Soviet invaders. He insists he is not a propagandist, but simply a newsman in search of the truth. JUDY ASLETT talks to the gentle giant whose 1986 travels in the saddle have been anything but leisurely.

HOME AGAIN FROM THE HIDDEN WAR

November's documentary was his third on Afghanistan and charted his third trip there. Now, he says, it's time for younger journalists to take over. But Sandy Gall is a hard act to follow. He has been reporting wars for 33 years, and is the only TV newsman who has shown a real interest in Afghanistan.

The Afghan conflict is well described as *The Forgotten War*. No one seems overkeen to sample the local fare of unleavened bread and a bit of goat. Journalists are not exactly queuing to cross the frontier from Pakistan on horseback as Sandy and his crew had to.

Also, as in any war, the physical risks are great. Over the years, the war has escalated, making many roads impassable and creating areas which even Sandy would not venture into.

An added problem for television, as he points out, is that the highly-mobile existence of the anti-Soviet guerrillas in Afghanistan means that you can never be sure of catching up with them. So there is no guarantee, even once you've made the trip, of returning to London with anything more than striking pictures of mountains.

But Sandy describes the importance of the war as comparable to Vietnam. The major difference is that, while Vietnam became the major news story of the late 1960s, Afghanistan has hardly been reported at all. There are many reasons for the apparent lack of interest, and Sandy cites some of them.

"In Vietnam it was easy. The Americans flew us everywhere. We stayed in hotels and information was readily available. That's not the case in Afghanistan. There are no hotels and you have to travel on horseback or, worse still, walk. It is certainly excellent guerrilla terrain — but terrible for television!"

It would seem that for many foreign news editors these are good reasons for

not reporting this far-off war at all. Add to that the fact that no British or Americans are involved, and the conflict becomes even more remote. But Sandy hopes his latest ITV documentary will have done something to change that.

"I think it tells a horrifying story about what is really happening in Afghanistan", he says. "Because the Russians find it so difficult to trap the guerrillas, the chilling pattern of the war is that they attack the villagers, most of whom support the guerrillas. When they are asked, 'Where are they?' the villagers will say 'We don't know'. And then they tend to get shot".

Many of those who are not shot by the Russians escape over the borders to Pakistan and Iran. The documentary included several interviews with these refugees who now amount to one-third of Afghanistan's population — that's a total of five million people.

But Sandy also made that third journey to the war-torn land to renew contact with the Mujahideen guerrilla leader, Ahmed Shah Masud, who he had met during his first trip four years earlier. He is judged by Sandy to be one of the most formidable fighters the Soviet invaders face.

Shortly after arriving at Masud's camp, Sandy and his crew witnessed an attack on a nearby army garrison where 300 Afghan government troops were based. The post, near Farakhar, was taken in a skilfully executed guerrilla assault which yielded some spectacular footage.

Sandy's close contact with Masud and those vivid descriptions of the plight of the refugees helped to provide for ITV viewers the most comprehensive report of the Afghan war so far. Yet he remains sharply aware how difficult it is to get the complete story — since it's almost impossible for a Western journalist to go anywhere near the Russian forces.

Nevertheless, Sandy has been able to



show how the guerrilla forces are operating, and also offer a perspective on the conflict from the field, not a desk in London.

"I certainly don't want my report to be seen as Mujahideen propaganda," he stresses. "I went to Afghanistan simply because I saw a war which wasn't being reported and I thought it should be".

His documentary does not delve too deeply into the ideology of the conflict. The Mujahideen guerrillas are Moslem, but what form their society could take, should they triumph, is not discussed.

Sandy explains: "Masud is very cagey about that. I've never discussed it with him, but he may talk to his friends privately. I think he'd like an Islamic society, obviously, but I don't think it would be like Iran: perhaps more like Egypt or Saudi Arabia. I don't know; it's up to them".

Looking beyond the present horrors, Sandy believes that Afghanistan has the capacity to look like Switzerland. He describes it today as a "Switzerland without the roads, the buildings or the wealth" but sees no reason why it should not become more prosperous in the future.

But what he hopes the documentary will provoke is more interest in the war. This latest report was produced by Central Television, who also handled his last two films, though Sandy is quick to stress the immense support he has had from ITN.

He says he has no intention of going back to Afghanistan, but he does plan to write a book about it. At 59, he could well sit back feeling he's more than done his whack for journalism, both on and off the screen. Happily, that's not his style; and he intends to go on newscasting for News At Ten until, in his words, "they fire me or retire me".

That suggests Sandy Gall is going to be around for quite a few years yet ...

SOUTH AFRICA: TOO LATE FOR HOPE?

Michael Nicholson returned this summer to South Africa where, five years ago, he was ITN's correspondent. For six weeks he covered the familiar story of conflict and violence. But outside the townships he found a different world. He gives Lens his personal impressions of the assignment.

White waiter, black tie, serving black customer with white girl friend ... My first night back in Johannesburg and the first pointer. Five years ago the only blacks in the Carlton Hotel changed the bed linen and washed dirty plates.

Over the next few weeks I witnessed changes which, according to P.W. Botha's apartheid laws ought not to have happened.

I was unprepared. Television news had not told me about them; and I was more aware than ever how tunnel-visioned we are in this business and how the producer's passion for shocking often blots out the overview.

Watching from safe Surrey, I might easily have concluded that all South Africa was aflame; that the line of revolution stretched all the way up the Great North Road from Cape Town to Biet Bridge.

The familiar TV face of South Africa is violent: violent black faces, violent white. But there is life outside of the townships.

At a small dance school in Parkview, Johannesburg, we watched Susan and Temba learning their first ballet steps together. Fikile and William were in the same line up. A few years ago this simply could not have happened.

Tiny people, tiny changes and perhaps not important in the scale of things. But move a few years up into the private "open" schools and it simply is not possible to report that nothing is being done to bring South Africans together — though any reporter runs the risks of being labelled an apologist of apartheid merely by suggesting it.

While the township schools remained closed because of black as well as white intimidation, black and white children sit side by side learning *Sutu* and *Zulu* as taught by Mrs Florence Zungu.

According to headmasters I interviewed, there are fifty per cent more non-whites in these "open" schools than five years ago and *three times as many*



blacks.

White applications are being turned down because the schools are anxious to bring in more black children. (Depending in which part they live, some children only put on their school uniforms once they've left the townships and take them off before they're bussed back for fear of being attacked.)

Change is slow and mostly for the privileged, but more and more blacks are joining the ranks. The critics see this as a sinister attempt to split a united black front: a self-indulgent black middle class forming a buffer twixt Pretoria and the revolutionaries.

But the truth is that the black middle class is expanding at a rate encouraged and determined by international pressures on South African business, and by the policies of international companies based in South Africa.

In the one area where the government could have directly wooed the black, in the civil service and public utilities, they have done next to nothing and it remains almost exclusively Afrikaner.

Typical of the emergent middle classes we met were Pearl Lutuli, managing editor of a fashion magazine with multi-racial staffers and a multi-racial readership, and Trevor Tutu, the Archbishop's British-educated son who drives a special edition MGB and is a marketing executive.

The crunch, of course, comes when he must drive himself back to Soweto because of the Group Areas law.

With their degrees from South African

and foreign universities, successful black graduates like Pearl Lutuli and Trevor Tutu have vaulted into jobs that would not have been available five years ago.

The English-speaking universities have led the white impetus for change. Witswatersrand in Johannesburg and the universities in Cape Town and Natal are all multi-racial, at least on the campus and in the lecture rooms. Wits have even dared to open its halls of residence to all races, taking advantage of a publishers' slip in spelling out the law — and then ignoring the reprint!

Perhaps the biggest surprise was at Stellenbosch University, the heart of Afrikanerdom. More than half President Botha's cabinet are old boys, and I did not expect to find their sons and daughters radically different. But they are. At least they consider themselves to be, anxious to force the pace of change.

One 20-year-old said on camera that if, a few years ago, she had told her parents she was going out to dinner with a black, they would have locked her in. And did she? I asked. Yes! she answered.

Another told me that in 1981 it would have been inconceivable for any black, other than a servant, to be in his family house. Now his father regularly sat down to dinner with black business associates.

"Apartheid does not exist when you don't want it to," he said to camera. "When they come, we all have a beautiful evening as South Africans".

I wonder if they were promises of intent or whether they, like their fathers, would when it suited them prop up the privileges that apartheid guarantees. Or whether, as many South Africa watchers have long predicted, change will be sudden and radical once the old men of this regime move or are moved aside ... Change initiated by the new whites out of honest motives and not simply knee-jerking to the township revolutionaries.

But even given enough whites in the middle ground who want real change peaceably, will they find enough black allies to help? Because, according to Sylvia Gon of the South African Institute of Race Relations, that is the problem.

She says black and white society has become so polarised that people — mostly black people — are now afraid to be seen as moderate. They are forced, through fear of intimidation, to wave the flag of revolution, too. It's called the "necklace syndrome".

Change? Certainly. The structures of apartheid *are* being dismantled. But, sadly, for this country of many faces, not at a pace quick enough to disarm the revolution.

He's a hard-driving programme editor who makes no secret of his hunger for big audiences — and positively thrives on competition. As ITN's News At One supremo confronts a fresh BBC challenge, he is interviewed by SIMON MARKS.

TILLEY: READY FOR THE DAYTIME BATTLE

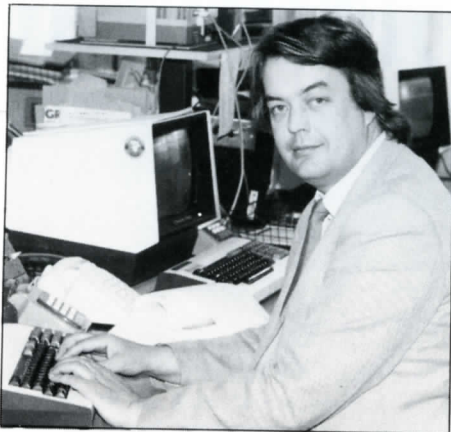
"Mansion New No. 2 on C4 News" announced Lens last February. "So Who's for the One O'Clock Hot Seat?" mused the headline. The answer was swiftly forthcoming in the burly shape of Andrew Tilley. Eight months later, the former input man is now firmly in the output mode, as he gears up to face the biggest lunchtime challenge ever launched by the BBC.

Andrew's broadcasting career began in 1968. He turned down a "two-and-six-a-week" job with a local paper, joined his parents who were living in Hong Kong — and was promptly recruited by the local TV station. He stayed five years as a reporter/anchorman. But the station was small, strict demarcation was unknown and he soon found himself absorbing the know-how of TV news production.

Small or not, the station's location meant the stories Andrew worked on were among the biggest of that time. Early on, the Vietnam conflict was often the "local" lead. In 1972, he was sent to Munich with Hong Kong's Olympic Games team. When Black September guerrillas stormed the Israeli team's headquarters, they also held the Hong Kong athletes hostage. What began as a sports assignment for Andrew and other reporters became one of the most testing news stories of the decade.

A year later, Andrew and a colleague were allowed into China. Reporting that country was very different then. As well as being locked into their hotel rooms each night, he says many of the Chinese he met had never encountered a foreigner before. "They seemed to be watching me as much as I was watching them," he recalls.

Later in 1973, Andrew returned to England and joined BBC television in East Anglia. "I loathed it," he says, adding that he found UK regional TV markedly different from the Hong Kong variety. But after 18 months he was switched to BBC-TV News in London where he spent the next eight years, five as a writer and three as a news editor.



In 1981, Andrew made his move to ITN and four-and-a-half productive years as a Home Desk news editor. A colleague remembers him as "the best input editor I've worked under ... he always understood the problems of people in the field".

So what about this complete reversal of roles? "It's not that," says Andrew. "I think it's a natural progression to move from the newsdesk to the News At One chair, because NAO is an input-oriented programme. Everyone is geared to both input and output".

By "everyone", Andrew means his team on News At One. Unlike the 5.45 or NAT, News At One has a regular editorial staff and there's a stronger community spirit in its ground floor newsroom than anywhere else in the building. The separate newsroom underlines the fact that NAO is a very different bulletin from the others. Andrew maintains it's on News At One that ITN technology has wrought the greatest changes.

He explains: "Satellite feeds and ENG links mean that the programme is not as studio-based as it was when called First Report. In any one bulletin we might have eight packages, of which only one is edited in-house".

Despite these advances, Andrew believes the studio identity of News At One remains vital: "It's important that we have a hard-hitting interview every day". That studio identity is one of the

ways Andrew aims to beat off the new daytime challenge from the BBC. He sees the newscaster's role as crucial because "people get to know and trust him". And he points to viewing figures showing News At One with a regular audience of over three million, double that of BBC's News After Noon.

Andrew admits cheerfully to being a "ratings man". In his view "there's no point in putting out a programme that people don't watch, and ITN has got to give them the news they want to see".

That leads him to the conviction that ITN's output side should become more involved with input: "There should be more pressure on output to tell input what they want".

He's also convinced that if Daytime ITV is to see off its BBC rival, ITN must be enabled to give news more often. With the BBC out to win lunchtime viewers by carrying bulletins throughout the morning, Andrew favours ITN "newsbreaks" between Good Morning Britain and News At One.

He says the need for such expansion is obvious: "Today's technology means that when major stories break, viewers will expect to see them covered instantly on television. ITV has got to provide that kind of service, without becoming a 24-hour news network".

But looking to the future, he does rejoice at the prospect of ITN becoming a 24-hour organisation. Within such a continuous framework, he sees News At One keeping its own identity, initiating its own stories and continuing to forge close links with its audience.

Finally, what about Andrew Tilley's own future? This large, likeable, enthusiastic man switches on a broad grin: "I've only been in this job eight months. I'm certainly not making plans for another one yet!"

A view from the trolley

Channel One journalist Chris Hampson overheard a conversation at the SDP's September conference in Harrogate guaranteed to bring the cockiest politician down to earth with a thump.

The motherly tea lady with Yorkshire TV's outside broadcast unit was asked by a local citizen where they were going the following week. "Emmerdale Farm, that's our next stop," she replied.

"And will you like that?" asked the local.

"Oh, yes," smiled the tea lady. "I tell you, luv, that's where you meet the *real* stars!"

This autumn FRANK MILES took a mini-break in Iceland, where he'd served in the RAF, to recapture the flavour of his youth. Within days of his return, those summit talks thrust Reykjavik into the headlines. But this is how ITN's space specialist found it all before the news broke.

Dateline Reykjavik — but I missed the big one!

"We serve breakfast from four o'clock" ... The sun-tanned blonde, who looked as if she could get a much better job in a Bond movie, tossed this remark to me as I collected my room key after dinner.

Despite the late hour the sun was shining into the lobby. It was still shining when the phone woke me at four o'clock. Someone apologised for the mistake — but I got up and went downstairs. I shared a communal jug of yoghurt with some other zombies, then went back to bed.

A bad start. I hadn't been in Iceland since way back, when I was in the RAF: when reveille at four o'clock wasn't all that odd. Now I was back for a long weekend, on a search for memories.

But there was nothing left to remind me of those days. Instead, there were traffic jams in what were once almost deserted streets; when you could drink the local Brenevin and wander half-crazed through the town without fear of being knocked down.

And although Iceland's population is still only a quarter of a million there are blocks of flats where once stood small, colourful wooden houses with brightly painted roofs.

But what an extraordinary country it is, with the oldest Parliament in the world, where women's rights were born with the nation.

Iceland must be a journalist's dream. As well as TV it has six daily newspapers that boast a combined circulation larger than the population. A reporter on one told me: "We're the most news-hungry people in the world". And he added with obvious pride, "Most people here get their paper the day it's printed".

The bookshops are crowded, too. They say Icelanders read more books per head than any other nation on earth. Come winter, the long days turn into very long nights. Maybe there's a limit to what you can do in the dark.

But the truth is that Reykjavik, this most northerly capital on earth, is dull ... although I ate the best meal in my life there: prawns cooked in herbs and garlic then flambéed in cognac, at £11 a plate. I *could* have had Guillemot cooked with currants. Or a pony steak with a gull's egg on top.



Yet celebrities go there. I spotted the pretty face of Maggie Philbin of the BBC's "Tomorrow's World" across the crowded restaurant. As she left her table to go to the loo, I introduced myself.

"The enemy's here!" she yelled to a girl at her table. The Icelanders, who all understand English, looked up, puzzled. They must have thought the Cod War was on again.

I found I kept apologising for the Cod War. These peaceful people have little other than cod to earn enough to buy a plate of those prawns.

They don't go in for drugs — although I was told the Americans at the Keflavik airbase are trying to get them interested. The crime rate is low: the only concern about leaving a child to play outside until bedtime is whether the homework will get done.

I hired a car to see if things outside the city had changed. I drove out towards the base of Mount Hekla, which every now and then belches in spectacular fashion. The top volcanologist in this land of ice and fire, who showed me vivid films of eruptions, warned me it was likely to blow again, any day ... indeed, any hour.

I drove for four hours across Hekla's black lava field without meeting a soul. It looked like some gigantic opencast coalfield. As Buzz Aldrin said when he stood on the moon: "Magnificent desolation".

I wondered if Greenpeace and Friends of the Earth would like to have a go at God for the havoc He's wrought in this fair land. That lava field was as I remembered it, maybe worse. But everything else had changed.

Flying home, I reflected that perhaps one should never go back and risk destroying memories.

MEDIA QUOTES

● "I think being a woman in television journalism is really acceptable at last ... Now you are treated as equal with the men." — ITN's **Carol Barnes**.

● "With the possible exception of traffic wardens, no other profession takes itself as seriously as the TV producer." — **Sue Arnold**, in *Observer Magazine*.

● "Once you start glorifying technology, then you are not into journalism any more. A lot of people forgot that." — Mail on Sunday editor **Stewart Steven**.

● "Broadcasters seldom see the public as human beings with equal rights to command the attention of their fellows. They see them as passive and inanimate objects." — *Times* writer **Celia Brayfield**.

● "Undoubtedly some advertisements lead to fantasies. Life would be pretty intolerable without fantasies." — **Lord McGregor**, chairman of Advertising Standards Authority.

● "In this electronic age, when it is possible to have a wide choice of free enterprise channels and wavebands, is there any need for a BBC at all?" — **John Junor**, in *Sunday Express*.

"The memoir is not always mightier than the sword. But it is a darned sight more profitable". — **Joe Haines**, in *Daily Mirror*.

● "The whole of writing, I think, is a form of experiencing things, living through them and then giving them back again in some form of art." — **John Mortimer**.

● "What the Sun did was to hijack the language (and prejudices) of ordinary people and use them to present British life as a nightmare." — **John Pilger**, editor-in-chief of projected *News on Sunday*.

● "One's child of ten may be taught English by a 23-year-old who has never herself learned the rudiments of grammar, being born too late for that". — **Valerie Grove**, in *Spectator*.

OPT-OUT ...

The *Daily Telegraph's* Peterborough column reports that Renault (UK) wrote to selected journalists in the motoring world, inviting them to visit the company's main plant in France. The letter was signed by Renault's Director of Press and Public Relations — a Mr Kaasik.

Jams, searches and a Mad Scot — but Paris was fun!

By Roger Ashworth and Kara Harris

On the night of Thursday 18 September a party of ITNers, partners and friends — led by our intrepid organiser, Linda Smith — set out for a long weekend in Paris. We felt some trepidation, for earlier in the week bombs had been exploding all over that beautiful city.

The courier expected to keep us in order was dubbed The Mad Scot, for he sported the sporran and kilt most of the time; and his broad accent suggested we were heading for Scotland rather than France.

But France it was, though by the time we got to the hotel around noon most of us craved only for sleep. However, we rallied round, dumped our luggage in rooms which had, alas, seen better days and set out to see the sites.

Upon returning to the hotel, it became apparent (to most of us, anyway!) that we were slap in the middle of the Red Light district with its many added attractions. Not many were adventurous about dinner that evening — we had just about enough energy left to walk to the nearest eating area.

On Saturday morning, the coach toured Paris with our local guide, Etienne, who was the epitome of the English notion of a Frenchman, complete with drooping moustache and 'Allo 'Allo English accent. The afternoon's sightseeing included a couple of local males showing our Linda and friend where the best sights in town could be found. Those panoramic views of Paris will never be the same again!

That evening, the entire ITN group took a Bateau Mouche along the Seine. The huge arc lights on the side of these boats light up the famous buildings on the Right Bank, revealing a beauty entirely missed by daylight.

After the boat ride, it was time for yet another tour of the city — and further evidence that Paris is not called City of Lights for nothing. The spectacle of the Eiffel Tower glowing with lights, with fountains playing at the base, is guaranteed to induce a romantic mood in the hardest of cynics.

Our final day was spent touring the new area of Paris, crowded with futuristic buildings, and then onto the highlight of the weekend — the Palace

at Versailles. It proved a memorable visit: the Hall of Mirrors, the King's apartments, the superbly laid out gardens with their lakes, fountains, statues and sun-dappled groves... almost too much to enjoy in such a short time.

Suddenly, it was over and time to go home. England welcomed the ITN party back warmly — by making everyone get off the coach while the Customs searched over a third of the passengers. At one point we feared they would insist on delving beneath the Mad Scot's kilt, but happily it never got that far!

Then just outside Dover, we hit an appalling traffic jam which lasted more than one and a half hours, due to those dreaded 'roadworks'. It was 11.30pm before a wilting coachload arrived back at ITN House.

Minor snags and mishaps apart, the verdict was that it had been a most enjoyable weekend: good company, good food, superb weather — and no bombs. A trip very well organised and much to be recommended.

MORE CLUB NEWS

A Christmas Dinner Dance will be held at the Marriot Hotel, Grosvenor Square, W1, on Friday, December 19. Tickets: £3 for Club members, £5 for members' guests.

It is hoped to hold the annual event for members' children early in the New Year. Watch Club notice boards for further details.

The Darts Club visit to Thames TV at Teddington was highly successful; also the visit to IBA headquarters. A return evening at ITN will take place shortly.

Table Tennis on sports agenda

Plans are under way to form an ITN table tennis section. The two enthusiasts behind the move are Jim Cartwright and Alan Florence. They ask any ITN staff interested in playing either for fun or competitively to contact them without delay. Jim is on extension 2235 and Alan on 2414. Lens hopes to carry further table tennis news in its January issue.

REVENGE FOR MARY'S BRAVES

When Buckingham Palace staff asked for a return rounders match against ITN's team they were obviously looking forward to another victory. In fact, they were so confident they invited the team from the Royal Protection Squad, based at Harrow police station, to come along and play too!

So a daunting task faced Mary Green and the team. On one of those rare fine days we've enjoyed this summer, ITN faced the Police team — and beat them 10-0.



Green: Triumphant

During a well deserved rest, the Buckingham Palace team were seen diligently practicing. They still looked confident, but this time ITN was out to win.

Which they did, by 10-3. This left ITN as overall winners, and a delighted Mary Green collected the cup on behalf of the team.

But the story does not end there. Not content with taking the rounders award, ITN went on to win *all* the prizes in the after-match raffle. Revenge is sweet, of course, but some might say this was a shade over the top!

LENS IN NEW SPORTS BIAS ROW

SIR — Is it possible to produce an issue of The Lens which neither mentions, nor has a photograph of Derek Seymour? — MICHAEL WILLIAMS, ENG Crews.

1986 has been a rewarding year for ITN's Angling Society and, as the pictures show, a thoroughly sociable one, too — with some genuine big 'uns to enhance those fishermen's bar stories! ITNAS Secretary BOB SPARKS lays down his rod to take up his pen to review the season.

Upshire yields record haul for ITN anglers

First, a spot of background to put ITN's non-anglers in the picture — it might induce you to join our ranks! The Society arranges matches once a month throughout the season (more if requested) and match venues are chosen both north and south of the Thames, so that any shift-working and travelling problems are fairly spread.

Venues are chosen from a well tried list and usually provide a good day's fishing. Upshire carp lake is a good example, where it's unusual not to catch whether using bamboo pole or the latest fashionable equipment.

So far, seven matches have been held. Results from the first two venues — Goldsworth lake and Little Easton Manor — were somewhat disappointing, possibly due to the very hot weather.

The third match was at a new venue for the Society — Hollybush Lane, Farnborough. It was won by Peter Fell with a weight of 10lbs 10oz, including a tench of 3lbs 4oz and two bream over 1½lbs. Other members hooked larger fish, possibly carp, which broke the light tackle they were using. Everyone looked forward to a return to this venue later in the season.

The fourth match was fished at a favourite venue for all members, Upshire carp lake, when 14 members weighed in a combined haul of 249lbs 10oz (pity we didn't make 250lbs!) but it *was* a new record weight for a Society match. Five members caught 20lbs or more.

Ken Wells won the match with a personal total of 38lbs 10oz; Harold Griffiths was second with 31lbs 10oz; John Sanders third with 27lbs 4oz; fourth Peter Fell 24lbs 13oz; and fifth George Cuts 20lbs. Ken also caught the largest fish, a 9lbs 10oz carp, using cat biscuits as bait. (Well done, Ken, but next time leave the cat at home!)

The return in August to Hollybush Lane produced a poor result, rather deflating expectations. However, this is a pleasant venue and we shall return.

The second Upshire match produced only 86lbs of fish — still a creditable performance, with several 6lb carp caught. But with the previous success, this always was going to be a difficult act to follow, Colin Mallett won the match with 19lbs 8oz and four other members recorded weights over 10lbs.

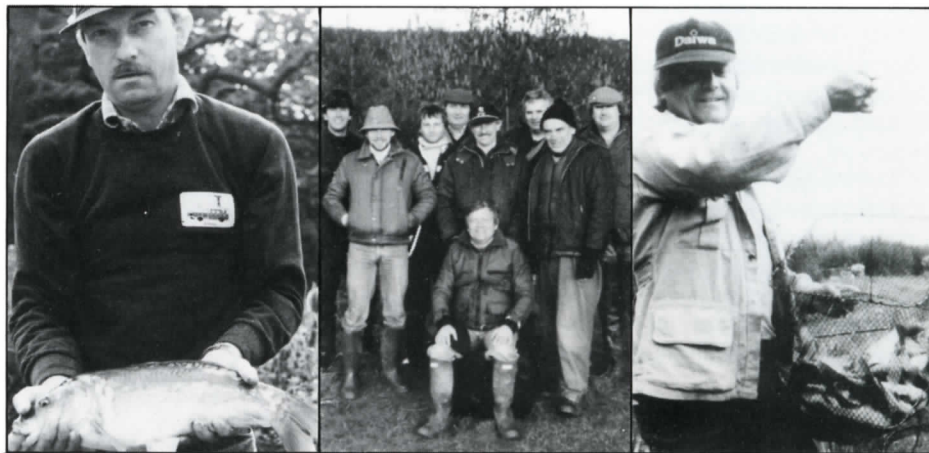
The most recent match, on the

Thames at Runnymede, produced a totally contrary result. Again Colin won the match, but with only 11lb 10oz on a hard day. Interestingly enough, the "Angling Times" claimed that the Thames was fishing well.

Now in the late autumn, concentration will be on river venues, offering a different test of ability and method to the earlier season lake venues.

always generates. The ITN Cup is fished for at this event, and this year it was won by Peter Fell.

Recently the Society broke new ground and took up sea fishing which proved very popular, and subsequently led to the formation of the Sea Angling Club. It's also hoped that we will try our hand at fly fishing in the near future — have rod will travel!



Fine catches — and fine company

The Society runs five competitions per season for which there are shields or cups (including one donated by Charrington, aptly named the "Green Man Cup") as well as entering the B & I Line "King of Clubs" competition which guarantees a free place in the National Final in Ireland.

Previous representatives from the Society will testify that this is a very special week's fishing alongside some of the sport's top stars, as well as a chance to enjoy some Irish hospitality.

At least once a year, usually towards the end of the season, the Society tries to arrange an Away Weekend at which finals of some of the competitions are held, along with evening debates, over a relaxing meal, on how those cups were won or lost. Invariably, one or two odd viewpoints emerge — but all in the spirit of the game!

Also available to members is the ITV Angling Weekend. This comprises two matches over a long weekend in comfortable surroundings, with a very sociable atmosphere thrown in. It provides an opportunity to meet anglers from other companies, compete against them and enjoy the conviviality this event

In mid-July, a party of ITNAS members and friends visited the Irish Republic for a fishing holiday. The weather was not too good but some good catches were made. The best catch came from Colin Mallett who weighed in 64lbs on the last day. This trip has been undertaken by a few individuals for many years and has steadily grown more popular. Consequently, a Society trip to Ireland as a full blown event is a distinct possibility for a future season.

The Society is generously supported by the ITN Club and gratefully acknowledges the facilities which that support has made possible. As a direct result, next season the Society is to affiliate itself to Leisure Sports Angling which gives access to 41 lakes and 11 river sections around London.

We hope to expand such affiliations so as to provide the widest choice for members. We are also investigating several other ideas, and it's hoped eventually to lease our own waters.

At the AGM, held in the closed season, Ted Irving, formerly of Camera Workshop, was elected an honorary member. Although Ted has retired, he is still an active member and always adds an extra dimension to the Society.

ITN Golfing Society Secretary BRIAN PENDRY reports on the closing stages of another highly successful season ...

GIEDZIUN TAKES CAPTAIN'S DAY HONOURS ... FORD'S SHIELD TRIUMPH ... EVANS SNATCHES DUDLEY CUP

The highlight of the golfing calendar is always Captain's Day, held this year at Cuddington Golf Club on Thursday, 21 August. For the third year running the Society is indebted to Jack Daniels Whisky, a subsidiary of Saccone & Speed Ltd and in particular, Terry Barker and Richard Davies, who kindly sponsored this event.

Thirty-eight members and guests turned out in support of George Harrison, the Society's popular Captain and hard working Committee member who has represented the Society in the past, both as Treasurer and as one of the organisers of the Natural Break Tournament.

In the morning, the nine-hole Stableford competition was won by (who else) Brian Edminton, looking bronzed and fit since his retirement. The exquisitely attired John Ford was a close second with Colin Horsted taking the guest prize.

The afternoon competition was a high-scoring affair. Steve Giedziun, driving beautifully, won the Captain's Cup with 40 pts beating canny Scot Jim Mitchell by one point. 'Honest' John Gallagher came in third with 36 pts. The best front nine went to ACTT Shop Chairman, Malcolm Smith, and the best back nine to Secretary Brian Pendry.

The guest competition was won by Brian Seex on 42 pts with Gordon Thornby second on 38 pts.

In the evening, the atmosphere of the

The Next Lens ... will be published in two months' time. All contributions to Press Office, please, by the beginning of December. Lens welcomes your Letters, 'opinion' pieces, articles, sports reports and photographs.

Cuddington Dining Room positively overflowed. Toasts were in abundance culminating in the Captain's most humorous speech during which he apologised for the poor weather which had dogged many of the season's meetings, whilst assuring us that next



Cup winner Giedziun

year's Captain, John Copleston, will use his undoubted connections in higher places to bring forth better climes. George was also pleased that "her indoors" was able to be released from the slate quarry to be with him and indeed it was nice to see Marge in attendance.

After dinner, George, assisted by Terry Barker presented a marvellous selection of prizes and a most enjoyable day ended with the traditional presentation of a bouquet to his wife.

The annual competition between the London-based ITV Companies took place at Beaconsfield on Tuesday, 26 August. As usual, ITN fielded two teams of six golfers to pitch their talents against the giants of LWT and Thames.

Needless to say — it rained, making the Beaconsfield course play very long.



Ford with Richard Pun

ITN were unable to get into the frame this year except for a fine individual win, that of John Ford who won the Granada shield for the best low-handicapper.

The Society meeting for the Dudley Cup was played at Sundridge Park on Monday, 15 September, and once again the weather did its best to ruin a good day's golf. The rain alternated between the horizontal and the vertical, and by afternoon it was a sorry looking bunch of brave souls who slogged their way round the West Course.

In the morning, a nine-hole Stableford was played on the easier East Course, which in hindsight, may have been the better course to play in the afternoon. Despite the conditions, John Ford returned a very creditable 21½ pts to win the morning competition by 5 pts from associate member George Thompson.

In the afternoon, another associated member, Denis Evans, took the Dudley Cup, presented in memory of former Cameraman Len Dudley, with 28 pts, beating Mike Tucker (who also scored 28 pts) on the countback. Third was Gordon Hickey with 27 pts.

Sponsorship plays a major part in all sporting events, even at amateur level. This year, the ITN Golfing Society has benefitted along with other ITV Companies from the Sponsorship of Fuji Products Ltd who helped to make the Natural Break and London Companies Meetings such a success. More recently, Fuji were involved with the ITN G.S. meeting at Sundridge Park for the "Dudley Cup".

To Richard Pun and his colleagues at Fuji, the Society extends its grateful appreciation of their involvement.