

THE LENS

The Staff
Newspaper for
Independent
Television
News

Sept. 1983 No. 5

Peak viewing 'special' to cover four overseas tours

ITN is producing a bumper Royal Special for peak network viewing over the Christmas holiday period.

In a major shift of policy, the programme replaces the normal end-of-year News Review, although it will not be screened at the same time.

The feature will include highlights of the Queen's visits to the Caribbean and the United States, as well as her forthcoming tour of Kenya, Bangladesh and India scheduled for November.

There will also be the inevitable coverage of the younger Royals, with footage of the Prince and Princess of Wales in Australia, New Zealand and more recently, Canada, as well as home material highlighting many less-publicised (and less formal) moments.

The production, which will occupy a peak 60-minute slot and is the first 'Royal' feature to be produced by ITN at Christmas, is presented by Tony Carthew and produced by Stewart Purvis.

In addition to producing programme specials ourselves, ITN has also been the subject of Film makers in recent weeks. First it was Granada who invaded the Wells Street premises for a major contribution to their 13-part series "The History of Television". In a feature devoted exclusively to news coverage, they had crews located simultaneously in London, Rome, Moscow and Washington comparing the different approaches to various home and international news items.

The programme under the microscope was "News at 5.45" which, recalls programme Editor, Derek Dowsett, was a remarkably slow news day. The lead story was the tussle for the Labour leadership in the wake of Mr. Foot's



ALL GEARED FOR A ROYAL FAMILY CHRISTMAS

announcement of intended resignation . . . until 5.20! Then news came through of Roy Jenkins' resignation as SDP leader and it all started to happen . . . and the urgency was reflected in the mood of the programme.

"We were extremely impressed by the slick way everything was handled and came together to meet such a tight deadline," said Granada producer Mike Murphy. "It was a thoroughly

professional operation which should make extremely good viewing."

ITN has been the subject of a new 12-minute promotional film for the IBA Gallery in Knightsbridge, and will additionally be featuring in a production for Channel Four called "Flashback" - a ten-part series showing 80 years of war coverage on film from the Boer War to the Falklands.

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Newsfolk

Eric Jessup's new secretary is **SARAH TANNER**, 22. She was the deputy head receptionist at



the County Hotel, Canterbury before working as a secretary for N.V. Slavenburg's, the Dutch bankers. Her special interests include playing squash, swimming, reading, music, good food and wines.

DAVID DOW, 35, has been recruited as a technical shift supervisor. He joins ITN from Visnews where he was a VT engineer and then a shift leader. As a real ale fan, David is a member of the Youngs 135 Club. He's also a British motorcycle enthusiast.

ANNE LEUCHARS, 29, has joined ITN staff as a reporter. Before that, Anne worked as a reporter/presenter at Border Television and as a reporter at HTV West in Bristol. She also has four

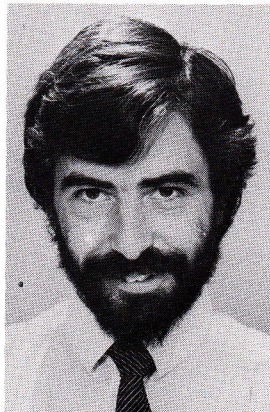


years' experience as a newspaper reporter/feature writer on the Coventry Evening Telegraph and Bristol Evening Post. Anne is also presenting News at 5.45 for some of the weekend bulletins.

JULIA ENGLEMAN, 20, has recently joined Personnel Office after having temped with them for the last six months. Before that Julia was secretary to two directors of an employment consultancy and has also worked in Israel on a kibbutz.

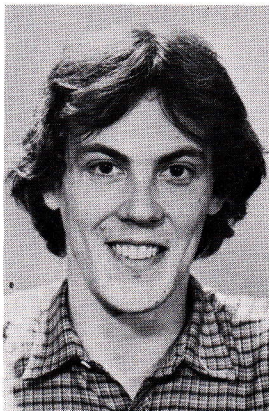
JACQUELINE ASHLEY, 28, has joined as scriptwriter for Channel Four News and comes to ITN from TV-am where she worked as a reporter/producer. Jacqueline's previous jobs include working as assistant producer on BBC2's 'Newsnight' and as scriptwriter on BBC Television News. She was also a reporter for the BBC series 'Out of Court' and worked as a reporter on 'The World at One' and 'P.M. Reports'.

MARTIN UREN, 29, is Senior Engineer, Vision Maintenance. He comes to us from the BBC, where he worked as a television



engineer in the Network Department at BBC Television Centre. He is married with an 18-month old son with another on the way. Martin is a keen photographer and interested in computer programming. He also collects Hungarian stamps and is a member of MENSA.

MARTIN WIBBERLEY, 24, has joined ITN from BBC London Studios as a Senior Engineer in Vision Maintenance. Before that he worked at Muirmead Data Communications as an electronic test engineer. Martin is single and enjoys motorcycling, camping and playing with computers, as well as reading, going to concerts and seeing sci-fi films.



JUDY LUSTIGMAN is secretary to Alastair Burnett, though she started work at ITN in February



working with Sue Tinson on the Election Unit. Judy's last job was as personal assistant to the directors of an independent radio and audio-visual production company. Judy has recently toured the USA and the Far East and is a one-time darts champion.

BILL CAMPBELL, 37, has joined ITN as a writer from TV-am, where he was a bulletin editor. He has also worked on Thames News, as a chief sub; Border Television, as a producer, as well as for BBC TV in the North East and The Northern Echo.

We are happy to welcome back **SUE MASON-PAY**, who has re-joined ITN as secretary to Mike Batchelor (having previously worked with Derek Walker). Sue and her husband went to live in the



Wiltshire countryside but are now back in London. Sue is a keen gardener and enjoys reading and sailing.

MARTYN HURD has joined ITN as Assistant Manager Production Planning, from Central Television where he was planning officer (West Midlands) responsible for production planning of the Birmingham studio facilities. His special interests include the research and performance of historical court dance in authentic costumes and playing instruments of the time.

THIS IS KEN PLATTEN, ABOVE NEWS AT TEN, WESTMINSTER!



Studio cameraman Ken Platten has, quite literally, been "beyond the boings" to the pinnacle of Big Ben.

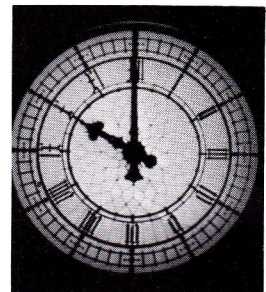
It was in May that he first noticed the start of the restoration work on the Palace of Westminster and Big Ben. He telephoned the Clerk of Works the following day, asking if he could arrange a visit and three months later, when all the scaffolding was in place, he climbed to the pinnacle of the most famous clock tower in the world.

In 1834 the Palace of Westminster (the buildings including the two Houses of Parliament, which had grown up around the Westminster Hall on the site of the Saxon Royal Palace) was burned to the ground after two workmen, anxious to get home, had overstoked a stove with wooden tallies for which the Clerk of the Works could find no other use.

It was decided that the new building should be

either Gothic or Elizabethan, and plans submitted by Charles Barry were selected.

Work began in 1840 and seven years later the House of Lords was finished. Five years later the rest of the building was ready. The clock tower, known as Big Ben, was completed in 1858 and the pinnacled Victoria Tower in 1860.



Big Ben, the name of the principal bell of the Clock Tower, is called after Sir Benjamin Hall, first Commissioner of Works. For 120 years the sound of the main bell has been synonymous with London and, more recently, ITN's News at Ten.

GOING UP!

Newscasters and engineers join fifth floor 'immigrants'

Plans are becoming firmer for the use of the fifth floor when UPITN move into their Foley Street premises in mid-September.

In addition to the ENG interview room and areas for the Special Events Unit and Production Unit, it is planned to reserve space for the Newscasters' office, the Press office and an additional area for reporters. Space has also been ear-

marked for the Station Engineers to work on their forward planning.

It is also planned that the existing cutting rooms will remain and that profiles will be relocated from Mortimer Street.

Office space has been reserved for the Assistant Editors - Sue Tinson and Stewart Purvis and both Paul McKee and Liz Gunia will finally move from their eighth floor eyrie.

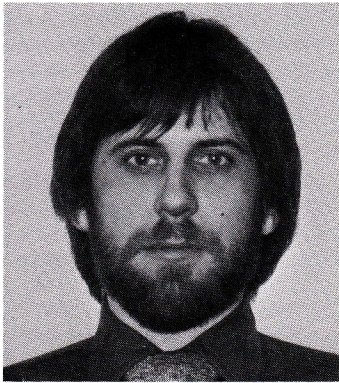
"I hope that the plan will bring about an efficient and harmonious blending of functions and talents in what I look forward to being a new, energetic and creative part of ITN's operation," said General Manager Paul McKee.

However, the whole plan will take approximately six months to bring to fruition and occupation will be by phases. As soon as UPITN vacates the

space it will be necessary to use part of the floor as a temporary home for the transparencies section while work is being carried out on the Upper Ground floor and while their permanent area is being prepared on floor one-and-a-half!

David Stuckey will be keeping in close touch with all of the sections concerned so that the relocations are as smooth as possible.

STEPHEN PHILLIPS recalls a trip to an Oxfordshire Tudor Mansion . . .



WHEN TED TOOK A BATH IN THE NAME OF ART!

After all the plaudits for Beirut and the Falklands, it would be a shame for a less conspicuous act of courage on the part of an ITN crew to go unmarked.

Arts assignments for Channel Four News seldom involve great physical danger so it was perhaps with a sense of unwarranted confidence that Ted Henley, Paul Dickie and the recently spliced David Prime (a formidable team in a tough spot) set out to inter-

view Sir John Gielgud, Sir Ralph Richardson and Dame Peggy Ashcroft in the grounds of a Tudor mansion in Oxfordshire.

With the interview conducted in the secrecy of an Elizabethan garden, undeterred by the murmur of distant tractors, we were confidently filming some GVs of the Manor House when disaster struck. A piercing scream alerted us that not all was well in the area of the moat. With lightning reactions honed to perfection in the world's trouble spots, Henley and Prime dropped their gear (a rather hasty response, I thought at the time - but it still works), and ran to the sound.

There in the moat, a small, red-haired girl, was thrashing around amidst the pond weed, in some danger of drowning. With the casual courage one expects from a sparks at the front, Prime leant over and hoisted the girl above the surface, despite her strenuous resistance.

But such muted intervention was not for Henley, who plunged into the mire, almost causing our distressed damsel to disappear again beneath the ripples of the disturbed surface. The screams redoubled. Prime hoisted her from the jaws of death just as Dickie and I arrived in time to decline any such assistance to Henley, who eventually emerged from the slime in such a distressingly noxious condition that the stately bathroom had quickly to be prepared to make our enthusiastic life saver socially acceptable.

Neither swimmer seemed much the worse for the dip, though the incident did seem to speak volumes for the relative practicality, blind heroism and wise caution of an ENG crew. The reporter of course has to maintain a certain detachment to record events.

THE PERSONNEL-ITY GIRLS

Personnel Manager Derek Young recently returned from sick leave to the best tonic a man could have . . . a team of highly capable colleagues with smiles as bright as the summer sun.

The Personnel Office, tucked discreetly away in Mortimer Street, is an established and vital part of the ITN operation, dealing with personnel records, recruitment, the organisation of "temps" and general welfare of the staff.

The team also handles such diverse matters as the company BUPA scheme, the hire of videos and televisions through Granada, and even enquiries regarding pension rights and mortgage advice.

As Personnel Manager, Derek Young is responsible for the overall administration of the Personnel office and staff records while Patsy Wright heads the all-women team who are responsible for day-to-day personnel matters. Patsy, who has been with ITN for nine years, is a keen bell-ringer at local churches in Kent.

Jacqueline Whitty, who has been with ITN for five years, enjoys sailing and playing golf. Liz Colson has chalked up four years service and is a keen sportswoman - including hang-gliding. Julia Engleman, who completes the team, joined earlier this year and is a keen follower of the arts.



Summer smiles from Mortimer Street (left to right): Liz Colson, Jacqueline Whitty, Julia Engleman and (seated) Patsy Wright.

New book features the 'forgotten men' of Television News

A book highlighting the invaluable, and frequently overlooked, role played by television news camera crews in international news coverage is to be published on September 15th by Robson

Books (price £8.95). "In The Front Line", by Martyn Pedrick, is a selection of the most exciting, dangerous and, at times, bizarre, stories of cameramen and sound-recordists covering

troublespots throughout the world, and has been written with the full co-operation of ITN.

Starting with the Six-Day war in 1967 – the year of the inception of News At Ten –

the book highlights many of the little-known dramas and pressures experienced by the crews over the last 15 years, culminating in the kidnapping and murder threats to a four-man ITN team in Beirut late last year.

The book chronicles events in the Middle East, Uganda, Cyprus, Vietnam, Afghanistan and Northern Ireland among others, but two chapters which emphasise with startling clarity the dangers faced by camera crews were played out in Biafra and Angola.

It was during the Nigerian war when a young Peter Sissons was felled by a sniper's bullet which smashed through both his thighs. Although the small band of pressmen was hopelessly outnumbered ITN cameraman Cyril Page and his soundman Archie Howell went back after being alerted by Sissons's cries, scooped him into a three-wheeled pram and, in Page's own words "ran like buggery" up the road dodging snipers' bullets.

The eternal hope of another Mary Rose?

I'm not sure why I decided to take up diving. Perhaps it was the thought of meeting suntanned macho men who'd fought off sharks at depths of 100 feet with their bare hands or, perhaps, I fancied being a mermaid swimming among the tropical fish and being filmed by Jacques Cousteau.

But whatever it was, I took the bait and became well and truly hooked!

It is a dangerous sport requiring long and intensive training but the British system is efficient and highly regarded overseas. The cheapest way (under £100) is to join a local branch of the British Sub Aqua Club where you will be trained to the various grades depending on how hooked you get. The present



AMANDA BODEN
peels off her wetsuit and explains the fascination of exploring the deep

training at basic level involves some 20 lectures and some 16 pool sessions followed by several open water tests and dives accompanied by an experienced instructor.

Most people try and complete their pool training in time for the first main dive of the year which in my club's case is over Easter at Fort Bovisand in Devon. You

can see the novices full of anticipation, a little nervous and already their teeth are chattering...

Eventually, they disappear beneath the 15 foot waves to surface several seconds later looking, not alas, like Bo Derek, but like some blue-faced, semi-frozen aquatic freak, bubbling with enthusiasm after their first taste of the subterranean world.

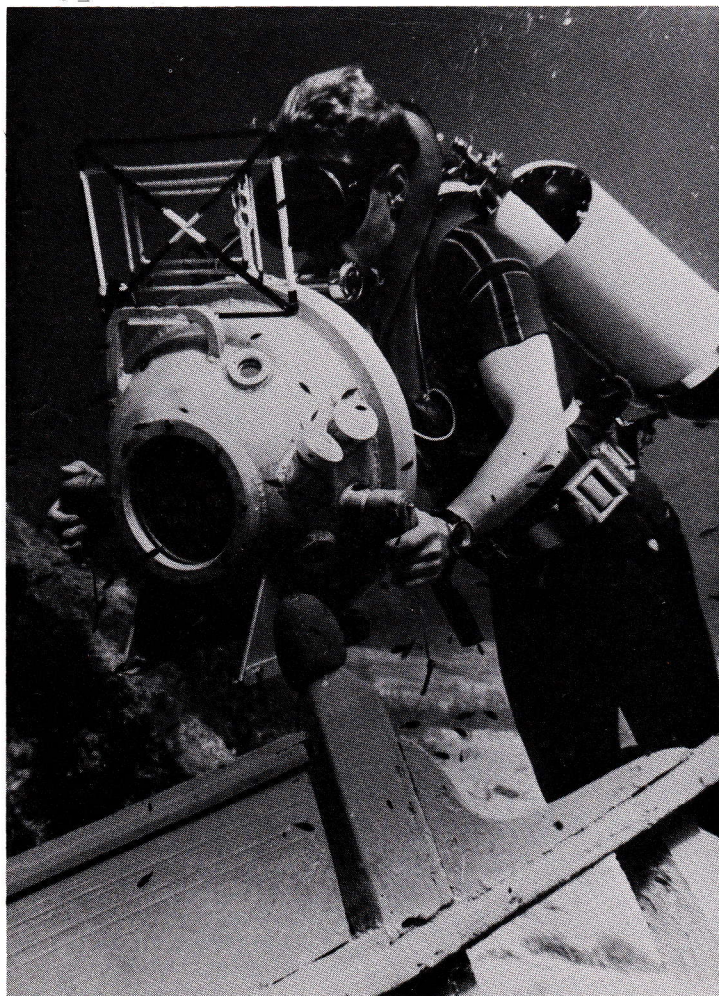
I recall the excitement of my first dive when I spotted one of the world's largest conger eels lurking behind a 16th-century cannon. Sadly, reality proved it to be nothing more than a small pipefish measuring about nine centimetres next to an old metal drum!

Aquatic memories

It is, however, the occasional unforgettable dive that helps me to keep my sanity. The last one? That must have been at Club Med last year – 130 feet down with a gorgeous Italian bloke (they really do make great divers!). The last occasion – under Brighton pier with about three inches of visibility – was slightly less memorable.

It's all tremendously exhilarating – rather like being in another world and all far, far removed from the rigours of ITN House. Maybe we're all crazy, or perhaps we're motivated by the dream of discovering another Mary Rose. But we're all addicted to it and some even get a kick out of diving in a freezing Serpentine on Christmas Day. Not me, though. I have a definite preference for the warmer, clearer waters of the Mediterranean.

And there's always the Italians, of course!



And tension at ITN House was running at fever pitch ten years later when it was feared that cameraman Tom Phillips, soundman Mike Doyle and reporter Michael Nicholson might never be seen again after being lost in the Angolan Bush for four months, during which they marched 1,400 miles while pursued by Marxist-backed Cuban rebels.

It has taken Martyn Pedrick six months to research and write a book which highlights the drama and dangers of operating in the front line as a member of a television news crew.

"I hope it helps to put the record straight," he said. "It seems that camera crews have for too long been overshadowed by reporters and newscasters and they have some amazing stories to tell."

("In The Front Line" is available to ITN staff at £5.50. Cheques only to the Purchasing Office).

HE QUIT THE 'BEEB' TO BECOME A NEWS LEGEND

John Cotter felt he was taking a bold risk when he quit his job as News Organiser with the Beeb to assist at the birth when ITN went into labour in 1955. He was given only weeks to put together from scratch a team of cameramen smart enough to terrify the opposition. "It was a challenge," said John. "We had to out-do the BBC from Day One, if ITN was to survive."

Unruffled by the BBC's decision to ban him from their premises, John set about his task with enthusiasm. His first step was to drive to the continent to set up a reliable network of "stringers". His accomplishments as a rally-driver – he has taken part in several Monte Carlo rallies – equipped him well for this task. By the time ITN went on the air in September, 1955, John had cameramen at the ready in all the major foreign capitals, as well as an 11-strong camera team in London.

ITN's first staff cameramen were plucked from the ranks of the BBC and cinema newsreel. "We weren't unlike newsreel in the early days," said John. "The advantage we had over the BBC was that we were beginning to use 16mm cameras against the BBC's more cumbersome 35mm."

Newsreel men

Several members of the original team are still at ITN; Cyril Page joined from the BBC; John Corbett came from Pathe News and Peter Brown from Movietone. The exception was Alan Downes, who was taken on as ITN's first trainee cameraman. As ITN moved into gear, John laid the foundations for the assignments system which still operates today, as well as recruiting ITN's first permanent staff cameramen abroad. Mario Rossetti, who still operates for ITN from Rome, was one of the first to be taken on.

Money short

He soon overcame the two major obstacles – financial restraints, and the cynics who didn't give ITN a hope – with a courage and cool-headedness which, in 1974, earned him an MBE for his services to television news.

By the mid-sixties, ITN was an established and respected member of British

society, tackling assignments previously untouched by TV news. John was given responsibility for the planning of special events and in this capacity (displaying the "Cotter flair" for deciding when a risk was worth taking) he pulled off a string of ITN coups.

Red Cognac

He travelled to Russia where, over a brandy with a Soviet official, he negotiated Britain's first live coverage of the Moscow May Day parade! He also ensured that ITN had exclusive pictures of Sir Francis Chichester's return to Plymouth in 1966 – at the crucial moment, he cast-off the mooring lines of the opposition's boat!

At the 1972 Olympics, John and his team gained access into the heavily-guarded Olympic "village" by burrowing under wire. Once in, the film they shot of the Black September siege was smug-

gled out by obliging members of the British hockey-team!

With a father who was Head of Movietone News, it is hardly surprising that John opted for a career in film news. "It was always in the blood," he said.

Leaving school at 17, he spent eight years in the Army and then joined the BBC as a cameraman. After two years, he felt he would be better employed as a manager and was appointed News Organiser, the post he held until his 'defection' to the embryonic ITN.

The Big One

John joined ITN as Film Manager. In 1968, he was made Projects Editor and six years later promoted to Editorial Facilities Organiser. His last major assignment for ITN was to mastermind the coverage of the Silver Jubilee celebrations in 1977. In recognition of the skill with which he carried out this

mammoth task, John was awarded the Queen's Silver Jubilee Medal.

Shortly before leaving Alexandra Palace for ITN, John had a rugby accident from which he came away with both legs broken at the knee. By the autumn of 1977, the injury had caught up with him. He was suffering from acute osteo-arthritis and finding it increasingly difficult to walk. "I had no choice but to retire," he said.

Rugby selector

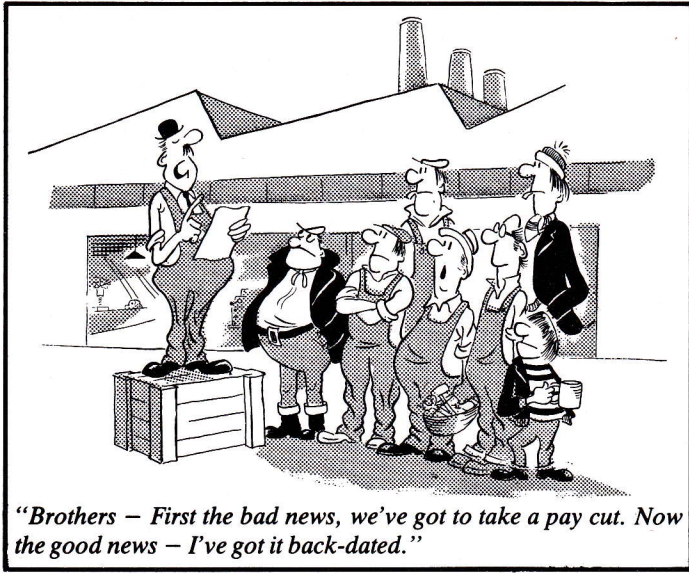
Today, John lives in Somerset with his wife, Maureen, and daughter, Alison, aged ten. As well as giving the occasional lecture about ITN, he serves as chairman of the Chard Rugby-Football club and as a county selector.

ANNIVERSARY FOOT-NOTE: He celebrates his 65th birthday on September 22nd – the 28th anniversary of Independent Television News – and will doubtless celebrate with a few friends.



JOHN COTTER is the subject of the latest feature on the men who built the ITN reputation

QUICK ON THE



"Brothers - First the bad news, we've got to take a pay cut. Now the good news - I've got it back-dated."

It's been claimed that a good cartoon can often say more than pages and pages of prose - and ITN has its own master of this visual wit. He's Stan Rawlings, one of our Supervisory Cameramen responsible for the operation of the company's television and OB cameras. He draws cartoons and caricatures almost daily, picking up on the unconscious humour that abounds amongst ITN staff.

It's a hobby which was born when Stan was at school; then, he says his work was very 'primitive'. His cartoons even affected his first job as a Junior Draughtsman . . . his em-

ployers soon discovered that Stan lacked the serious attitude required for technical drawing! But during his years in the RAF, he found an outlet for his skills and started sketching cartoons for the RAF station newspaper.

Later, during a three-year spell in South Africa, Stan found himself drawing for local magazines and even today he's always getting requests to produce something for Christmas cards, leaving cards or magazines.

After a varied career and eighteen years at ITN - he started as a studio cameraman - Stan's found a wealth of material from which to draw. The most difficult aspect is getting the inspiration for a car-

Dennis's 'Kissogram' was a bit hair-raising!

ITN lighting assistant Dennis Pepall has had a few shocks in his time, but it is doubtful whether anything has surprised him quite as much as the appearance of the scantily-clad statuesque blonde who delivered an enthusiastic "kissogram" at his farewell party!

But the surprise was purely momentary and within a few seconds Dennis had taken it all in his stride (or his arms!), despite the fact that ITN's second-best known hairpiece became temporarily dislodged.

For Dennis, who has opted for early retirement, it meant the end of a 22-year career as a location lighting assistant with ITN.

Wartime record

His career as a "sparks" began at the Odeon Cinema, Bognor Regis in the 1930's, but was interrupted by war service with the RAF. He had a distinguished wartime record, flying many missions as a Warrant-Officer rear gunner (tailend Charlie) in Stirling bombers (196 and 218 Squadrons) and Flying Fortresses with 214 Squadron.

But it wasn't all plain flying - he was forced to bail out on a mission over occupied France in 1944, entitling him to membership of the Caterpillar Club, which is restricted to air crew members who, having been shot out of the sky, lived to tell the tale.



He evaded capture for three days before being helped and hidden by members of the Resistance Movement for six months before returning to Britain. His friendship with them has been maintained over the years. Both he and his wife Eve have returned to the village in the Bordeaux

area several times. "Dennis is a character who, coupled with his cheery disposition and enthusiasm for the job has, without exception, always been appreciated by cameramen and recordists alike, who welcomed his assistance on any assignment. Particularly in Belfast at the

height of the outside crews' involvement in the 70's, when his reputation in the Province became something of a legend," said Peter Banyard. "We all wish our hard-working, conscientious colleague a long and happy retirement to enjoy his many varied interests."

Pride and Prejudice?

PRIDE is the feeling when one sees the OB doing what only the OB does so superbly well. The coverage of Wimbledon and the hanging debate saw ITN again living up to its motto 'See it happen'.

Of course for us who work the old and new OB through the less glamorous winter, doorsteppers know what we can produce.

For Links, who were fathered by the OB, it is particularly satisfying to see the OB starting to pull in the 'Big Names' in facilities and doing so well with the big news arenas, as Links keeps up to the faster requirements of ENG.

PREJUDICE is what one hears about the OB; unconsidered and poorly argued views of those managers who call for the sale of it.

The OB has its defined position in news and it's getting more and more facilities work. So why the hell sell it?

Furthermore, those who pre-judge the Links and ENG attitude to our colleagues who work with the OB Unit, (especially officers in the union), add a special bitterness to Pride & Prejudice.

FOOTNOTE: General Manager Paul Mathews has agreed to be interviewed over the future of the OB for the next issue of The Lens.

Mailbox

Having read in the Lens, Miss (I assume) A. Kingston's reply to the ITN Spokesperson in Downing St. I was glad to note her comments on her stocking tops, (ITN Stores issue presumably!) I am delighted to see that she agrees that at Party Conferences women are a thorough nuisance and would like to enquire whether she was woken up from her beauty slumber in order to ask what the job was?

ITN Questionmaster

Just to wish you every success with The Lens - it strikes me as a rather good name for a television house journal. I wish I had thought of it for my own purposes.

Donald H. Harker,
Director (Granada TV)

Your Club Committee would be very interested to hear from members as to what sort of events they would like to see the Social Club organise. This year

On the wagon? This could really drive you to drink!

There occasionally comes a time, even in the life of ITN stalwarts, when for some reason, the pint loses its pulling power, wine starts to wane, and the mere thought of food sends the digestive system into a flat spin. The reasons for this strange phenomenon can vary from a bout of over-indulgence to a strict no-food, no-booze diet but whatever the motivation, the problem is the same.

Where do you go instead of the pub?

Intrigued by the limitless potential of such a hypothetical situation, we summoned super-scribe John de Veras, tore up his luncheon vouchers and impounded his beer money and sent him wobbling around Wells Street in search of alternative amusement. He surfaced the following day proudly clutching a sheaf of papers chronicling what can only be described (by de Veras standards at least) as a cultural orgy.

Thesian soup

Motivated by his thirst for the arts, our hirsute researcher headed first for the Soho-Poly theatre in Riding House Street, where they produce 45-minute plays at both lunchtime and in the evening. The place is the original bijou theatre and your seat is virtually on the stage. Intimate, though, and well worth a

visit if you don't mind the crush and the probability of your drink (or someone else's soup) spilled over you.

John M. Copleston
(ITN Club Chairman)

It was good of you to write the feature about Ron in the Lens - he would have been so pleased.

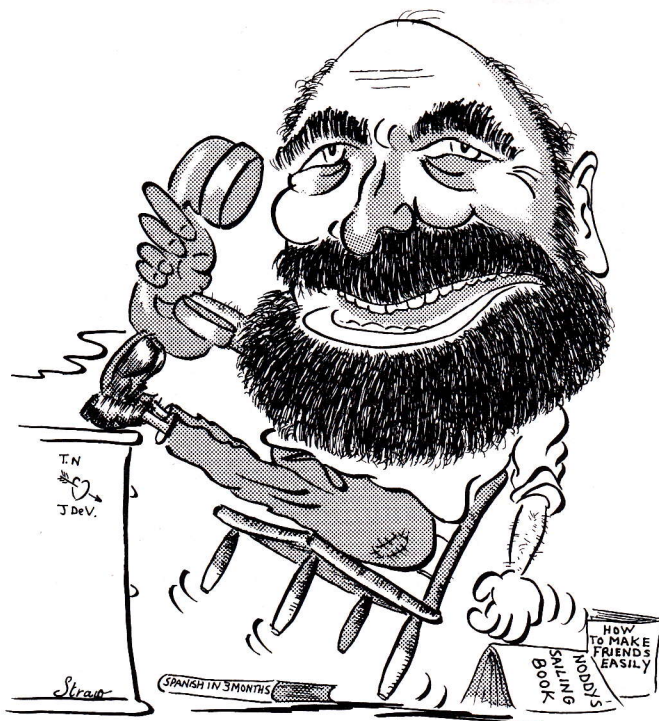
Thank you for sending me a copy.

Sincerely,
Margaret Cumner

After reading Open Page in the last issue of The Lens, I think Hamish Robertson should run ITN, and all reporters, editorial staff and others concerned with news output should consult him before every bulletin.

That's all for this time.

Spokesperson from
Downing Mews



visit if you don't mind the crush and the probability of your drink (or someone else's soup) spilled over you.

Having drunk deeply of fictional drama, he decided that there was nothing like the real thing, and followed the well-trodden path to Wells Street Magistrates Court. (Those who have ever worked on local or provincial papers know that Magistrates Courts are second only to Flower Shows in the Boredom League, but J de V didn't know that.)

Actually, he struck lucky, and spent a weepy hour commiserating with a young couple who had been fobbed off with a piece of glass instead of a £130 engagement ring, by a bent jeweller. Wiping the tears from his eyes, our court correspondent almost cheered when the Bench ordered the defendant to replace the ring and cough up an additional two hundred notes compensation.

Left-hand thread

Only someone with the blind dedication of J de V could find a "left-handed" shop in Central London. Here, they apparently cater exclusively for the sinistral, with (according to super-scribe) "such useful gadgets as left-handed can-openers, potato peelers and cork-screws". So if you've got a left-hand bias (or even a left-hand thread) you'll probably find what you want at 65 Beak Street.

It gets worse. Next on his list of achievements was the discovery of "unusual" magazines...

but not the acceptable nude, lewd and rude sort. No, instead our man had uncovered a goldmine of old newspapers and magazines at the Vintage Magazine Shop in Brewer Street.

For those who may wish to explore new horizons of excitement, there is the Science Reference Library in Southampton Row and for the handful of voyeurs wanting the "stronger stuff" there are records of all British patents going back to 1617. And it's all free, folks...

Dolls and organs

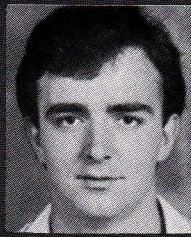
According to our man, you can even learn to juggle in Covent Garden at weekends (now don't all rush!!!). Other attractions on super-scribe's "not to be missed" list is the doll's house museum in Whitfield Street, a short burst on the organ at the Church at the end of Riding House Street, or a leisurely stroll among the flowers in Regent's Park.

Oh, and there's a lady at 7a Wardour Street who can give you a good time - providing, of course, you're into fortune-telling. She, apparently, is Madame Joan who claims to be a bit smart at the old soothsaying bit...

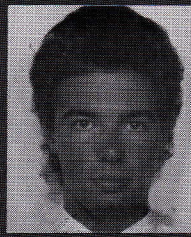
She'll probably look into the future and tell you that, in spite of the valiant efforts of J de V, next week will find you in exactly the same spot, propping up the same bar, drinking the same golden liquid at (hopefully) the same price.

Unless you happen to be J de V, that is.

From 600 applicants, ITN have selected the pioneers for the new editorial training scheme



James Mates



David Akerman



Stella Orakwue



James Donald

OPPORTUNITY KNOCKS FOR THE LUCKY FOUR

It seems that the sky's the limit for the four would-be television journalists who have been singled out as candidates for ITN's new fully-integrated two-year editorial training scheme.

They were selected from over 600 applicants and will now embark on a comprehensive two-year course embracing all aspects of television news coverage, which will also ensure that they are fully conversant with the sophisticated computerised technology governing ENG, editing and graphics which is playing an increasingly important role in television news.

By the time their two-year course is completed, I am convinced that these youngsters will have benefited from the finest training in television journalism in the world.

Good intentions

We have, of course, had a regular intake of "trainees" over the past decade or so, but lack of funds, facilities and time have collaborated to dilute our good intentions. Mostly, our young intake was thrown in at the deep end under the casual eye of an over-worked sub-editor and the system became a victim of the rather vicious "sink-or-swim" syndrome.

Fortunately, most of them swam and the system produced such notable successes as Peter Sissons, Sarah Cullen and Derek Taylor among others (including the Editorial Manager!)

Recently with an increasing commitment to the technical side of news gathering, editing and presentation, it has become clear that there is a huge gap in the awareness of the benefits of television technology, and we have resolved to rectify this by introducing our specially-tailored training package.

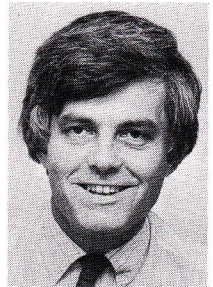
Tested temperature

The trainees have each convinced us of their dedication to television journalism and have already tested the temperature either with local radio, or student journalism. One of the first lessons they will learn from Frank Miles, Head of Editorial Training, is the pace of T.V. news.

The first few weeks of their course will include:

- A series of welcome talks from the Editor and senior executives to give them an introduction to the Company;
- A series of meetings with senior editors, newscasters and reporters, which will help them get the feeling of the place;
- A visit to the TUC at Blackpool;
- The chance to join reporters and crews on outside assignments during their second week.

Editorial Manager Mike Morris reviews the opportunities for ITN's newcomers



Then, without giving the dust time to settle, they will embark on a four week foundation course on "writing for television" at the National Broadcasting School, before returning for a brief secondment to each of the four ITN news programmes.

There will then follow a further series of courses organised in conjunction with the National Broadcasting School, embracing directing and reporting techniques, together with a series of "teach-ins" governing the more technical aspects of studio work, ENG and editing, which has been achieved with the total co-operation of the ACTT.

Technical terms

There is no question of training journalists to become technicians - it is merely a "familiarisation course" to ensure that they are au fait with the technical terms and speak the same language, thereby further improving the already valuable co-operation between the two sides.

The first 12 months will culminate in a course at the Thames training studios at Teddington where, together with trainees from other ITV companies they will be operating their own news operation to produce four complete pilot programmes a day.

The second year will comprise almost exclusively of rota attachments to ITN's four news programmes.

In all, a comprehensive package which substantiates my earlier claim that, by the summer of '85, our trainees will have completed the best television news training programmes to be found anywhere!



The training think-tank . . . The combined brains of (left to right) Sue Davis (Training Advisor ITC), Mike Morris, Frank Miles, Gillian Harvey (National Broadcasting School) and Michael Bukht (Principal of the National Broadcasting School) map out the training schedule.

Peter raises £300 in charity parachute drop

True to his promise, library worker Peter White stepped out of an aeroplane at 2,000ft recently... all in the name of charity!

He plummeted to earth for a couple of seconds before a gentle tug told him that his static line had opened the parachute safely, and the dormant fear of a first-time disaster gave way to that gentle floating sensation as he drifted slowly towards terra firma.

**PETER
WILL BE
ONE
JUMP
AHEAD**

Jumping out of an aeroplane at 2,000 feet with parachute strapped to you

From the last issue of *The Lens*

The jump was a group fundraising effort in aid of The Guide Dogs for the Blind Association and Peter alone has raised over £300 through private sponsorship. The idea was born at the Two Saxons public house in Chelmsford where a group of 30

charitable drinkers decided that it would be both fun and financially rewarding to make a first-time parachute jump.

Peter completed his training in July and was due to jump the following day, but a sudden change in weather conditions brought an abrupt halt to his plans, and delayed the drop for a fortnight.



But in early August he returned to Ipswich airfield, climbed aboard the small Cessna, and headed for the skies over East Anglia. Did he have any last minute doubts? "The fear of bottling out is greater than the fear of actually making the jump" he said. "It was quite a sensation, but I wouldn't want to go through it again."

ITN CLUB NEWS STARTS HERE



Messing about on the river can be total paradise!

The club has run three events so far this summer and although winds have been generally very light there has been no shortage of sunshine.

The almost continuous rain in the earlier part of the year meant that the River Cruise booked for May 12th had to be postponed as the river was running too fast and the meeting eventually took place on June 14th. As usual, getting away from Ravens Ait island proved difficult but Alan Thompson showed the way and everyone eventually arrived at the Albany for lunch.

Saturday, June 18th saw everybody together again for the first two races of our Trophy series at Datchet S.C. Three laps were completed in the morning race and Roger Pittman surprised everyone (as well as himself) by leading and gaining first place with Jim Newman second. By the afternoon the wind had improved and there were a few squalls. Four laps were run and Jim managed to force Roger into second place. Third place went

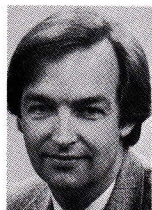
to Keith Edwards.

July 7th was another very hot day with little wind for our second River Cruise. We had five Wayfarers and even after the usual problems of getting away from the island most crews needed an occasional tow from the rescue boat to get them to their destination. Howard Baker won a bottle of Chablis for picking up most balloons dropped from the rescue boat during the return trip!

The club has managed to obtain a number of films about sailing and these have been transferred to video cassette and it is hoped to show them soon.

We are about to become affiliated to a club on the River Thames. This will enable us to have our own boat and somewhere to keep it. It is hoped this will enable members to sail more often and for beginners to attend Jim's tuition classes.

The next meeting is at Datchet on September 10th followed by the last of the series on October 8th.



SNOW



TAYLOR



CULLEN



MANNION

Jon Snow gets top Washington post

ITN has announced two major overseas appointments.

Jon Snow, aged 36, is to be ITN's next Washington correspondent and commences his four-year term at the end of the year. Snow joined ITN from LBC (IRN) in March 1976 as a news reporter and has since covered assignments all over the world, including the election in El Salvador which won him the Hard News - International Award from the Royal Television Society.

Derek Taylor, 37, will be ITN's first resident correspondent in the Middle East, operating from Tel Aviv. Taylor joined ITN as an editorial trainee in 1968 after a short spell with BBC Birmingham. He will take up his post in the next few weeks.

This follows the announcement of the appointment of David Mannion as Editor of News at One, and Sarah Cullen as Home Affairs correspondent early last month.

Sorry to break the rules, but it seems our First team has actually won a match!



Anglers enjoy carping . . .

The 1983-84 season opened on the glorious 16th June for the ITN Angling Society, and they have taken full advantage of the recent sunshine to enjoy several official league outings as well as a "friendly" match against the BBC.

The first outing on 25th June was at Upshive Carp lake and produced an excellent day's fishing with several members recording over 10lbs each. The total weight amongst 18 members was over 139lbs - far exceeding last season's total at the same venue.

The club has also visited some of our new waters gained by joining the Group Angling during the closed season. Both Marcos lake and Chertsey No.2 lakes produced only small weights overall, but the presence of several good tench and evidence of large bream caught by other anglers on the same days, indicate that both of these lakes have untapped resources which we will discover as we learn more about the way to fish them.

The friendly match against the BBC was, unfortunately, poorly supported by ITN members and as a result we came second, by 6lbs! (BBC 18lbs 10oz: ITN 12lbs 7oz). It was, however quite a creditable performance by the much smaller ITN contingent fishing an unknown venue.

The club is looking forward to the away trip on Sept. 28th and 29th to the River Avon and the overnight stay at the Fisherman's Mount near Christchurch. Interested non members to contact Alf Penn in the Film Library.

Thomson lobs to Lambe . . .

ITN's first tennis tournament got off to a blistering start at Kensington Memorial Park where, of an initial entry of 24 contestants, eight actually turned out to play in glorious sunshine on very hot tarmac.

The standard of play was good and consistent, with Brian Kingston, Nigel Thomson and Mary Lambe looking like early favourites. (Al Ratcliffe (UPITN), unfortunately had to retire during his match with Brian Kingston when his glasses fell apart!)

Brian Kingston missed qualifying for the semi final by just one game and it was Mary Lambe and Nigel Thomson who battled it out in the final. Nigel's amazing high balls . . . er . . . lobs were Mary's downfall and he emerged the victor 6-2, despite his father's verbose encouragement of the opposition!

Carol Barnes (of the double handed backhand) presented the trophies and the party adjourned for a light lunch and heavy refreshments!

Plans for a Mixed Doubles event with TV-am in September are bearing fruit; anyone interested in participating should contact Mary Lambe on reception. See you in Court.

FASHION FOOTNOTE: If he had lost the final, Nigel is believed to have been ready to lodge a complaint against Mary's skimpy tennis outfit. The men agreed the distraction value was at least two points a game!

A clean, new image?

The ITN football team looks forward to a fresh start this coming season, re-joining the London Friendly League which it helped to found three years ago. (Readers may remember our team was the victim of a misunderstanding which led to its expulsion for foul play and abusive language!)

We shall again be looking to last year's leading scorers, "Sniffer" Dutton (12 goals) and Nick Dodd (6) for success, and hoping to improve on an inconsistent playing record of won 5, lost 8, drawn 3.

Opponents include The Guardian, Wembley, Battersea and the obscurely named Slogunn Sabbaticals. This means Sunday morning trips to such attractive venues as Raynes Park, Duke's Meadow, Islington Astro turf and Hackney Marshes.

All would-be footballers are invited to the practice game on September 1st. There is also an appeal for anyone prepared to referee (whistle supplied!). League rules require that we provide one for home games.

Hearing that the team have chosen a new all-white strip, League Secretary Bruce Bond told Jim Dutton: "I hope this reflects ITN's new clean image". It's also hoped the kit will last longer than the last "bargain" offer by Gordon Hickey and his rag trade contacts. It shrank.

Early season fixtures are:
18 Sept: Practice game; **25 Sept:** Wembley (A), League Cup first round. **2 Oct:** St Helen's (H). Home games played at Battersea Park or Bishop's Park, Fulham.

CLUB AGM

The Annual General Meeting of the ITN Club will be held on 20th September in the ITN Club Bar, commencing at 1 p.m.

The real thing . . .



. . . and the not-so-real thing!

Rachel ends 27-year 'Men Only' scene



History was made at Tyrrell's Wood on Captain's Day when Rachel Stabb, a script-writer with UPITN became the ITN Golf Society's first lady member since the Society was formed 27 years earlier.

Rachel, who plays at Hampstead with a handicap of 15, didn't take long to get among the honours. She beat all the men at Worthing in August to win the President's Cup with 37 stableford points.

WICKING AND GALLAGHER SWING IN TO GRAB GLORY

July's hot weather brought the tigers on to the golf courses of Hendon and Tyrrell's Wood.

On the 8th, Peter Wicking, Brian Edmonton and Dan Moloney stalked their way through the dense undergrowth of Hendon's greens to a three-way tie, on 39 points, for the Redburn Bowl. (The only person who missed more greens than the Captain was the man who was supposed to mow them.)

First place went to Peter, with the best back nine and Brian nudged Dan into third place on the back six. Jack Chatterton, the Society's President, paid tribute to Bob Redburn's twelve years of sponsorship which began when Bob, an Associate Member of long-standing, felt moved to show his appreciation of the Society's good fellowship.

At Tyrrell's Wood on the 26th July, John Gallagher carried off the Captain's Cup with 42 points on a tropic-hot day that produced a crop of good scores and a healthy income for the Bar.

George Harrison and John Mitchell came second and third respectively. For the second time in the month, John Connor carried off the prize for the best score in 25-28 handicap category and achieved an even more notable first by introducing Rachel Stabb to the Society.

Malcolm Welsh, of William Younger's, who sponsored the day, announced that although his handicap of 16 was insufficient, his forthcoming marriage in September would provide an adequate adjustment!

Dan Moloney, Derek Seymour and Eddie Kreft also took prizes for events that the Captain couldn't quite identify, having fallen victim to the fatigue and emotion usually associated with Captain's Day.

Geoff Moyes, the Vice-Captain, presented the traditional bouquets to the lady guests, Linda Batchelor and Annie Scott, in good time to allow the ceremonial tastings to be conducted elsewhere, into the small hours.

Tom Watson, winner of the British Open, approaches the 18th green at Royal Birkdale, closely followed by ITN crew Geoff Moyes and Derek Seymour (and a few others!)

Below: ITN Society Captain Mike Batchelor and Geoff Moyes look pensive during their unsuccessful attempts to emulate Watson at Tyrrell's Wood.

