

ITN THE LENS

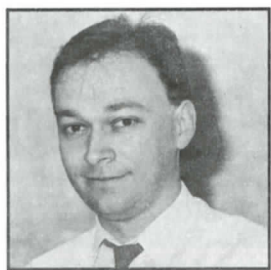
The Staff Newspaper for Independent Television News August 1988 Issue No. 29

Two ITN unions agree Into the Nineties deals with management

ITN's two smaller unions have reached agreement with the company over the Into The Nineties action plan. BETA made what it terms a "dignified retreat" in the face of the proposals. Shop steward Paul Gordon said: "We are not happy with this agreement but we see it as making a dignified retreat. Now what we think is important is rebuilding the trust we used to have — and to a certain extent still do have — with management."

Security Cutbacks

BETA members were most affected in the security department. The original document called for the responsibility for security to be contracted out. BETA clawed back the right to inhouse security but most of the present staff have decided to leave because of the revised salary structure. BETA, which has 140 members at ITN, also lost its internal despatch riders. A private company, under John Copleston, will now operate in this area.



Gordon: "dignified retreat"

The union also made concessions in the accounts department where staff will work an extra two hours a week. Staff unhappiness with this has been tempered by the promise of flexitime arrangements which are currently being negotiated.

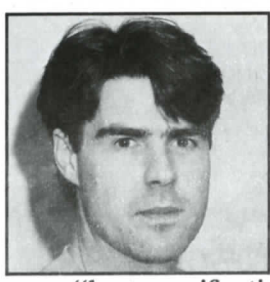
Lighting Department

The electricians, who have only 36 members at the company, have also settled a deal.

The union has agreed that most of the work of the lighting department (formerly 19 EETPU positions) will now be done by ENG crew members. Electricians will not provide maintenance at cricket or golf matches although they will oversee electrical work at conferences.

"The ramifications of negotiating away the lighting department are huge. The consequences will affect every company with one," said shop steward Steve Shipman.

"Obviously we would have preferred not to lose these jobs. We think they were worthwhile jobs and that this is another step towards poorer quality".



Shipman: "huge ramifications"

Of the 19 lost jobs, 11 members hope to be accepted for retraining, four are retiring, two accepting voluntary severance and two are joining the inhouse electricians.

Future

Both unions felt they also scored victories by forcing management negotiators to acknowledge they were not operating restrictive practices and they are now waiting to see the effects of the rationalisation of managers.

Inside . . .

MIKE MORRIS gives us an update on the current situation about retraining. PAGE THREE

FRANK DUESBURY tells us how he copes with retirement. PAGE FOUR

FIONA ARMSTRONG gives her verdict on Jilly Cooper's latest risqué novel Rivals. PAGE FIVE

MERVYN HALL describes how ITN managed to keep on top of the news when the Piper Alpha tragedy occurred. PAGE SIX

DAVID CASS celebrates six months of working on the night service. PAGE SEVEN

JOHN COPLESTON talks about his new company. PAGE EIGHT

SANDY GALL'S Desert Island stories are recounted. PAGE NINE

GEOFF O'CONNELL writes about the changes in the profiles department. PAGE TEN

PETER COLE has the low-down on the reforms of the Official Secrets Act. PAGE ELEVEN

HUW THOMSON gives us his views on smaller crews. PAGE FOURTEEN

RICHARD LAMBERT runs through the ITN efforts in the Great North Run. PAGE SIXTEEN

PLUS . . . pictures, news and information

A fond farewell to Into The Nineties leavers

As part of the Into the Nineties master-plan, 118 people will be leaving the company through early retirement and voluntary severance schemes. Some of those who have taken advantage of these deals have already left the company.

They include several whose time with the company started during the all-important founding years. Ronnie Hubbard, head of assignments, left in June. He had been with ITN for 33 years. Also notching up 33 years was John Lodge, film/ENG editor, who left in July. Peter Brown, formerly an ENG cameraman (*The Lens* carries pictures of his retirement party on page 12), also joined back in 1955. He officially retires

this week. John Collings, a fellow ENG cameraman, who started at ITN a couple of years later in 1958, has also left.

He will soon be joined by Dave Harwood, ENG editing supervisor, who began at the company in the same year and retires later this month. Tom Batho, MCR engineer, who has clocked up 29 years here, will retire later in the year.

Among those who have already left are Dennis Seagood, lighting director; and Dick Mathews, Ron Hubbard and Gerry Stone who are all leaving from the security department. Mathews has set up a mobile tuning business while Stone is starting a freight business.

Stan Rawlings, supervisory TV cam-

era operator, who had had a 23-year career at ITN, Mike Poulton, transfer supervisor, who had been here 21 years, Colin Green, ENG maintenance engineer, and sound technician Ernie Johnson also left last month.

The house services manager Dennis Blurton will leave at the end of August while Roy Colwell, sound shift supervisor, will officially retire sometime during September.

John Copleston, manager of shipping, traffic and transport, also leaves at the end of September but will be returning the next day as managing director of the new company handling these operations at ITN.



Daughter for Julia

ITN News Presenter, Julia Somerville, gave birth to an 8lb 6oz baby girl on July 26. Julia has named her daughter Rachel. She already has a son, Joe, who is four and a half. She is married to Ray Gowdrige, a BBC news executive.

New clubs planned

There are plans to launch two new societies for ITN staff and former staff.

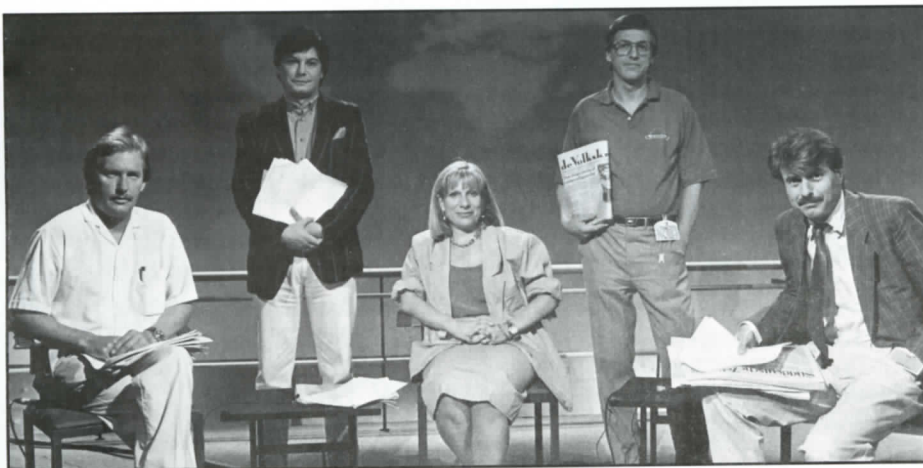
Although both ideas are still in their infancy, it is hoped that a founders society will be set up which will be associated to the sports and social club. It would not be exclusively for founder members but would also include those who have served more than a certain number of years.

Following on from the success of the ITN team in the Great North Run – for a full report see page 16 – the possibility of establishing a club to enter other races and get involved in outdoor pursuits has also been raised. The team, which was running for Cancer Research, hopes to raise more than £200 for the charity, donations are still being accepted.

Lens Announcement

Due to lack of space in this issue, *The Lens* has been unable to carry detailed profiles of many of the staff leaving and retiring at the moment. It is hoped that in a future edition we will be able to publish retirement features and pictures.

The Lens as ever welcomes any ideas that you have about features, articles, subjects and profiles which you think ought to be tackled within its pages. If you have any suggestions or if you would like to write an article or a letter for publication in *The Lens*, please contact the editor Susan d'Arcy in the press office on Extension 2475.



Roman (far left) with last year's presenting team.

A Roman in Spain

Phil Roman has gone to Spain again to work on the International Headlines programme in Barcelona.

The programme, which was so successful last year it won an award from the Catalan government for an outstand-

ing contribution to tourism, goes out live from TV3 Barcelona to the major Spanish holiday resorts of Costa Brava, Costa del Sol, Majorca, Minorca and Ibiza.

It has an audience of about 6 million including many Spaniards wanting to learn English.

The world news is given out in English, French, German, Italian and Dutch but the main content is usually English. Roman helps produce, script and edit material and also presents the English section. Reports generated by ITN staff are used wherever possible, the bulk of stories come from WTN.

Early indications for this year are that the programme will again be a resounding success. ITN has received many letters praising the programme; a typical example comes from Neville Bartrop in Spain who writes: "Our family is delighted with the ITN news service we are receiving at the moment. I only wish it were possible to have the service all year round.

"I know many English residents here who have longed for a daily news service like this to keep them up to date with events back home. We can't get this from newspapers (they arrive two days late) and we find the BBC World Service is not as enjoyable."

Negotiations draw to close

Mike Morris writes: ITN is by no means the first company to try and make major changes in the way it operates. The common experience of others who have trodden this difficult path is that, while planning and negotiating are hard enough, it's at the implementation stage that change programmes usually start falling apart.

After fourteen weeks of sustained effort by both managers and union negotiators we are now almost through the negotiating stage and thoughts must now turn firmly towards implementation. The focus will move away from the planners and negotiators to the functional departments - Editorial, Production, Operations, and Engineering. However, making it all happen is emphatically not simply a matter of line managers issuing instructions and sit-

ting back waiting for results. We have all got to realise that the changes we are now beginning to agree amongst ourselves are very far reaching.

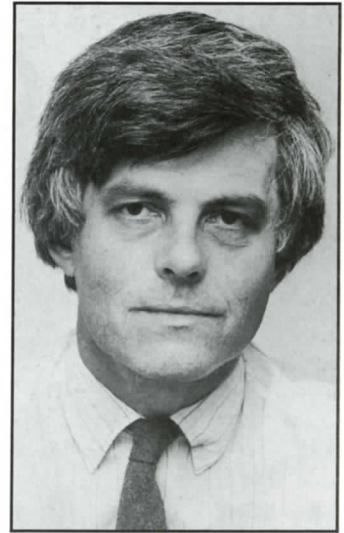
Especially in the newsroom to studio parts of the Into the Nineties plan, we are changing methods of working which go back in some cases to the start of ITN. These changes will only work if everyone is prepared to give it a try. That means, above all, the people in the newsrooms, control rooms, studios and out on the road who have actually got the final responsibility for making things happen.

That is why, in the negotiations, I have repeatedly emphasised the need for moving into the new working methods slowly and carefully, a step at a time. I have proposed setting up working groups to monitor progress and suggest the right operational procedures with opera-

tional front line people involved every time.

There are two other areas where substantial progress is now being made. The first is training. The training committee is working well and substantial progress is being made in the huge task of setting up from scratch a major reskilling programme for all the people displaced through the Into the Nineties plan. The Committee, which includes union representatives, has chosen an outside agency to run our programme headed by Duncan Enoch, former Head of Technical Training at the BBC's Evesham training school, and the hard work of drawing up and agreeing the syllabuses is under way.

The other is the publication of the vacancy list. This was made possible by the success of the Voluntary Severance and Early Retirement Scheme. By the closing date,



118 people had applied and been accepted. At the time of writing applications from within ITN for all the vacancies thrown up by this process is well under way. Soon the huge job of interviewing, appointing and retraining the successful applicants will begin. I believe that once this process is complete the uncertainty which hangs over so many parts of our company will clear away.

German visit to ITN



John Suchet, pictured with a group of German students during a tour of ITN. John was on hand during the day to help explain the newsgathering process for the programmes and answer the students' questions about ITN. "It was a very memorable day," said one of the visitors.

Second political book goes on the market

ITN launches its second book on politics for the commercial market next month. The ITN US Election Factbook will be published on September 7 to coincide with the beginning of the election campaign.

The introduction will be by Alastair Burnet but it has been written by David Cowling, Michael Jerney and Debbie Schooley.

It will deal with the candidates, the Reagan years, the progress of the candidates and the issues the election will be fought on. The book will also discuss the changing political map of America and the background of the 50

states as well as facts such as how many presidents have been killed in office. It follows on from the success of ITN's book on the general election. David Cowling said "It won't have the same attraction as the General Election book but I suspect quite a few people - as we get nearer to the election - will be interested in finding out more about American politics and what the hullabaloo is all about. And £3.95 is not a lot to pay for more information." He won't predict who will win but says, "It's the first time in years the Democrats are in with a chance."

WHY FRANK SAYS

ON YER BIKE !!

FOR RETIREMENT

As many ITN staff prepare for retirement, FRANK DUESBURY offers some helpful pointers

Many people are concerned about retirement — “What on earth am I going to do when I stop work? I shan’t know what to do with myself.” This is an understandable reaction but not a cause for concern. If you have already decided that you are going to make the most of your retirement and have it planned that is fine. These notes will, at the most, have only just the odd idea that may interest you.

Before Your Retirement

Ideally, you should work your way into retirement. This is better than coming to a dead stop — rather like a horse galloping towards a fence and then pulling up and refusing to take the fence. It is not vital but it is better than leaving work on the Friday and waking up on Monday morning wondering what you are going to do.

How do you work into retirement? It is quite likely that you are doing it already. You may well have interests that you have been pursuing for years. If not, especially with a shift pattern, you can take up some activity in a gentle way and devote more time to it when you finish work full-time.

What Choice

As an ideal, choose something you will enjoy. Of course there may be some skill that you wish to learn such as car mechanics, or a whole range of do-it-yourself work in the home, not only is it good fun but worth it in the end, too.

ITN Has Some Answers

ITN has a number of clubs covering a variety of interests. If you are not already a member you may like to join one. They include golf, shoot-

ing, sailing, chess, computers, tennis, football and cricket. If you don’t wish to participate, you could always become a social member and support the team. The Gun Club, for example, includes a cross-channel trip to France in its yearly calendar.

Something for Everyone

Education authorities operate a wide range of courses under their adult education programme: there really is something for everyone. In retirement consider your partner and see if you can share and widen your interests together.

How about joining a class on stately homes or local villages and local history? And don’t be deterred from taking up a class that is radically different — cooking for men, car mechanics for women.

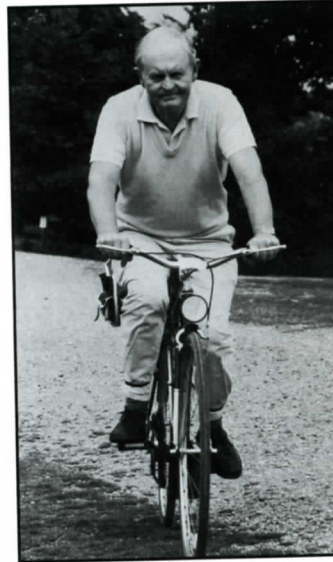
Looking Around You

ITN’s staff magazine, *The Lens*, is a focal point for staff and former staff. It’s a permanent link with your time at ITN so why not send it a story or write a letter.

You may now be taking more holidays, or just a few days away, so why not purchase a first-class guidebook, like the AA Books of the Road for England, Scotland and Wales, and read up the history as you drive through the country, towns and cities. These AA guidebooks are not cheap so why not ask for one as a small retirement gift?

Why not keep a daily journal of your holiday and take photographs, they will complement your diary.

And if you take some photographs that you think are good why not offer them to the ITN stills library. Perhaps you will see your holiday efforts on the ITN bulletins.



On Yer Bike

Buy a bike whether you live in the country or the town, get a unisex bike to share, or maybe have two bikes. On your cycle you meet more people, even if it is just to say ‘good morning’ - something you can’t do in a car. It helps you to keep fit, and you don’t have to pay for parking. Sometimes it’s even quicker than going by car.

Something in the City

Financial advice is provided when you leave ITN and that is helpful. Much of the mystique of the City, and stocks and shares, has been expunged and today investment on the Stock Market is not confined to the rich and wealthy.

So why not read the financial columns and invest in a company. Remember, back sound management, one that can show a profit, especially as you may require income. If you want to make a capital gains killing you can make money—and lose it. A few companies provide discounted services to shareholders. These include European Ferries and Sketchley

Dry Cleaners. These shares are expensive because of the special financial facilities they afford to shareholders. Whether or not they are worth buying depends on how often you cross the channel or how big is your dry cleaning bill. However, remember that one day Government legislation could cancel this privilege to shareholders.

Another financial point, you may have money tied up in the loft or wherever you store junk. Grannie’s old picture, a wooden tea caddy you don’t use or a piece of china you don’t fancy could be worth a good few pounds in the sale room. As a rule of thumb, think £100 invested in the building society at, say, eight per cent, could earn you a few pounds over 10 years.

Aiming Point

The freedom not to have to go to work is delightful. However, you may benefit from a touch of self-discipline. One idea is to have at least one definite engagement a week and build round that. Even have a dry and a wet weather programme.

There may be others less fortunate than yourself who would welcome a helping hand: your local parish church, chapel, or voluntary organisations would be pleased to hear from you. You may find time on your hands. Robert Kee, ITN’s News at One first anchor man, in his excellent book *A Crowd is Not Company* tells of how when he first became a prisoner of war, a prisoner of several months standing told him: “Make things last twice as long. If it takes you five minutes to shave, take 10, if you take 15 minutes to make your bed, take half-an-hour.”

And finally ... enjoy yourself!

An unrivalled success

FIONA ARMSTRONG says she would never have left Border TV if it was anything like as wild as Jilly Cooper's TV station in her new book *Rivals*



"Great TV comes from telling people the truth - from entertaining them so well, they don't realise they're being educated."

Worthy stuff, isn't it - and although it sounds like something David Nicholas would say (lots of Brownie points there!), it is in fact one of the many memorable lines from Jilly Cooper's racy latest novel *Rivals*.

Stuffed with **hugely** entertaining people who **never** seem to tell the truth, the book charts the goings on at a local TV station—the wheeling and dealing, the intrigues in the boardroom and the bedroom (lots of activity there), and the final battle for the TV franchise.

The editor of *The Lens* said: "Fiona came, from a local television station (Border TV), she can review it and say how true to life it is."

Well, having ploughed through a field of adultery and treachery, I wouldn't dare risk making comparisons, and end up being sued by my former colleagues. All I will say is that had the folk at Border been half as wild as some of Ms Cooper's characters, I would probably never have left! Some of the heroes and heroines of *Rivals* are definitely larger than life.

I mean, would any of the following be found within a mile of a TV station—local or national?

For example, we've got a managing director "... more interested in making money than good programmes ..."

A programme controller ... "principled and intelligent, who always sees both sides of every problem ... and is therefore labelled indecisive ..."

A presenter whose "outstanding qualities, apart from his dazzling good looks, were his total egotism and chronic insecurity ..."

And another who ... "had two obsessions in life. His work, and rare in a profession that tends to regard a broken marriage as the only essential qualification, his wife."

Lots of adultery in this book, in lots of graphic detail. Is it true to life? No comment—I told you I didn't want to

be sued. Seriously though, what the book does capture is the power the IBA has had, and the lengths TV companies have gone to in order to keep in with them.

"The IBA's job was to grant franchises to the independent TV companies every eight years or so, to monitor their programmes and generally beat them with a big stick if they stepped out of line" ... says the book and with franchises coming up for renewal in a couple of years' time, it's a fact no regional company is unaware of!

Indeed, so keen is this particular TV station to keep firmly to that line that it's proposing to broadcast a programme for the elderly, the presenter being a 75-year-old coloured lady, a widow with a daughter of 50 ... which made her a single parent too. It could only have been bettered presumably, if she'd had a wooden leg and been of unconventional sexuality.

And why not try to please the IBA - after all, as one of the characters puts it, TV is the "one surviving gravy train".

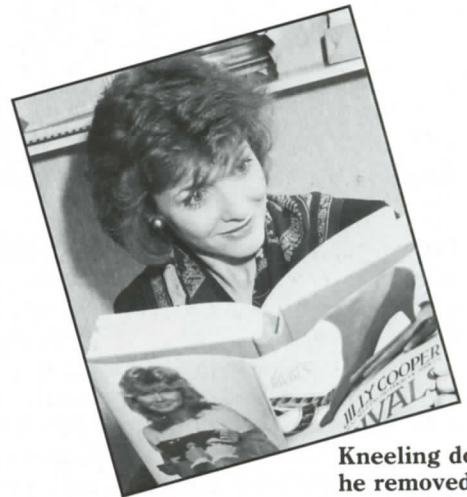
Masses of food and drink in this book. The author seems to be under the impression (shome mishtake shurely ed?) that TV people drink a lot. Mmm. When the staff hold a Christmas party, no directions are needed to the venue - everyone just follows the blue flashing lights.

Oh and WE get a mention too! As the battle for the franchise hots up, ITN are hot on the phone, demanding a piece for the 5.45. Glad to see that even in fiction, we're still harassing the poor old regions!

To sum up, if I have to compare anything to the regions - and in particular to Border, it's the following quote from a would-be franchise holder ...

"We want to make friends with the viewer, to make them feel part of one great family." (Brownie points from Border.)

Read it - *Rivals* is wildly exaggerated, but I bet that you won't be able to put it down.

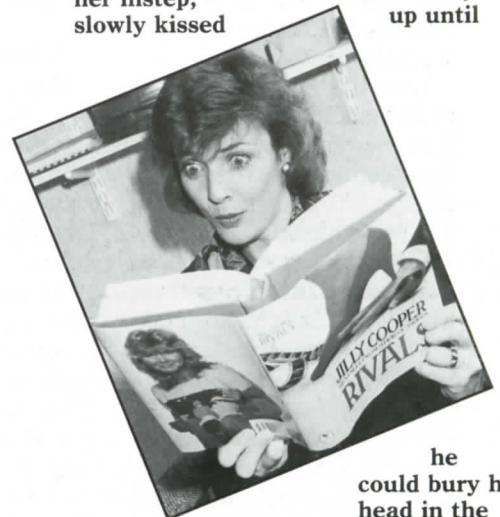


Kneeling down, he removed her high heels.

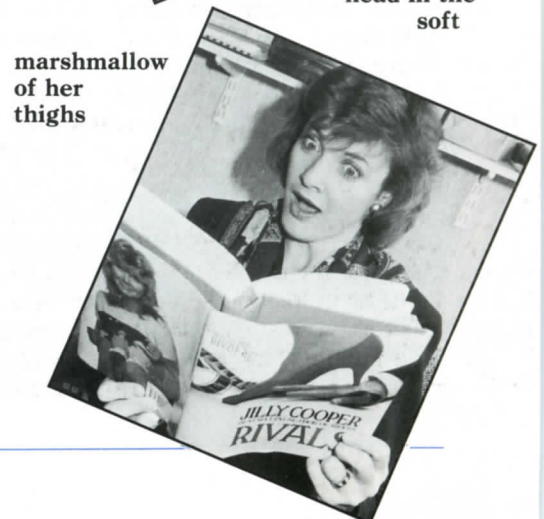


and kissing her instep, slowly kissed

his way up until



he could bury his head in the soft



marshmallow of her thighs



Coping with the year's biggest story

It was a major tragedy in one of Britain's most inaccessible places but, writes MERVYN HALL, it brought out all the best in ITN and even turned Richard Gammons into a latter-day Biggles

ITN at Piper Alpha

When the Occidental Oil platform Piper Alpha blew itself apart on Wednesday July 6, it marked the worst oil accident the world has ever seen.

What the oil industry had always feared most had happened and 166 men died 120 miles out in the North Sea.

It was from that starting point then that ITN found itself faced with one of the most complicated logistical operations it has ever had to mount and all the problems, and dangers, that the North Sea oilmen have to face suddenly became our problems too. There is probably no more inaccessible place in Britain to have the biggest breaking news story happen, and probably no more costly either!

The problem was a simple one. Essentially how to keep an almost constant camera trained on the blazing platform for as long as possible each day.

To get the best of all possible worlds, ITN had to be in the air and on the water as soon as possible.

Richard Gammons, with his soundman Martin Palmer, armed with the most sophisticated gyro lens and a mount that made him look like an air gunner, became our "eye in the sky" spending more time over the platform than he did on shore.

He also became THE expert at spotting even the most subtle and slight change in the condition of Piper Alpha.

Meanwhile below him aboard the trawler Boy Andrew bobbed reporter David Chater with cameraman Phil Bye; soundman Mike Coe and lighting assistant Geoff Brennan, again armed with a gyro lens.

The two units met up twice a day, but never spoke!

That was because it became apparent that the only way we could get the seaborne pictures back for each bulletin was to have them winched up to the helicopter, a Super Puma chartered from Bristows at Aberdeen, during each flight.

Thus Phil Bye's marvellous shots got on the air each day courtesy of some extraordinary flying by the Bristows' pilots and some delicate work by their winchmen who twice a

day were lowered the two hundred feet down a winch line to the deck of Boy Andrew's sister vessel Opportune while the helicopter hovered just a few feet above the ship's sophisticated radio and radar masts.

And by the time the story began to slow down, ITN was still the only television news organisation getting twice daily updates from within five hundred yards of the rig.

By then too, Richard Gammons had become Biggles; Chater had become Captain Pugwash and rumour had it that ITN was getting calls from the Defence Ministers of small nations for advice on the running of their air forces and ships!

ITN was also quick off the mark to syndicate pictures of the tragedy. Chris McHugh helped obtain the world rights from Scottish Television to market stills from the film of the Piper Alpha oil rig. The company also obtained world rights to sell stills from the video shot by an American tourist of the terrorist attack on the Greek ferry The City of Poros.



How time flies by for the night owls

As Morning News goes network. DAVID CASS'S piece on the night service definitely won't send you to sleep

Was that first champagne breakfast REALLY six months ago? My, how time flies when you're enjoying yourself!

Since then we've had two more . . . to celebrate 100 editions of Morning News and to inaugurate the TVE service for British holidaymakers in Spain. They soon worked out how to keep us happy!

Seriously though, it's almost incredible to reflect that Into The Night has been going so long. In simple programme terms that means 200 editions of the Morning News, roughly a thousand bulletins and fast approaching 50 editions of TVE News, for British holidaymakers in Spain. That's 250 hours of television in total, or ten hours a week . . . all with a team of only 17 people per shift.

It's been a remarkable six months for all of us — even those who, like me, had never worked nights before. We were breaking new ground in British television: trying to do more, with fewer people and fewer resources than anyone could remember: trying to find a new audience: a single team producing headline bulletins as well as building an hour-long, serious news programme.

And in the middle of it all the shock of the Management Review. I'm still not sure whether the review itself, or its exposure of our team's depth of character — even though that team might still be decimated by it — is the most significant factor of these past six months . . . but more of that later.

What's it like to be an "OWL"?

I have to chuckle when people who used to regard me as, well, more-or-less human, now greet me as something just in from outer space. There seems to be an almost universal belief that we should look, if not BE, permanently ill. But why,

just because I now work nights should I NOT still look healthy? We have DAYS off . . . and on the odd occasion that the sun shines, we can sleep out in it! We also have a seven-day off duty period, which we all find is more than enough to recharge batteries.

In fact the change from four on/four off to the seven/seven pattern was one of the major changes of these first six months. Few voices were raised against the change. One was Kim Maxwell, from sound, who still believes that you're fresher throughout a four day shift and who says: "I feel that over a period of time the long turnaround will get to people." But even he admits: "The only good thing about seven days on, is the seven days off!"

"There seems to be an almost universal belief that we should look, if not be, permanently ill"

But most of us find that we ARE fresher throughout a seven night shift, and that our social lives (a source of worry for most) suffer less. PA Katrina Millar: "With a 4/4 shift you were tired all the time. Now you spend a week when you can do nothing more than work, eat and sleep. Then you have a full week to catch up on friends, go away... or do whatever you like." Most of us concur. And believe me, that's LUXURY, not hardship!

Most of us who've worked elsewhere within ITN and other news organisations agree that we've seldom worked harder, or with a tighter team. According to

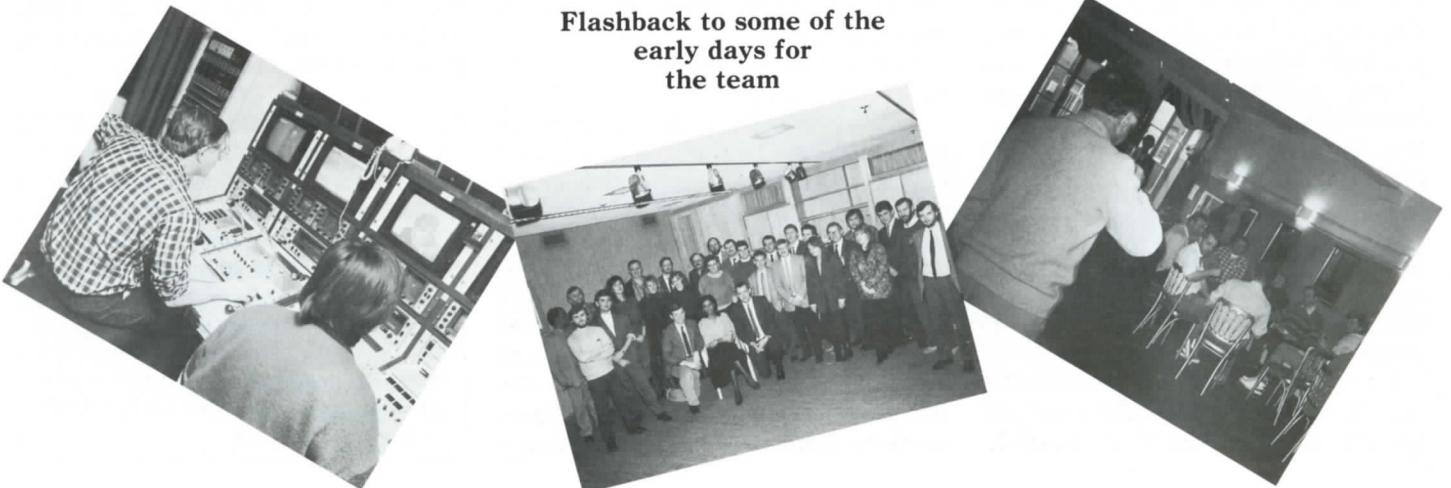
programme Editor, Nigel Baker: "We have up to 11 transmissions a night, and the first is usually only 90 minutes after we start work. So, unlike any other part of the company, it's pressure from the start."

But it's pressure which has its positive side. Cameraman Chris Cotton: "I have a real sense of identity here. We're all pulling in the same direction. In some other parts of ITN the technical staff and journalists hardly even speak to each other. Here we all have a sense of involvement." Pity that we're losing Chris in the Review! All credit to him — and those others who, it seems certain, will now be leaving us. Hopefully they'll only be going as far as other parts of ITN. Their loyalty and continued commitment has been remarkable. Katrina Millar again: "It was all very upsetting. But even after the worst possibilities had sunk in I couldn't find it in me to feel negative about the team or the programmes."

All those of us who will remain, hope most fervently that extra work and multi-skilling will ensure that we can keep the numbers close to the original complement. We've already had some fun putting together multi-skilled bulletins. Hopefully the practice will pay off fully if and when we have some sickness. Says John Hollands [vision mixer]: "It helps you to work as a team. You have an insight to other people's problems." Stephanie Norvill [floor manager]: "It puts an end to time-wasting. You can get on and do things yourself without waiting for someone to do them for you." And, with a smile, ". . . it means I can spend half an

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Flashback to some of the early days for the team



COPS that fit the bill

This is advance warning that the Cops will be taking over at ITN on October 1. But this will be a friendly invasion and confined to the transport department because October 1 should be the date that John Copleston's Cops company takes over the running of the traffic, transport and shipping requirements at Wells Street.

Cops, the name has yet to be officially confirmed, is one of the first examples of former ITN staff taking advantage of the voluntary severance and early retirement deals to set up their own companies. John had been at ITN for 25 years but in the Into the Nineties document the department he managed was being axed and replaced by a private company. He was approached and asked if he would like to form a company to fulfil that function.

"It is a major challenge and I am very grateful to have the opportunity to do this. I have been managing the department for 13 years so I know all about the operational side but I'm trying to learn about the business side too," he said. "I think it's a great opportunity for all the people involved."

Six of the 11 people in traffic will be joining the new company and 8 of the 11 despatch riders.

Apart from that, Gail Burch, who is John's secretary of nine years' standing, becomes shipping manager and Ian Hutchins, transport manager.

Ted Playle, who is taking early retirement from the accounts department, will work in a part-time capacity on the accounting side.

"Everybody involved at the moment has come from ITN. I think it's a bit of a culture shock to be leaving the company. Most of us have worked here in excess of 10 years, some 15 maybe 20 years and obviously they are a bit apprehensive but I think most of them are excited about the move too. It's going to be difficult moving from the certainty of ITN and going into a little bit of the unknown. It could all go wrong. There are lots of different feelings. But I like the idea of going into the unknown."

"It's a major challenge and I am very grateful to have the opportunity to do this"

ITN and Cops are currently negotiating a five-year contract which Copleston hopes will see an improved service. "For example the ITN motorcycles have never been equipped with radio communications, they just have pagers which can be inconvenient if you can't find a phone that's working. Our bikes will have radios which we think will speed up the process," said John.

The company will also take over

responsibility for co-ordination of the mini cabs. "This is an area we have never had to deal with before, it will take us a while to find our feet but we hope that things will work out well here."

Although ITN's contract will provide the bulk of work when the company begins in October, once the team feels that the operation is running smoothly, John hopes to branch out and offer services to other television companies. "We won't be thinking about anything but getting this operation going to begin with but after, say, six months we may begin to look around for more orders. We definitely want to expand in time."

Cops is already investigating pension funds and a profit sharing scheme for the founder members and John has had talks with Eric Eeles of Worldtech, the consultant ITN brought in to advise staff considering setting up in business.

"Talking to Eeles was helpful in that he has been involved in setting up lots of small businesses and was able to tell us things like how to write a business plan and what to expect to spend on things like postage which we wouldn't have a clue about," added John.

The move itself won't make a lot of difference to those in the new company. They will be working from the same offices, still have the same internal telephone extensions and are hoping that they will be able to arrange associate membership with ITN's sports and social clubs. "We've all been here for a long time and we still want to be part of the team as much as possible."

WORLD NEWS



The World News team stands outside the Portakabin which was their studio for so long. It was officially removed on July 31 and the team will be moving into a more

salubrious setting on the fifth floor soon.

The programme itself continues to be successful. Earlier in the year, World News asked its viewers to write in

with their comments on the programme. They received more than 300 letters from 22 countries. Here is a selection of views.

"Watching ITN World News is a daily ritual in our house." Kenneth Scott, Florida. "I enjoy the clarity and directness of your Special Reports." Carol Peschke-Svensen, Norway. "You are to be congratulated for your factual and concise reporting. My Swiss friends praise your clear diction and we all appreciate your pleasant expression." Mary Rudd, Switzerland.

"The way you do your job is having an inspiring effect on our day-to-day work with the Swiss Television network." Eric Gysling, editor in chief, Swiss TV. "Every day you have so many interviews with important political personalities." Naimi Karim, Yugoslavia.

Desert Island Memories

Sue Lawley invites you to tell her the favourite music you'd take with you to your desert island but any self-respecting journalist would have a stock of exclusive stories and after-dinner tales to take too — and your luxury item? Well, it would have to be a typewriter, wouldn't it? In the first of our series, SANDY GALL remembers some of his best scoops



My first scoop: The red MG sports car

I got my first scoop while in Leipzig. Every year the East German Government ran a big industrial fair in Leipzig, and Reuters sent me to cover it in the summer of 1954. At first sight there was not much excitement, but, during a reception given by the British Motor Corporation, I picked up the merest whiff of a story. One of the senior sales staff let slip that they had had a remarkable coup that day. A lot of drinks later, he suddenly cracked: "We've just sold an MG to one of the top East Germans. You won't believe this but we sold it to the Prime Minister himself, Otto Grotewohl. It's for his twenty-year-old daughter." My story made the lead in every British paper the next morning — with one exception: The Times.

Suez: I overheard a major exclusive

I was making my daily rounds, calling in at various army offices, to see if there had been any overnight developments. At the Military Police office, as I came in I overheard one officer saying "... young British officer failed to report in this morning. And there's concern that he ..." he dropped his voice "... may have been kidnapped." They both looked over at me "Keep your voice down, we don't want the press to hear about this." He could see from my uniform and the flash on my shoulder that I was a war correspondent. "Reuters," I said. "Checking to see if anything happened overnight." "No," he said, lying smoothly. "Nothing at all." I kept my peace and walked out. They would only deny it and I was clear about what I had heard. I raced back to the Press Centre. A few minutes later the story was on its way to London. We had a scoop on our hands.

Nikita Khrushchev's visit to Hungary

In the summer of 1958, two important events occurred. Eleanor and I were married and Nikita Khrushchev, first secretary of the Soviet Communist Party and Stalin's debunker, came to Hungary for the first time since 1956. Halfway through a major speech, Khrushchev seemed to depart from his set text. His face became red with anger and he gripped the podium as though he would like to strangle it. "Let me give you a warning," he cried. "If you ever have another crisis like the business in '56, don't expect the Soviet Union to come to your help. The next time, you'll have to get yourselves out of your own mess." This was straight talking, a far cry from the usual mealy-mouthed protestations of proletarian solidarity. I drove at speed to Budapest and sent off my opening paragraphs as soon as I reached my office. Next morning all the serious British and American papers and scores of others around the world, printed the story.

The first big report for ITN

At the end of October 1963, a shaft in a German coal mine collapsed and 11 miners were trapped underground. I asked the foreign desk when we were going to send someone, they simply shrugged. One morning the BBC reported that the miners' plight was becoming more desperate so I packed a bag and took it with me to the office. The editor, Geoffrey Cox, said: "Any man who packs his bag and brings it in to the newsroom deserves to be sent on an assignment." At the mine itself everything was planned down to the last detail for the press. I was able to telephone my report to ITN. It was the first report I did for ITN over which they in any way enthused.

I covered the Kennedy Assassination

On November 22 1963, I was sitting in the audience in the village hall at Groomsbridge, Kent watching an amateur performance of *The Gazebo* in which my friend Sheila Bett was playing the maid, when her husband John came to find me urgently. "President Kennedy has been shot," he said. "ITN want you to go to America." I left Sheila to cope with the third act on her own.

Saigon: The start of the Vietnam War

In February 1965, President Johnson authorised the first American bombing raids against North Vietnam and later the same month the American air force was in action against the Vietcong in South Vietnam. A week later I was told to catch the next plane to Vietnam. So we were going to cover a war, something that ITN had hardly ever done in its history.

The battle between Jordan and Syria

The Jordanians were barring all journalists so it seemed although ITN was desperate to send me to cover the fighting we could not get in. A friend suggested we fly to Damascus. Chris Faulds, Mick Doyle and I flew to Damascus, masquerading as businessmen, hiding the camera equipment in our cases. We took a taxi from there to Dera'a and we drove through to the border filming en route. It was the lead item on News at Ten. It was the first film of the fighting between Syria and Jordan.

The first ITN man to visit China

One evening in June 1972, John Mahoney, ITN's foreign editor at the time, came across to where I was sitting at the News at Ten desk. "Sandy, how would you like to go to China?" he asked. I was enormously excited. The long freeze between China and the West was just beginning to thaw. We would be the first major British television team to visit China for as long as could be remembered. ITN had certainly never been there before. As we drove into Peking, I was struck by two things: nearly everyone rode a bicycle and everyone looked the same, men and women. Rush hour Peking consisted of thousands and thousands of men and women in blue boiler suits, with high Mao collars, peddling along in near silence.

Taken from Sandy Gall's autobiography, Don't worry about the money now.

New role for the profiles department

by Geoff O'Connell

Over the years I have always envied the impact that ITN journalist Jack Bryan has had on the Channel One newsroom.

Jack is a man whose very appearance brings a heightened awareness to every news editor's face.

As head of ITN's profiles department — his arrival usually meant that some prominent personality had just died and the bulletins were screaming for any footage that he could supply.

While inheriting Jack's role I have — so far — not been able to rival his prominence as the arbiter of doom. But I can assure you I am working on it.

In the meantime the work of the profiles department has taken on a new urgency. Now that ITN is a 24-hour operation it means that we — rather than Thames or LWT — will co-ordinate the first hour of television after the death or serious injury of a member of the Royal family, the Prime Minister or the President of the United States.

So who merits special treatment on their death? First there are the principal members of the Royal family.

The Queen
The Prince of Wales
The Duke of Edinburgh

The Queen Mother
The Princess of Wales
They come into what is called Category One.

Everyone in this category would certainly merit major coverage with the ITV network cleared of all other programming.

Then there are the Category Two VIPs.

Prince William and Prince Harry
The Princess Royal and

The code for the combination lock is kept in security. The box is divided into two sections — both clearly marked as Network Obits or Operation Openender. It contains the National Anthem on quarter inch tape, and various slides and stills of Category One and Two VIPs. Included will be BVU copies of the pre-recorded Network Obituaries which are also held on one inch tape in the library.

“The aim of Operation Openender is to capture the drama of the occasion—and keep viewers informed of every development”

Princess Margaret
The Duke and Duchess of York
Prince Edward
The Prime Minister
The President of the United States

A death in Category Two would merit major coverage—but would also depend on the circumstances of death. The death of other members of the Royal family would be reported in the normal way.

A special back-up box kept in the Channel One newsroom holds everything needed in the first few minutes of a network obituary operation.

There is still confusion about the difference between Operation Openender and the Network Obituary procedure.

Operation Openender is the name given to special programming to be broadcast by ITN while a major news event is in progress.

It may well be to report a Royal death. But it could equally apply to any major story, such as the Zeebrugge disaster or the King's Cross fire.

Normal ITV schedules would be abandoned. We stay on the air for as long as necessary to report the story. “Open-ended” in fact.

The aim of Operation Openender is to capture the drama of the occasion — and keep viewers informed of every development.

To give a recent example: if Prince Charles had been injured in his recent skiing accident in the Swiss Alps ITN would have gone into Operation Openender and stayed on the air indefinitely to report all subsequent developments.

If whilst on the air we heard that he had died — and this was confirmed by Buckingham Palace — we would have gone into the formal obituary procedure.

Now that ITN has the primary responsibility for network obituaries it's essential that all editorial and technical staff are familiar with the procedures.

A special ITN video has been prepared by the profiles department which explains as simply as possible what has to be done. And as well as this a series of discussions have been held in the boardroom to explain the system in more detail.

If you missed the sessions in the boardroom and want a copy of the video give us a call in our plush new offices on the first floor of 45 Mortimer Street.

How time flies by for the night owls

continued from page 7

hour in graphics listening to Dennis Richards warning me against men and marriage.”

And manager Mike Raycroft: “What impressed me was the enthusiasm. Here was a group of people who'd just worked through the night, ending with an hour of live television. They could have been simply looking forward to going home, and yet here they were getting thoroughly involved in learning new skills.”

The first six months haven't been without upset. The disgusting, cold, “fast” food which received universal condemnation (countered by our delight

at the fare produced once Kenny the chef was appointed); the lack of technical and library support; the isolation from the rest of the building. And the Management Review.

“The first six months haven't been without upset: the disgusting cold “fast” food and the isolation from the rest of the building”

But most of all it's been a period of learning . . . about each other; how to cope with new sleep/work patterns, how to adapt to new working practices. I

hope the company's learning too. In these six months we've had the first broadcast of (in no particular order) two prison riots, Denzil Davies quitting, an air miss, several Gulf incidents, Primary election results, at least two major Ulster bombings, the Downing Street suicide, the M50 murder and the Piper Alpha tragedy. According to News Editor Chris Hampson: “ITN is now a 24-hour operation. We are discovering opportunities for breaking stories and getting moving on them. We news editors are setting up the next day (how many of the list above were still the lead in News at Ten?) and not just working for the night shift. It's a pity that other parts of the company seem to find it difficult to understand that the night-time programmes need a proper service too.”

Perhaps in the NEXT six months . . .

The best that can be said about the Government's proposals to reform the Official Secrets Act is that they could be worse. The oldest Whitehall trick was played in the long run-up to publication: leaks suggesting changes so draconian that the eventual terms led to some initial relief when the White Paper was published.

Rumours that Ministers would have power to certify without challenge that a particular disclosure was damaging to Britain's interests were pointedly dropped. Good! But, Ministers never have had that power, and the idea was abandoned in a previous attempt to reform the "catch-all" Section 2 back in 1979. So, where's the big deal?

The Home Secretary, Douglas Hurd, claims that his proposals offer "a substantial liberalisation of the law". He describes the existing Section 2 as "a mess". No-one would dispute that. But he replaces a 1911 mess with a 1988 muddle.

Section 2 should not be reformed. It should be scrapped. Everything necessary to defend the secrets and security of the State are covered by Section 1 – and no-one in the media seriously disputes that. Section 2, on the other hand, is all about Government and Civil Service obsession with preventing disclosure by servants of the State.

Because the media had been expecting the worst, its initial reaction was muted and in disarray. Now that the dust has settled we can see the full restrictive powers with which we are threatened.

Confidentially speaking

PETER COLE leads us through the changes in the Official Secrets Act and concludes it's not all bad news – if you can keep a secret

It will not be a defence to say that disclosure was in the public interest. Clive Ponting would have been jailed for revealing to an MP how Ministers had misled Parliament over the sinking of the *Belgrano* in the Falklands War. The jury simply refused to convict.

The White Paper takes a curious line on international relations. Paragraph 50: "... disclosure of information relating to international relations should be an offence if it can be shown that the disclosure would be likely to jeopardise or seriously obstruct the promotion or protection of United Kingdom interests abroad, or to prejudice dealings between our government and the government of another state or an international organisation, or the safety of a British citizen."

What's that, if not "catch-all"? As Donald Treford writes in *The Observer*: "If we were to sell nuclear



weapons to South Africa, it would be an offence to report it." And, as I see it, if the *Washington Post* carried a leaked report of White House pressure on the British Government over, say, aero engine purchases, we could not carry a line of it.

Paragraph 51 seeks to protect information obtained in confidence from other governments or international organisations. At present, if such information is disclosed abroad, it is not an offence to publish it in this country. But woe betide us if this proposed legislation becomes law. For this paragraph is concerned with "the wider damage to the standing of the United Kingdom in relation to all governments and international organisations." That has less to do with the security of state secrets than embarrassment for the Government. The abandoned 1979 Bill would have allowed a defence of "prior publication". That

is, that it's OK to publish information that has been seen before. This White Paper will have none of that. It actually says, "Indeed, in certain circumstances a second or subsequent disclosure could be more harmful." There's an element of truth in this in that one could get a story published in an obscure arabic organ and claim "prior publication". But if it were splashed across the *New York Times* you could still not claim it as a defence.

Furthermore, what about the open skies, with satellites beaming news across national frontiers? Those dishes may serve us with forbidden fruit. We shall be told so much – but most not tell anyone.

Then there's phone-tapping – or "interception" as it's described? There is a blanket block on any form of reporting the methods or information obtained. The point has already been made elsewhere that if Terry Wogan's phone were tapped in mistake for an IRA man of the same name, we couldn't report it. Nor could we report any claim for damages.

The Bill is bound to have a rough passage through both Houses of Parliament. When the White Paper was debated in the Commons on July 22 there were never more than 24 MPs in the Chamber – and most of those opposed it, including three of the six Conservative speakers.

The Lords took up the debate the following Friday. Lord Elwyn Jones, former Labour Attorney General, said: "Nothing in the White Paper will reduce official secrecy. On the contrary we fear it will increase it."

PARLIAMENT

Success of The Parliament Programme

More than half the MPs in the Commons have now been heard speaking from the floor of the House in The Parliament Programme on Channel Four. A total of 349 MPs, 54 per cent of the House, have been heard in speeches or questions. In all, more than 1,000 extracts from the Commons' proceedings have been transmitted. In addition, there have been nearly 200 interviews with MPs.

Glyn Mathias said: "This reinforces our belief that televising the Commons will give every MP – backbenchers as well as ministers – a chance of being seen at work in the Chamber." The Parliament Programme ended its first run last month when Parliament broke

up for the summer recess. At the moment it covers the House of Commons on sound and the House of Lords with cameras. More than 1,000 extracts from speeches in the House of Lords have been transmitted during these 26 weeks.

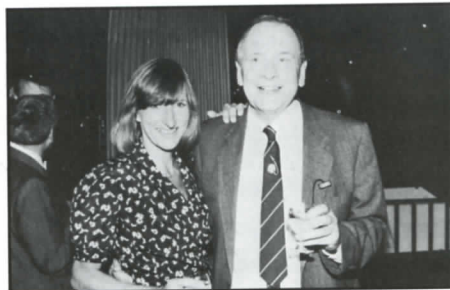
In this period the team has broadcast the first-ever television pictures of the Speaker's quarters and the first look at how the whips operate in the voting lobby at the House of Lords.

The Parliament Programme will be back on the air when the Commons returns on October 19. It will then be transmitted at a new time, 12 noon, Tuesday to Friday, presented by



Mathias: Chance for all MPs.

Alastair Stewart and Glyn Mathias, and produced by Howard Anderson.



ITN held a party at the Science Museum in June to launch the publication of the joint ITN Macmillan book *The Race to Mars*. The celebrations were also to say farewell to its author, Frank Miles, who retired at the end of last year. Among those who attended were, top left, the new Captain Kirk – actor Patrick Stewart, and top right, Richard Branson. The museum, decked out with models of space craft and astronauts, was the perfect setting. Di Edwards Jones and Frank stand in front of the Apollo 10. And, above right, Frank with Hilary, famous as the woman who tapped in “touchdown” as the historic moonlanding took place in 1966 only to see it appear on screen as “ouchdown”.



Peter Brown (bottom, right) during his retirement party

Mike Williams writes: Peter Brown has been a cameraman with ITN since “Day One”. In those days he was referred to as “Young Peter” – a name that would still not be out of place. Although Peter did not know it then, his sense of timing was perfect. He retires now following his 60th birthday, after 33 years’ service (therefore a full pension) and the latest improvements in the pension scheme all falling into place exactly. The *Into the Nineties* document landed on Peter’s doormat, not with a bang but with the quiet whimper of junk mail.

Some years ago I heard a keen young cameraman expounding the virtues of the extra wide-angle and long lenses he would use on his next assignment. “If you want a wider shot, stand further back. For a close-up move nearer,” was Peter’s advice – and Peter always knew where to stand. This wonderfully simple approach to news gathering has been an example to everybody at ITN.

Peter taught me to “keep it simple and never miss anything” and I shall never forget that.

On the day of his retirement lunch, the cab did not arrive to collect him (familiar?). He didn’t care, he drove to Watford and came down on the train – still smiling. That was when I knew he was ready for retirement.

If you happen to see Peter – he will be moving soon to Norfolk – see if you can get him to tell you about the marine’s helmet in Vietnam, or Devil’s Island, or the bongo or – well that’s another story.

MEDIA QUOTES

- “What goes on in a bed or behind closed doors seems to me very much out of court. Unwanted penetration of your privacy seems to me a kind of rape.” – **Mike Hollingsworth**.
- “Even when I was still at the BBC I was beginning to feel the pictures we showed were lacking in taste and showed unnecessary blood and gore.” – **Jan Leeming**.
- “Sunday lunchtime, with *Weekend World* and *This Week Next Week*, has become over the years the Clapham Junction of British political broadcasting.” – **The Guardian**.
- “EastEnder Alan Sugar, 41, raised in a council flat, started in business at 16 flogging car aerials from the back of a van. His empire is now worth £300 million.” – **20 Out-of-this-World things you need to know about Satellite TV**.
- “Real television people do not perspire. I watched Frank Miles at his retirement party . . . in spite of the ITN lights, his complexion remained damp-proof.” – **Barbara Amiel**, *The Times Diary*
- “John Connell, from Glasgow, is standing for the Peace – Stop ITN Manipulation of the News party in the Kensington by-election. He is a Christian Scientist and journalist.” – **The Times**.
- “It’s a con trick. I’m appalled that the press has fallen so easily for this PR trap set by Douglas Hurd.” – **Donald Treford on the White Paper on Official Secrets**.
- “It would be nice if occasionally someone would write and say: ‘I really enjoyed such-and-such a story.’ But people are more concerned with your earrings.” – **Fiona Armstrong**.
- “This is a deeply moral society . . . You are not going to get support, even if you tried, for a pornographic channel.” – Publisher of *The Sun* and *News of the World*, **Rupert Murdoch** on standards for satellite television.

Awkward customers!

I refer to Susan d'Arcy's article in *The Lens* (June). Whilst having every sympathy with the press office for the never-ending stream of complaints and comments they have to deal with daily, may I enter a plea for some such understanding on behalf of the forgotten few — the telephonists!

Have you ever quaked at the very sound of the News at Ten "bongs" waiting for the onslaught of irate and abusive callers? If, as I suspect your answer is no, perhaps you may like to partake in a little experiment. One of the better times for this would be during a full moon. Imagine the excitement of manning the switchboard at such times.

If you fancy a chat with a werewolf or relish the prospect that a madman may be waiting on the front steps that night, having previously phoned and threatened to slit your throat (or worse), then this is the job for you.

Of course we do receive some serious complaints. The public are not stupid. We in UG16 are well aware that the fact that Alastair Burnet's tie is askew or Carol Barnes has worn that blouse before are of national importance.

We realise that some callers NEED to know what colour knickers we are wearing and whether or not our parents were really married. Our heartfelt thanks go out to the vast number of viewers who have helped to expand our vocabulary. How many terms of abuse can you list?

All I ask is that the next time you are unfortunate enough to have to deal with an "awkward customer" please spare a thought for the front line and remember we face them all day — every day!

Lesley Hudson

Right time for club

The considerable increase in numbers of pensioners as a result of the company's early

pension plan prompts the question: should they form themselves into an association?

If ITN is a good regiment — and it is a good regiment — why should they not form the equivalent of an old comrades association, with a yearly get-together?

Not, I would suggest, at Christmas, when everywhere is bunged out with seasonal celebrations. Far better in the summer, perhaps the longest day — when at least it will make it that just easier for those with aching bones and joints. And a name? How about: "Old-Timers"?

On page four *The Lens* is running some ideas I had when I left ITN in 1984 and had to fill the days ahead after a busy time as ITN's public relations manager. It is only a basis. If you have any additional ideas, or comments, please write to *The Lens*.

Frank Duesbury

Traffic concern

Every day I take my life in my hands when I come to work — because I am one of the unfortunates living in the South Island.

All of us in 45 Mortimer Street have to cross the busy Mortimer Street junction at least a couple of times a day — some of us a lot more. Invariably you are in a hurry

to get to a meeting or get a message document to someone. Invariably the lights seem to be against you and because you are in a rush you dice with death to dodge between the taxis and cars to get across. I have been nearly knocked over by bikers — who are also weaving through the traffic — several times.

Without wishing to be alarmist, I am afraid it is only a matter of time before someone from ITN is involved in an accident at this crossing.

I appreciate that we are moving to the new building in a couple of years and that no-one finds the present accommodation arrangements completely satisfactory; however I think something really should be done to increase the safety of this junction. Perhaps a zebra crossing would be the answer, a bridge across would be ideal but perhaps too costly to be practical as an interim measure.

Concerned Roadrunner

Less stress

Receiving the ITN staff news through *The Lens* regularly gives me great enjoyment. I love reading about the development over the years and seeing articles by or about old colleagues. I would like to send in return greetings to

those who remember the old days before everything was so bogged down with that new buzzword stress.

Everyone says stress is unhealthy, but as far as I am concerned that is not always true. When John Cotter asked me to take up the responsibility for German news coverage for ITN in the Fifties I couldn't imagine doing the job alone (but assistance didn't come for years). You must realise this filming work meant lots of stress. Imagine it: getting all the news from papers and radio, phoning around, driving to far-off places, filming the facts, writing down texts, trying to catch the next plane to deliver the news to London and always trying to beat the competition.

I remember one occasion when I was at a Formula 1 race and heard about a coal mining disaster and I managed to leave the meeting unnoticed and get the first pictures of the tragedy exclusively for ITN.

In spite of all this hard work, excitement and pressure, I remained in good health and started windsurfing at 70 — free from the perils of stress. In fact I'm still a keen surfer and hope I will be practising with pleasure on my 80th birthday on September 1 (see picture).

So finally colleagues I send my greetings and remind you not to get overwhelmed by pressure but enjoy it.

Georg Georgii

Polished appeal

I have noticed recently that the cleaner in our office uses Johnson furniture polish for cleaning. I presume that cleaners in other parts of the organisation are also using this spray polish.

As ITN is aware of the damage such aerosols are causing to the ozone layer, I think perhaps it is time for us to investigate using one of the new products on the market which are not harmful.

If ITN stops using CFCs the ozone layer may last a few minutes longer.



Georg Georgii: still enjoying life (see *Less Stress*)

Home thoughts from abroad

The Moscow Summit gave real meaning to that well-known phrase about putting a broom somewhere . . . and sweeping the floor! In other words we really were called upon to do a bit of everything at the same time.

Perhaps this feeling came about because of the long days — we were working in a time zone three hours ahead of London — or perhaps it was because of the “catch as catch can” arrangements for late-night nourishment.

Or maybe it was that we were in rehearsal mode for the “skill sharing” outlined in the Into the Nineties document: Pat Hilliard was being “shared” between electrical installation, maintenance and three ENG crews.

The Americans were there too. I have always understood that NBC, CBS and ABC are the most competitive trio in the world. Surely then they must have film crews that are really “honed down”? But when I went along to watch one of the Broadcast News-stereotype anchor men performing on the biggest hotel balcony overlooking the best view of the Kremlin,



Thomson: taking a break from the hard work in Moscow

my resounding impression was that this wasn't so much news filming as a set from Hollywood in the 1930s. I couldn't help wondering if this was an example of competitive news-gathering why these crews didn't seem to be honed down.

Perhaps I don't yet understand these

things. I do know that on the trip home I was short of a soundman and had to ask Patrick (Hilliard) to fill in and carry the BVU recorder. He agreed at once. I sensed no resentment but did I see sadness in his eyes?

Huw Thomson

OBITUARY

JACK CHATTERTON

There were three Jack Chattertons. Jack the television station engineer, Jack the Grenadier Guardsman and Jack the golfer.

Jack the television engineer joined ITN from the BBC in June 1955. He was a founder member who actually helped to build the news station in the 'old building' in Kingsway. He had wide experience at the BBC and had been the station commander for the BFN in Nairobi.

Jack the Grenadier Guardsman fought with the First Army in North Africa followed by the long hard battle up the leg of Italy, including the bitter and fierce fighting for Monty Casino, where he was wounded. In 1986, with his wife June, he returned to Perugia where he was taken ill with pneumonia. While, as he put it, his mind “was wandering”, he let slip the fact that he was the first British soldier into Perugia, hot on the heels of the retreating Germans. He be-

came an overnight celebrity and the local paper ran a picture of Jack in his tank. It wasn't like that. Jack recalled: “I went in my size 10 boots carrying a Tommy-gun.”

And there was Jack the golfer who brought to life a defunct ITN golfing society. It had lapsed after the death of



Jack with his wife June

the incomparable cameraman and golfer, Ronnie Read. Jack was the first captain of the reincarnated golfing society and he was aided and abetted by another ITN stalwart, Ron Newberry.

Jack had been secretary of the society and was its president for seven years. He used to say: “I can fix most things, but not the weather.”

On the day of the funeral it was overcast, and for a few seconds as his family and friends walked up to the graveside, the sun shone.

His widow June, who had been a professional opera singer until her voice was damaged, joined ITN in October of 1955 as a vision

mixer. She and Jack were married in 1960. “He was a dear husband, a great friend, he was my touchstone,” June said. “We had such a good time together and we loved going to the opera and theatre. Jack had, in fact, played the flute in the Grenadiers and was an accomplished classical guitarist.”

Those at the funeral were a

cross section of Jack's life. From ITN there were founder members Alfie Wilson, “Mitch” and Ernie Proctor. Also there were past captains of the ITN golfing society, Mike Piper and John Copleston, as well as this Russ Pipe, Mike Neusten, David Tomlinson, Alan Hawkins, Derek Young and Frank Duesbury were also present.

From Worthing Golf Club there was Eric Clarke, an ex-Gunner who had been in the 6th British Armoured Division, in which Jack fought with the First Guards Brigade.

Ex-Welsh Guardsman Jim Carson, who shared an electric golf buggy with Jack and was often a guest at the ITNGS meetings, also attended. As June and the other mourners turned back from the chalk-lined grave they looked across the valley to the rising ground beyond and could see the 15th fairway of the upper course, and the 1st hole of the lower course of Worthing G.C. Jack won the Veteran's Cup there last October, winning 5 and 4.

Ask and you shall receive . . . abuse

by Debbie Schooley

Funnily enough, despite working in a news organisation, I never realised quite how suspicious people become when you ask a simple, little question. It all started with an innocent comment as I picked up my papers from reception one morning: "Good grief! What's happened to the telly?" Let's face it, the gaping black hole in the wall is pretty obvious. There must be some explanation. Was it broken? When had it been taken away? Nobody seemed to have seen the going of the said monitor.

The problem with curiosity (apart from feline murder) is that it invariably seems to get you into trouble and never goes away. Some days later the TV was still missing and, being a glutton for punishment, I asked again. Security accused me of having the morals of a Sun reporter and demanded I get my facts right — ignoring the fact I didn't have any facts to get wrong.

But it was no use, by now I was hooked. Implausible though it seemed, it was fast beginning to look as if the missing TV had sprung legs and walked. So I decided to ask George Cutts — he's the man to reveal all.

"George where's the telly?" "What telly?" "The one that isn't in reception."
"Which reception?"

Asking questions can be hard work. Eventually I persuaded him I was not out to cause trouble and I was informed that the TV had been moved — quite legitimately by Rediffusion. Of course my next question was when would it return but, dear readers, apparently that is a mystery known only unto Rediffusion.



Tie-ing for first place

These cut-outs of Reagan and Gorbachev are sporting the Tie Rack Cancer Relief "glasnost" tie which was designed after a competition among fashion students. Now the two organisations have teamed up to organise The Great Tie Auction which will raise funds for Cancer Relief. More than 100 celebrities have donated ties ranging from Jeffrey Archer to Mick Jagger. Alastair Burnet has donated a tie "worn on News at Ten when there was no news from Lebanon or Northern Ireland". Ties from other famous ITN people would also be

appreciated. Please send your tie (with an accompanying message) to: The Great Tie Auction, Anchor House, 15-19 Britten Street, London SW3 3TZ.

The Lens welcomes any ideas you have for features, articles or profiles which you think ought to be covered in the magazine. If you have any suggestions or if you would like to write an article or letter contact Susan d'Arcy on Ext. 2475.

Last issue's winner

Winner of the Caption Competition in issue No 28 (Paul Fox in front of a BBC camera) was Chris McHugh with "The best ad for the YTV is the people who've done it." Chris wins a bottle of wine.



Alastair Stewart asks Desert Island Discs' Sue Lawley to cast a few pennies into his collection tin for Telethon.



Does Joan Thirkettle catch Rolf Harris on the hop when she asks him for a donation for Telethon? Apparently not. Other ITN staff who did their bit for the marathon fund raising event included Fiona Armstrong, Debbie Schooley and Kim Lacey.

DID YOU KNOW?

In the recent by-election in Kensington John Cornell stood as the PEACE — Stop ITN Manipulation of the News candidate. He polled a surprising 20 votes.

CAPTION COMPETITION

Jonathan Ross, presenter of Channel 4's The Last Resort recently paid a visit to ITN to film a scene for his late-night chat show. Here we see him in the Channel 4 News studio — but what's actually happening? Caption the picture and you may win a bottle of wine. All entries to be received by the Press Office by September 30.

Name..... Dept.....
Caption.....
.....
.....



ITN's Great North Run

ITN and the BBC in Newcastle ran against each other in the eighth Great North Run, Europe's largest participating half-marathon (27,000 runners).

As for the ITN team running for Cancer Research, we had a smashing time.

I left for Newcastle on July 22, a day earlier than the rest of the team. This was to set up and check out on accommodation and to pick up a small marquee which was to be used as a meeting point at the end of the run in South Shields.

The majority of us travelled up with the help of British Rail who donated the tickets to our cause.

Most of the team from London arrived the next day. One of them was limping, Paula Wilkinson. She claimed she was pushed down the steps at 48 Wells Street and twisted her ankle. I was

having none of this - until she proved that running was out of the question. Paula did, a badly scarred leg . . . oh well one less runner (next year Paula you will have to think up a better excuse!).

On the day of the race, the team "ITN Newsprinters" walked up to the start line in our blue T-shirts identifying who we were running for - Cancer Research. The central motorway is the start, both carriageways, filled to the brim with 27,000 runners! Now the hard slog begins, it takes about eight minutes to cross the start line if you are at the back. Words can't really describe the run itself - the Geordie spectators cheer you on your way offering you drinks and spraying you with water if you're too hot.

Some of the comments that our T-shirts generated on the run were:

"If I run with you will I be on telly."

"I've got a complaint about the London Marathon."

And as a BBC man came running up to one of our team he tapped him on the shoulder saying:

"Isn't it a shame when the BBC flies

past you!"

I suffered too, as a man dressed as an aeroplane shot past me and shouted:

"I hope you're faster with the news mate."

The run up to the finish line takes you along the coast at South Shields. About a mile from the end you can see the finish line. This I find the hardest part, seeing your goal all that way ahead. Once you're over the finish line you feel as though YOU have won the race. You're given a medal and a T-shirt so look out for them around the building.

Well who won? Who was first in our team? Did we beat the BBC? We won't officially know until the results are published but one of our team finished the run in 1 hour 20 minutes, Mathew Kemp, well done! The official winner was Irish marathon record holder, John Treacy (31), who swept home with a time of 61 minutes.

See you for the next run,

Richard Lambert

(2 hours 46 minutes - and last!),
Electronic Engineering

By Brian Pendry

Cottesmore, May 16, 1988

After last year's dismal weather at Cottesmore it was with some trepidation that the assembled gathering of 44 members and guests turned up for this year's meeting to play for the Carris and Angora cups.

Once again, only the Old Course provided anything like a test, especially at the water holes. This clearly affected scores for a modest 29 pts - returned by Russ Padwick - was good enough to win the Carris Cup (H'caps 1-20). The captain, Brian Pendry (28 pts) and president, Wally Moss (27 pts) followed hard on Russ's heels.

In the Angora competition (H'caps 20-28) Chris Squires, a most enthusiastic golfer these days, won with an equally modest 31 pts although the clenched fist in triumph at the presentation will remain an abiding memory! Sportsmen Peter Wallace and Gordon Hickey took second and third spots with 28 pts and 27 pts respectively.

For the guests Derek Seymour's lad Mark (all of 18 and off a handicap half his age) won with the much more respectable score of 37 pts. Mark Austin, a guest on this occasion, took the second prize.

A test of stamina for ITN's golfers

At dinner, Brian Pendry raised a glass to Ron Spencer of John Wells Electrical Ltd who kindly sponsored the day.

**Natural Break
Scarborough, May 23-27**

The annual ITV network golfing jamboree, organised



Russ Padwick accepts his trophy from Ron Spencer

this year by Yorkshire Television, took place at the seaside resorts of Scarborough and Filey with the Natural Break competition being held at Ganton Golf Club.

This event (very well-organised by Yorkshire) is, in its present form, a test of stamina over three hectic days including 90 holes of golf, sponsored receptions and somewhat lengthy dinners. The competitions themselves, it has to be said, are more suited to the low-handicap golfers of whom

many abound in some of the regional companies. Nothing short of a semi-professional approach to the competition is likely to bring success and clearly those companies with the right credentials are likely to win. That is not to say that the ITN team did not try hard - indeed, Jim Mitch-

ell, finding extraordinary reserves of strength after his heavy weekend in Scotland prior to the meeting, picked up some minor honours for his efforts - but the rest of us were - in all fairness - just there for the beer! In such circumstances, it is only left for the lesser combatants to enjoy themselves to the utmost and this we did by taking full advantage of the excellent hospitality provided by the sponsoring companies along with our hosts at the dinners, Central TV, Tyne

Tees TV and Yorkshire TV.

The courses at Scarborough North Cliff, South Cliff and Filey were homely but very well prepared and offered a fair test in the prevailing off-shore breezes. Ganton, however, was a very different story. This is a championship course, which boasts the great Harry Vardon as one of its former professionals and is designed over heavy gorse heathland. A low-lying mist and heavy rain later in the day made conditions very awkward for all but the best golfers present.

The dinners were, for the most part, long drawn out affairs at which some excellent prizes were presented by the sponsors.

By the end of the evening most of us were too shattered to speak let alone walk, and so we retired to bed to dream of perfect golfing feats. George Harrison, however, may have got his venues confused for Mike Batchelor who "roomed" with George woke up one night to the sound of 500 cc Kawasakis buzzing around the room. Could it be that George has a latent desire to compete in the TT races!

If the golf did not quite measure up, we all made new friends and an enjoyable week ended with everyone looking forward to next year's event at North Berwick.