

THE LENS

The Staff
Newspaper for
Independent
Television
News

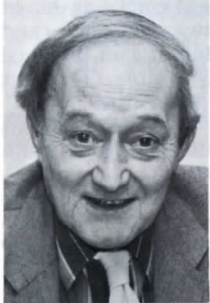
Jan. 1984 No. 7

RETIREMENT BECKONS FOR ITN's DEPUTY EDITOR

Don Horobin, Deputy Editor of ITN since 1977, retires later this month after a career spanning 23 years with the company.

He first came to ITN's Kingsway studios in 1960 after being lured by Sir Geoffrey Cox from the Birmingham Gazette and Dispatch where he was news editor. Sir Geoffrey, ever alert to the value of good newsmen, had long admired the Horobin reputation, although the two men had never met. When he wrote to Don with the tempting carrot "If you're interested in joining television news, let me know . . ." it was an opportunity too good to miss.

Television wasn't totally new to Don. When ATV started transmitting in 1955, it was the Gazette and Dispatch who were offered the contract to provide a news service to the company — and Don Horobin came within an ace of becoming their first newscaster.



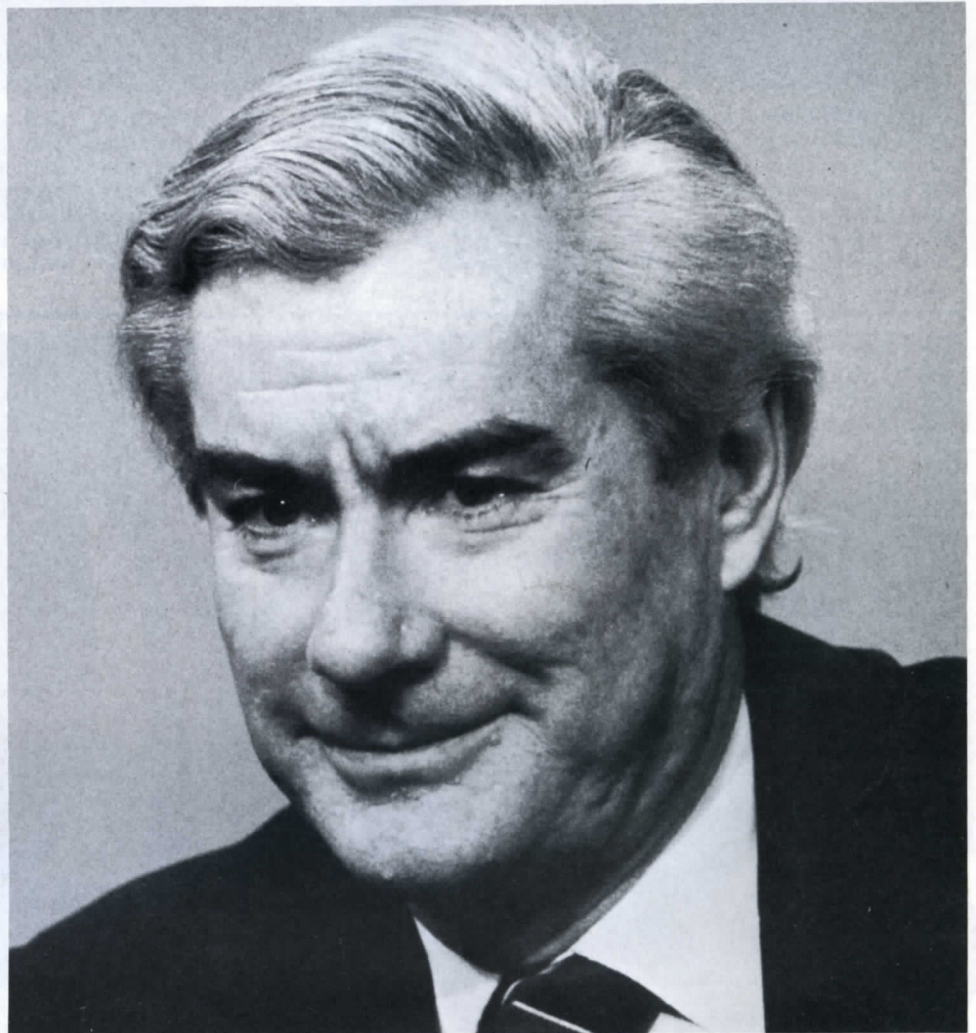
"I actually appeared in the billings of the first copy of T.V. Times," he said, "but my appearance was quashed after the rival newspaper complained that we would gain an unfair advantage."

That first news bulletin, incidentally, was produced by Ned Sherrin and directed by Kit Plant!

He joined ITN as a News Editor in charge of home news input, and later helped establish the highly-successful ITN-Reports series before the introduction of News at Ten in 1967. He was appointed Deputy Editor when David Nicholas became Editor ten years later and has always maintained special responsibility for news input and the overall newsroom operation.

He plans to spend his retirement near Glastonbury, Somerset, where he will pursue his hobbies of gardening and studying wild life.

ITN man in New Year's Honours list



See Story — Page Three

IT'S SIR ALASTAIR!

- The chief sub, the microchip and a teddy bear — Page Four

- 500 pints — and Barry is ready to give away more — Page Five

INSIDE

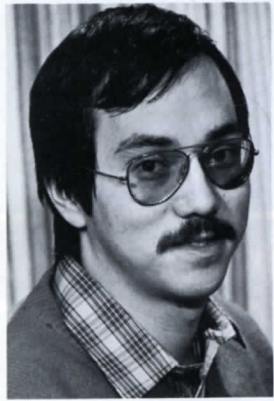
- On the trail of the Royal Family abroad — Centre Pages

- Editing without scissors — Page Eight

- The man who is digging up the history of Croydon — Page Nine

- Up and over — An editor leaps to U.K. record — Page 12

New faces at ITN House



PETER KWAN, 26, has joined ITN as a Computer Programmer. He was previously a computer animation programmer at the Moving Picture Company, specialising in Advertising.



DENISE MEALE, 27, has joined ITN as a Trainee Production Assistant. She has previously worked for an advertising agency and CTVC as a Production Assistant.



ADAM FREEMAN, aged 16, has joined the Post Room Team as a messenger. Outside work, his hobbies include Photography, Art, Music and Motorcycling.



CLAIRE PULLINGER, aged 25, is Dave Lyon's Secretary. She has previously worked in Public Relations and spent 3½ years in Greece working for Lloyds of London.



JOHN McFAUL, 22, has joined us as a Trainee Broadcast Engineer after studying at Ravensbourne College, where he took a Higher TEC diploma in Broadcast Communications Engineering.



35 years in the film business has left Les with some golden memories

Les White, who retired shortly before Christmas, has been regarded as an expert on film for over 35 years, and has been closely associated with ITN since 1964.

His first professional experience in the film media dates back to 1948 when he began an eight-year stint in the RAF as a photographer, where his duties included maintaining cameras on aircraft, loading film for photographic sorties, and seeing the operation through to processing stage. He also made prints for special exhibitions. He later spent 2½ years in Germany, rising to the rank of sergeant, where he worked closely with pilots loading film for gun site target practice, and aerial reconnaissance.

But Les had seen more action than most before joining the Royal Air Force, and rates among the few who can claim to have served with both the Army and the Air Force. His wartime memories as a signaller with the Royal Artillery, however, are considerably less happy. He was captured by the Japanese in Malaya in March 1942 and spent three years as a prisoner of war – including a 12-month spell on the infamous Singapore island.

After leaving the RAF in 1956, he joined Humphries Laboratories as a printer on 35-mm feature films in the heyday of the British movie industry. His responsibilities included making special prints, dubbing and mixing, and syndication.

In 1964, ITN started to rely heavily on the services of Humphries Laboratories in Kingsway – and Les was inevitably involved in both processing and syndication work.

Later, with the introduction of colour film to news bulletins, he moved to the Rank Film Laboratory at ITN House working a model "C" programmed bulk colour machine.

With the advent of ENG and the closure of the laboratories, Les was transferred to the ITN Plant Engineers department as a craftsman/labourer.

His retirement will see him devote even more time to the St. John Ambulance Brigade – one of his great passions – and it is rumoured that he will also be brushing up on his karate!

THANKS TO FRED FOR THE SOUND OF LAUGHTER

The recent retirement of Fred Beckinsale, a sound maintenance engineer for nearly 20 years, will certainly leave a humorous chasm in the department. Fred was known as one of the great jesters of ITN – and built a reputation as a practical joker during his pre-ITN days with Rank Laboratories.

While at TV House, Fred was appointed Liaison Engineer with Brian Edmorton, to oversee the installation of ITN House. During this time he appointed himself 'hole watcher', since the only form of heating at this time was a single ring electric fire.

Guidance

But there is a serious side to the Beckinsale nature . . . and a side that has seen action.

During the War, he served in the RAF mainly in the Middle East where he spent considerable time in Iraq and Israel. He later joined the Royal National Institute for the Blind working on guidance systems until the early fifties when he joined the Rank Organisation at Shepherd's Bush, working in the Laboratories on magnetic recording equipment.

Fred has now "crept downstairs to the studio" for the last time and we hope he and his wife will have many happy years listening to records, radio and looking at ITN News – of course!

CONGRATULATIONS

That's the sincere message from your friends and colleagues at ITN

News of Alastair Burnet's knighthood was greeted by the traditional popping of corks in the newsroom as his friends and colleagues from all areas of operation within ITN celebrated the ultimate recognition of his services to journalism and broadcasting.

He first joined ITN in 1963 as political editor and shares the distinction with Andrew Gardner of presenting the first edition of News at Ten in the summer of 1967. He has since been a regular presenter of the programme with the exception of a two-year break during which he was Editor of the Daily Express.

Election coverage

He has appeared frequently on current affairs programmes such as Panorama and This Week, and has more recently been the regular presenter of T.V. Eye. And, of course, no General Election would be complete without him!

Congratulations have been flooding into ITN House from all parts of the country, but it was David Nicholas, ITN's Editor and Chief Executive who summed up the feeling within ITN House:

"The conferring of a knighthood on Alastair Burnet has given much pleasure to all who have known and worked with him. He was the first presenter on the first night of



Party Knight . . . Sir Alastair celebrates the news with colleagues Pat Harris and Sandy Gall.

The start of it all . . . first night of News at Ten in July 1967 with David Nicholas, then programme editor, presenters Alastair Burnet and Andrew Gardner, and George Ffitch, now managing director at L.B.C.



News at Ten. Now he becomes first knight of the nightly news."

"I hope everybody in ITN will share in that pride."

Alastair Burnet's life has been exclusively devoted to journalism and broadcasting since leaving Worcester College Oxford to join the

Glasgow Herald as a sub-editor and leader writer in 1951. Seven years later he moved to the Economist, again as a leader writer, before becoming ITN's political editor in 1963.

Two years later he returned to the Economist as Editor – a position he held for nine years while con-

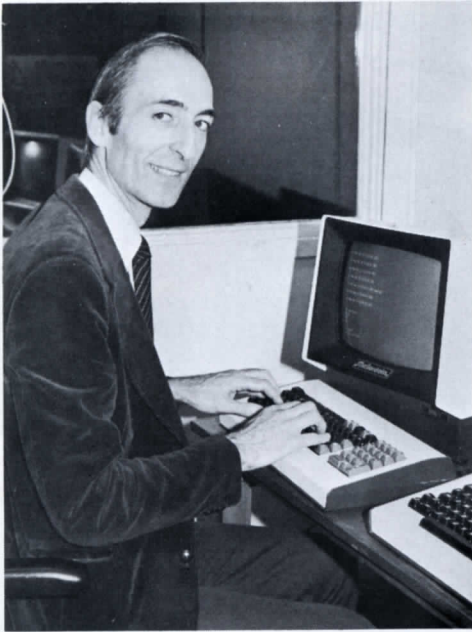
tinuing as a front man for ITN news programmes. It was during this period that he presented the inaugural edition of News at Ten on July 3rd 1967.

He is a recipient of the Richard Dimbleby Award, BAFTA Awards (1966, 1970, 1979) and the RTS Judges Award in 1981.

Have you ever tried to control a

rampant teddy bear?

It's child's play for a techno-newsman



Chief sub editor **GEOFF O'CONNELL**
dabbles in the world of the
microchip – and gets hooked!

About a year ago on impulse I attended a lunch time meeting of the recently formed ITN Computer Club. At the same meeting was a senior member of the ITN technical management (whose name has been changed to protect the innocent), and about half a dozen engineering and facilities staff.

An hour later the senior manager and myself staggered out of the boardroom somewhat shattered. The subsequent conversation went something like this:

Me: (looking even more glazed than usual) "What the hell was that all about?"

Senior Manager: "God knows!"

Me: (sarcastically) "You mean even you don't know about bidirectional data buses and chip enable low pins?"

SM: (defensively) "Well... I am rather rusty on the technical side you know..."

Me: (bitter – but not surprised by such a revelation) "And I thought ACTT meetings were obscure..."

Now – 12 months later – all is changed. As secretary of the club (and until recently – the only journalist among a group of about 50 computer enthusiasts) I can

now truly say that my editor – and a lot of other people for that matter! – will never really understand me.

In the world we computer freaks live in, what passes for normal conversation is liberally sprinkled with talk of CPU's, ROMS, EPROMS, PIO's and bytes. When we speak excitedly about 'baudratings' you can guarantee it's got absolutely nothing to do with the Sun's Page Three girl!

It's also a fascinating world of make-believe where you work your way through complicated mazes, rescue damsels in distress – and for the more aggressive zap hoards of alien invaders or bomb cities to your heart's content. And if you really want the height of bad taste you can fight the Falklands war all over again on your television screen ("Bomb the Antelope from the comfort of your own armchair").

Of course if you really want to be boring you can actually use your computer for something useful like working out your household accounts – or as one manufacturer proudly boasts "running your own power station". What he doesn't mention is that actually owning the power station is only a small part of the cost of all the add-ons you'll need to achieve such an ambition!

The ITN Computer Club isn't a club in the strict sense

of the word. The shift system and the fact that most people live some distance from the Wells Street offices, exclude evening meetings and organised events. But members of the two biggest user groups within the club – for the Sinclair Spectrum and the BBC Micro – are kept in touch with a newsletter and, from time to time, demonstrations of new equipment.

If nothing else the club will certainly help non-technical staff to understand more clearly the computerisation at ITN with the advent of word processors

and their access to information data banks such as Newsfury and Newsbase.

Having said all that I have got to admit that one of the best selling programme tapes for the popular Sinclair computer is about controlling a teddy bear which is attacked by other toys as it tries to escape from a toy box!

And grown men actually play that? Well... yes...

Anyone interested in joining the club should contact Geoff O'Connell in the Newsroom or the club chairman, Jim Cartwright, in Facilities.

Prime Minister praises UPITN

The growing importance of London as a world-media centre, as well as a financial centre, was echoed by the Prime Minister at the official opening of the new UPITN headquarters in Foley Street last month.

"This owes much to our ability in this country to bring together financial, technical, journalistic and management expertise to provide a keen, competitive and top quality television service to the 150 TV stations who are your clients across the world," she said.

Mrs. Thatcher also paid tribute to the dollar-earning strength of UPITN's "exports".

Earlier, UPITN Chairman Bryan Cowgill had recalled the original alliance between United

Press International and Fox Movietone to supply a regular news film service to television in the 1950s, and the memorable day in 1967 when ITN in Britain and UPI in America decided to combine their international news gathering interests as well as their corporate initials in forming UPITN.

"In 1982 that original alliance between ITN and UPI was strengthened in every sense with the arrival of ABC and Channel Nine of Australia, and I should like to take this opportunity of thanking them for their contribution to what is a truly international enterprise." Mr. Cowgill added that, in the past year, UPITN had used 1,000 hours of satellite transmission, and that the service was now taken by more than 150 broadcasting stations in 70 countries.

500-UP!

That's the score for ITN's champion 'pinta' man!

But it's blood (not beer) which has boosted Barry's 'O' level tally

When somebody suggests a quick pint to Barry Penstone, he's off like a shot . . . and it's a fair bet that nobody among ITN's 1,000 employees can come anywhere near his total!

But before you start accusing him of imbibing to excess, it must be pointed out that Barry gives it away . . . and it's blood, not beer!

It was during a pre-Christmas session at the Edgware Blood Transfusion Centre (where all the best cells like to be seen) that he learned that he had just contributed his 500th pint! And he also discovered that while his blood group is the most common (Group "O"), the transfusion service is suffering from an acute shortage of the type, even though it's flowing through the veins of nearly half of the UK population!

But hang on a minute. Five hundred pints? Surely that's impossible. Even more so when you consider that it took Barry 18 years to contribute his first 50 pints!

It's all down to new technology (yes - it happens outside the world of television news!) and something called "plasmapheresis" which is a form of cell separation. This, explains Barry, is particularly useful where "whole blood" is not necessary, and the patient needs only certain cells, plasma products or just the plasma itself.

The donor is connected to the machine which, over a period, takes up to a total

of three litres (6-7 pints), extracts the required blood components, and returns the rest of the red cells.

Each session takes about two hours, with the "pints" taken one at a time. "You'd look pretty anaemic if they took it all at once", said Barry.

It is fed into a separating machine and the required plasma finishes in a small sterile plastic bag while the "used" blood is pumped back into the donor. The plasma is then sub-divided into several plasma fractions such as fibrinogen, anti-haemophilic globulin, albumen etc, which are dispensed according to the patients needs. The adoption of this method means that it is now possible for the components of one person's blood to be used in the treatment of several patients.

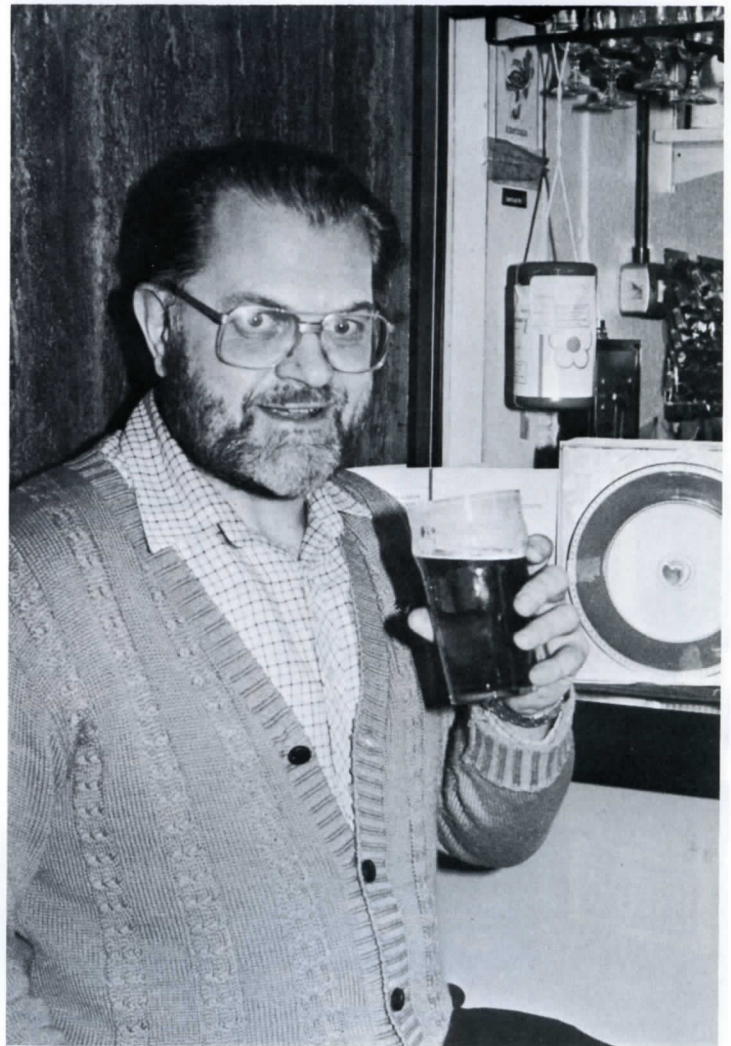
Barry, an ITN despatch rider, started to contribute to this new system just over five years ago, and has since given the equivalent of 450 pints of blood.

He now attends regular sessions every three weeks, and believes strongly in the value of the transfusion service:

"It's desperately important - particularly with the so-called "common" Groups 'O' and 'A'. Of 750,000 transfusions within a year, only nine were for patients with a rare blood group," he said. "There's nothing to it - I have certainly never felt any ill-effects.

"It's what your left arm's for!"

Footnote: The adoption of plasmapheresis has considerably broadened the



What his left arm's for . . . a pint with a difference for super donor Barry Penstone.

scope and value of the blood-donor service, as well as enabling donors to give more blood. Although there is no question of a competition to get into the Guinness Book of Records, it is worth noting that the record is currently held by Allen Doster, a self-employed beautician from New York who had donated 1,508 pints between 1966 and January 1983.

Sobering thought: The same source reveals the most alcoholic subject to be a 24 year old American female who was shown to have a blood alcohol level of 1,510 mg per 100 ml - nearly 19 times the UK driving limit, and treble the normal lethal limit. She was described as "confused".

BOARD APPLAUDS REES & CO.

The recent injuries to cameraman Sebastian Rich and soundman Richard Rose highlight the dangers which face our reporters and crews while covering action in the Lebanon. All news teams have sent back first class material against the odds, but one has been singled out for particular praise by the ITN Board who asked that their congratulations and admiration should be passed on to Norman Rees, Mike Inglis and Richard Gammons "for their courageous coverage of PLO fighting in Tripoli".

Spotlight on the men behind ITN's two ho



Anthony Carthew with a small luggage problem.

KING OF ROYAL

When Anthony Carthew arrived back at Heathrow last month after the latest Royal Tour, he had flown his hundred thousandth mile, and just got off his seventy-eighth flight of the year.

He is now recognised as Britain's most experienced and widely-travelled court correspondent, and has been in the forefront of ITN's biggest growth area, the 'special'.

By the time the Queen addressed the Nation on Christmas Day, ITN had screened 12 specials during 1983. The twelfth was the hour-long "Royal Special" transmitted at 2 p.m. on Christmas Day, with footage from all the tours undertaken by the Royals during the year.

Anthony Carthew has been involved in most of the 'specials' this year, including Royal Tours to the Caribbean, Mexico, the United States, Australia and New Zealand.

For Anthony C
miles, 78 flight

He sees them as a big boost to ITN's prestige, and making good use of the huge amounts of film inevitably shot on these occasions. They also provide the programme companies with high-interest programmes which attract good audiences. *All the 'specials' on the Royal Tour to Australia topped the ratings on the Sundays they went out!*



The teams that travel on these tours are close knit and happy; the greatest problem on this trip was inevitably the 'runs'! At one stage only three of the nine-men team could stray from the portaloos with any degree of safety!



The lighthearted tailpieces which have become a regular feature of News at Ten became the first ITN "special" of 1984 when the best thirty or so were included in the 20-minute holiday programme "And Finally", transmitted on January 2nd.

The programme, which was devised, written and presented by Martyn Lewis

included the best of the "offbeat" closing stories shown in recent years, including squirrels that waterski, a flying wheelbarrow, a frog that lifts weights, and probably the fattest cat in Britain...

News at Ten's tailpieces are unique. According to Martyn they started "because we knew that not all news is bad and we wanted

NEWS AT TEN

ENDPIECES

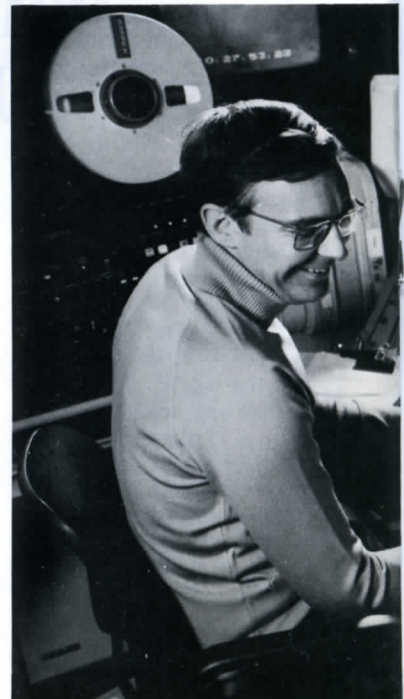
START THE

YEAR WITH

A LAUGH

to leave the viewer at the end of the day with a feature which would amuse, delight or touch them."

He made his final selection from over two hundred items, and then embarked on a mammoth compilation and editing job with editor Mike North. The programme was directed by Derek Guthrie.



Martyn Lewis preparing "And Finally

oliday 'specials' ...

THE TOURS

Carthew, 1983 adds up to 100,000
and a dozen special programmes

The trip to Kenya, Bangladesh and India was a happy one, even though it didn't hold the same interest for the media as the Prince and Princess of Wales' Australian tour.

Apparently the Queen was more relaxed than usual. Carthew puts this down to the influence of Diana who has taken much of the stuffiness out of Royal occasions by her spontaneous response to crowds and to children. She has set an example for the other Royals to follow. In many respects, it was Princess Diana who 'relaunched' the Royal bandwagon when she appeared on the scene in 1980, and she is the chief reason for Carthew and others like him being kept so busy.

The Queen has willingly made concessions to Di-

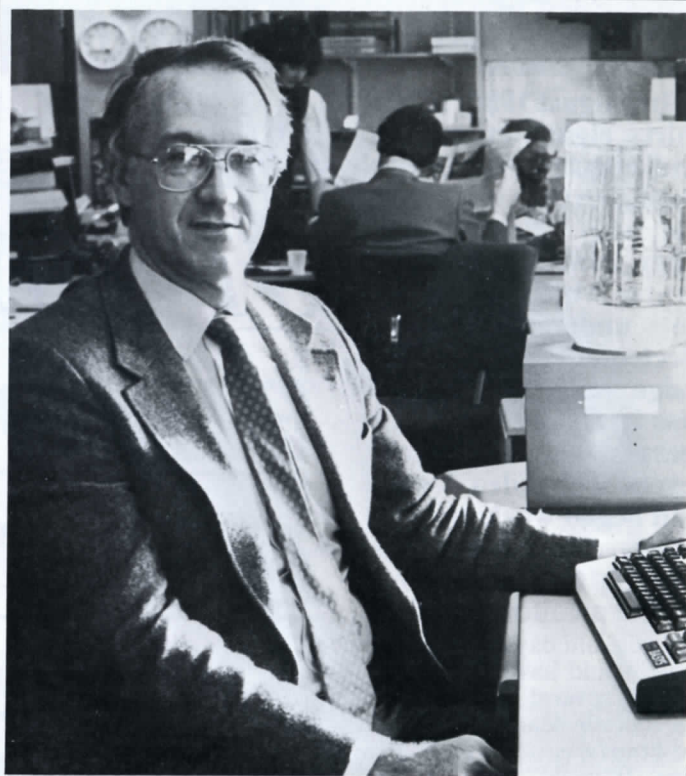
ana's style and informality, although as the Sovereign she has to remain slightly more formal. She takes great interest in the press corps who follow her whenever she moves (and quite often when she doesn't!). She makes an effort to know everyone who does the job; Carthew describes her as very easy to talk to, and very witty in private conversation.



The success of the specials seems to make it inevitable that there will be many more of them next year. If the Royals travel half as much as they did this year, Anthony Carthew had better send off for a fresh passport!



with editor Mike North.



ITN STEPS IN TO BUY SHARE OF 'NEWSFURY' POTENTIAL

ITN has acquired a 51 per cent interest in Basys Inc of Mountain View, California, a company which develops and markets computer applications for television and radio companies.

Its major product is Newsfury, a computerised newsroom system, which is already used in ITN's Channel Four newsroom.

In announcing the acquisition, Editor and Chief Executive, David Nicholas said "that ITN intends to remain at the forefront of the news business in both coverage and technology and this was seen by ITN as a natural development.

Our relationship with Basys dates back to 1981 and has been fruitful and innovative. The Newsfury system is an integral part of the ITN operation, and this partnership can only lead to increased successes for both companies."

Basys will remain an indepen-

dent company, serving news organisations around the world. Its operation will be directed full-time by David Lyon, currently ITN's Assistant General Manager (Production). Lyon has been appointed President of the American company, joining Ed Grudzien, one of the founders.

David Lyon has worked for ITN since 1974, initially as a consultant. He has been responsible for the latest innovations in newsroom technology and was in charge of the installation of the Newsfury system at ITN.

On his appointment Lyon said "I am excited by this as it places ITN and Basys as the leaders in the development of television and radio news technology.

Ed Grudzien, Vice President, added "What particularly pleases me is that the support has come from a major internationally known news organisation. It demonstrates great faith in our products and their future."

Not so much a snip – more of a technical leap

In August 1980, ITN's thirty eight film editors and assistants agreed to change over to work with the new ENG System. They took a conversion course which gave them an understanding of electronics, and a knowledge of how ENG was transmitted. They learned too, about sound levels and video levels, and began work on their new machines. The change they said, was almost a culture shock.

In the old days of film, the crew would have to pack up filming several hours before the bulletin deadline. At least an hour was needed for the film to pass through the laboratory. Then the material would have to be edited, dubbed and then often re-edited to compensate for the lag in soundtrack. That process alone would take in the region of an hour for every minute produced.

Beaten

Duncan Jones, who has spent a lot of time editing abroad, said he first realized how slow film could be when at Tito's funeral. The ITN team was beaten in getting the story back to Britain by Yugoslav TV, who were operating through Eurovision.

With ENG the process of getting a story on the air was revolutionized. Stories can now be edited right up to bulletin time, and beyond. There is no chemical process to wait on, no separate dubbing theatre, no laying off for sound. You can now see edits end to end before making a final decision. And you can go over mistakes again – with film your first cut was your last.

Deadline

It changed the cameraman's work. He no longer has to take a selection of back-up shots, in case the story moves on in the time needed for processing and editing. And it means sporting events can be covered on a tighter deadline. Cricket is edited as the play goes along – by rewinding the tape to the last worthy incident – and up-to-the-

NOW THE ART OF EDITING HAS BECOME AN EXACT SCIENCE



Look – no scissors . . . Fred Hickey appreciates the advantages of ENG.

minute action can now be caught on News at 5.45.

Film did have its advantages, however. It was then much easier to rearrange or substitute shots, and there was no problem attached to fine tuning a package. As Dave Harwood, who spent twenty years with film, explained: 'you could instinctively reach out and nip the

last four or five frames off a scene'. With ENG, where one shot is laid off after another onto a second cassette, tuning down the whole sequence again.

In a power cut, you could always edit by candlelight, as one ingenious editor did in Belfast; and if necessary, you could always knock together

a laboratory for processing. Two Thai lads put up their own in Vietnam, to handle the vast volume of film on the war which was coming through.

But thanks to ENG pictures which make the news are now right up to date. And that is due in no small way to the editors who converted from film in 1980.

Letters

Looking at the centre pages of the November issue of "The Lens" brought back many memories to me. What a pity that none of us can be looking as youthful today! They were happy days.

Referring to the bottom left-hand picture, I think you have made an error; surely the last person named is cameraman Martin Gray – not Len Dudley as stated?

I must say that I find "The Lens" most interesting and hope that I shall be reading it for many years to come. With kind regards to all my old ITN friends.

Yours in happy retirement,

Doug Amon

The opening words of my article in the last issue of "The Lens", to wit:

WITTGENSTEIN HAD IT ABOUT RIGHT

were intended as a witty head-

line. It is unfortunate that a minor breakdown in communication between myself and the editor resulted in their being included in the text. It appears to have raised the Immediate Pomposity Quotient of the article to levels unacceptable in certain quarters. Ah well, I never thought I'd see the day when an ITN reporter reproved me for pedagogic loquacity . . .

Hamish Robertson

SCRAMBLE!

Book sales take off as Bob unearths the history of Croydon's airaces in his back garden

When Bob Learmonth first started to write the history of Croydon airport he intended it to be a small book of interest primarily to local people in the Croydon area. Now, ten years later, he is finishing his third volume and has been commissioned for a fourth.

Bob, an assistant in News Information, actually lives on the site of the famous old airfield . . . but this didn't seem to spark off much initial enthusiasm.

"It didn't really make much of an impression," he said. "I'd never seen it as an airfield, but when I was editing a community newspaper someone suggested that the 3,000 people on this new housing estate might be interested in the history of the site, and it just snowballed from there."

The first book proved so popular with the London Borough of Sutton that the Libraries and Arts Service (the publishers), had it reprinted and have sold

over 10,000 copies. The second volume, which covered the great days of Imperial Airways, was launched with an air display at Croydon, an event covered for ITN by Jeremy Hands on the day when the SAS brought an end to the Iranian Embassy siege.

"It was nice to play some part in bringing aircraft back to Croydon, which had been closed in 1959, but nobody thought that they could land on the small area of grass still left" said Bob.

The interest created by the books has also inspired the formation of a Croydon Airport Society, and Sir Peter Masefield, the President, is now negotiating to have the famous old Terminal Building turned into a museum.

The third volume, which will cover the war years is to be published later this year. "It's been fascinating talking to pilots and ground crews who were at Croydon during the Battle of Britain, I only hope that we do justice to their immense courage," said Bob.



Echoes of the past – Bob Learmonth and a Spitfire.



SECRETS OF THE MIDLANDS ENG CREW . . .

The shape of things to come . . . ? The recent change from the time-honoured film cameras to the technical advances of the ENG system clearly inspired Frank Harding, our contracted freelance in the Midlands.

Frank, who is based in Leicester, is known throughout the news business

for his extrovert personality and bonhomie. He "borrowed" the equipment to stage his own version of the modern news-gathering technology – and as far as we know, he's probably still using it! That's assuming, of course, that he can find enough magnesium, and a brown and white dog to monitor the sound reproduction!



Gentle reminder for elderly chauvinists

The "flashback" feature showing some younger (and less dissipated) characters from the Kingsway days seemed to have created a wide amount of interest and we are delighted to report that with one notable exception, we managed to get all the names right. (Bit of a triumph, that.) There was of course the odd remark about it being male orientated . . . but most of those came from the men themselves.

"Weren't there any women working for ITN during the 'sixties (apart from Di), they wanted to know. So here, for the ageing chauvinists among us, is a reminder of ITN talent in the halcyon days of the mini-skirt.

The greying roués may recall being moved by the fashion, if not the passion, of the 'sixties, and if the memory isn't quite what it was, it's worth pointing out that most of the ladies in the picture are still familiar sights around ITN House today.

They are: (Back) Liz Gill and Hilary Reed, (Front - left to right) Sue Tinson, Jane Bray, Sue Aldridge, Chris Lomas and Sarah Seldon.

And the fellow in the middle? His name is Paul Haney, the voice at NASA mission control during the Apollo space programme, whose laconic observation "We have lift-off" became something of a catchphrase. The picture was taken during

Haney's visit to London after the successful Apollo 11 moon-landing.

The Haney voice is no longer heard during space launches. It is rumoured that he was replaced after falling from grace in NASA circles . . . possibly for telling someone that "they had lift-off" when they hadn't?

So Brunson's staying on . . .

It's not often that ITN reporters are singled out for mention by the Prime Minister during official engagements, but Mrs. Thatcher couldn't resist a good-natured tilt at Michael Brunson, our widely-travelled Diplomatic Correspondent, during her visit to open the new UPITN premises in Foley Street.

Referring to her visit to New Delhi for the Commonwealth leaders conference she said "Summits wouldn't be summits without Michael Brunson who must be as well known as I am in the 70 countries to whom you bounce your pictures by satellite . . . it is very reassuring to know that you aren't getting bored with me - or him!"

So they'll both probably be staying a while . . .

The sporting challenge

Alastair Burnet has been invited to join the panel of judges charged with the responsibility of allocating the Sports Journalist of the Year awards.

That he is ideally qualified after a career devoted almost exclusively to financial and political journalism is not in doubt; after all, it is an editor's job to be well versed in every topic covered by his publication. (It has been pointed out that the Economist, however, is a little light in space devoted to steeplechasing, the F.A. Cup, Eric Bristow, snooker and dwile-flonking.)

In a lengthy interview conducted between the Upper Ground and the Fourth floors (you know how long these lifts take) he admitted that his journalistic quill had never mastered the level of repetitive cliché demanded by sports journalism and had therefore left a void in an otherwise complete journalistic career.

Furthermore, it seems that apart from the odd day at the races, television's newest knight has little time for any active pursuit of sport . . . not even a spot of jousting?

A Roman fire warning

Good to know that the dulcet tones of Phil Roman will be reaching a wider audience with the announcement of his appointment as a staff reporter.

Not that we're unfamiliar with

his work; far from it, in fact, for it is the dark-brown cultured tones of Mr and Mrs Roman's little lad which have been advising us of the escape drill during fire risks or bomb scares a dozen times a day around the Christmas period.

His timing of course is impeccable. Invariably, the six most important telephone calls of the day are punctuated by a propaganda message which we all know by heart, forcing us to make grovelling apologies to our contact, informer, date or meal-ticket on the other end of the line.

We are indebted too, for the endless shrilling of alarm bells which necessitates the raising of the voice to an unacceptable level of decibels.

Perhaps in future the bells could be sounded before the announcement as fair warning of yet another Roman verbal invasion . . .

The ultimate deterrent?

The Ministry of Defence has refused to confirm that United States "cruise" scriptwriters have been deployed on News At One.

An MOD spokesman said the programme would continue to rely on its existing resources to counter the threat from the Russian backed BBC until the Commons was told otherwise.

So far, 96 new cruise scriptwriters are expected to be deployed in the next few weeks. Each scriptwriter is six feet long, about two feet wide and has a range of about two stories to the pint. Their nuclear heads will be fitted later.

Guess who's in the mood?



Popular consensus of opinion among those who attended the wedding of the Editor's secretary Sarah Trew to ITN graphics man Glen Miller was that they both looked stunning . . . but Sarah had the edge!

The romance, which was launched in a local hostelry, and later blossomed on a Greek island, progressed to the altar on New Year's Eve, followed by a reception at The Savoy Hotel. We wish them every happiness and would remind Glen Miller that "String of Pearls" was a bigger hit than "Little Brown Jug . . ."

Eleven green men see ITN's cup run dry — but title hopes soar!

First the bad news — ITN is already out of both cup competitions, crashing out in the first round to Buckingham Palace Staff (Buck House Cup) and The Green Man (Friendly League Cup).

Losing to the Palace on their own midden heap was no disgrace, but it hurt to lose to The Green Man and their ambitious manager Greg Porter. Previous encounters had ended in two wins for ITN, and two draws. But Greg has strengthened his team by dropping himself, and by introducing a new barman who just happened to have played in the Celtic team that won

Penetrating analysis by 'Soccer Stud'

the European Youth Cup a few seasons ago!

The Cup game, however, was a close one. The score was 1-1 until the closing minutes, when new goalkeeping discovery Kieran Plunkett was unlucky to be beaten by a low shot through a crowded penalty area.

The game was marred by odd bouts of violence. Tony Marlowe gave away a penalty in the second half, fortunate-

ly missed by The Man. But it produced renewed demands from anxious colleagues that Tony should be made to play with his right arm inside his jersey.

The good news is that ITN have had a successful run in the London Friendly League, and are undefeated in six games. The team really wants to win the League trophy, because it was provided by a brewery only through the

efforts of Annie Scott . . . and no sooner was the cup delivered, than ITN was thrown out of the League.

★ ★ ★
Ignorance is bliss . . . the match against the BBC Television News at Battersea Park on January 8th was meant to be a friendly. Unfortunately, most of the ITN team were unaware of the fact and, keen to safeguard their high-flying League position, consequently played their hearts out. The result of their effort was a 2-1 win, with both goals coming from Jim Dutton. The Beeb hit the woodwork about 20 times . . .

NEW COMMITTEE TO DECIDE ON PRACTICE RULE

The Annual General Meeting of the ITN Golfing Society was held in the Boardroom under the chairmanship of the President, Jack Chatterton.

The only contentious item, that of early practice at the course on a Society day, was fully aired and then referred to the incoming Committee for further consideration.

The 1983 Captain, Mike Batchelor, reported on a successful year for those who had been able to play (an average of 35 per meeting) but also gave a long list of members who through ill health were unable to sample the delights of the first 18 holes and especially the 19th. He wished Norman Dickson, Peter Sadler, John Corbett, Frank Duesbury, Stan Crockett and Basil Green better health in 1984 and the Society hoped to see them playing during the coming year.

The year had seen the introduction of a new handicapping system by the EGU. The ITN Golfing Society had risen to this challenge and had managed to provide a different winner at each meeting without bending the rules too much.

The year had also been graced by the Society's first lady member, Rachel Stabb. At her second meeting she won the President's Cup. Other winners at Meetings were Steve Giedziun, John Ford, Peter Wicking, John Gallagher, Geoff White and John Connor. Brian Edmonton won the Edwards Vase and John Connor the Countdown Trophy, both awarded for consistent play throughout the year.



GEOFF MOYES . . . A leader with influence?

The Society's finances were ably handled by George Harrison who dealt quietly and efficiently with a cash flow of £5000 in 1983 compared with only £500 in 1977. Some sponsorship had kept the finances healthy.

The Captain for 1984 is to be Geoff Moyse who has already used his considerable influence to ensure next year's British Open and other sporting events do not clash with Society meetings!

In conclusion, the Society felt justly proud that it would be celebrating its 30th Birthday in 1986. Wally Moss thought that we were now large enough to hold an Annual Dinner Dance and this is to be considered by the Committee.

A fine Autumn catch

Autumn saw the ITN Angling Society on its annual two-day 'away' match which this year was held at Winkton near Christchurch, on the River Avon.

The overnight stay was at the very comfortable Fishermans Haunt, and this again proved to be a successful social event and it is even rumoured that the secretary received top priority treatment over his accommodation: (6 down cryptic clue: Queen Anne also slept in one of these! Nudge-nudge).

Conditions of both of the days were almost ideal with sunshine, steady flowing water and clear sky, but unfortunately there are few tales of success other than those of "The ones that got away". The reasons for this still mystify and frustrate those that attended — still better luck next time.

The knockout Cup Final was held on the second day and although the winning weight of 11b 9oz by Harold Griffiths was slightly disappointing it was a hard won trophy and a credit to a difficult day's fighting. Colin Mallet was second and Alf Penn third.

Overall the whole event was successful and will be repeated next year although the venue is yet to be decided.

Much wiser

The October venue was Marcos Lake, one of our new waters. Being our second visit we were a little wiser and, as a result, we were all heartened to see several good tench and the appearance of roach, which had been lacking previously and had caused concern as to the viability of this lake.

gives
Penn a
narrow
lead in
league
trophy
stakes

It proved to be an uplift after the disappointing away trip, and is useful to note that we are already beginning to see returns for our investment in the Group Angling Alliance and should therefore provide adequate venues of good sport for next season. Once again Colin Mallet showed his form with a good win.

November saw us at Potts Stream, Oxford, a poor turnout and result to match. We did however learn a little about the water for our next trip. This match was won by Alf Penn with Trevor Watson coming second.

This leaves us an exciting finish for the league cup with Alf Penn in the lead very closely followed by Colin Mallett and Trevor Watson . . . and that's just the battle for First Place! Two matches to go and anyone can win.

The Next Issue . . .

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The next "Lens" will appear in two months time. All copy, letters, advertisements and comment for consideration should be forwarded to the Press Office by the end of January 1984.

THAT'S CHAMPION!

So-fit Gordon leaps to take 'veterans' title

Two high-flying ITN athletes are making names for themselves as top competitors in the field and on the track.

Video editor Gordon Hickey recently set a British high-jump record in the "veterans" section, and Training and Projects secretary Sybil Joseph is ranked among Britain's brightest hopefuls as a sprinter.

Gordon leapt to victory in the over-fifties high-jump at Norman Park, Bromley, three weeks after reaching his personal half-century in October . . . but he has a habit of breaking records. He still holds all-time highs in both the over forty and over forty-five age

groups. Gargantuan Gordon — he's six feet five and weighs sixteen stones — developed his talent for sports at school in Orpington, and later in the RAF. After national service he joined Blackheath Harriers Athletics Club, near his Kent home, and started serious training.

He was Essex high-jump champion for five years running until 1960 and a year later he won the Southern Counties title.

After working in a film lab, Gordon came to ITN in the late fifties as an assistant-film editor, and was a founder member of the football club. He hung up his boots only two seasons ago.



Up and over — a flying Hickey

But shift work interfered with his athletics training and he gave up serious competitions for several years until he turned forty . . . then he started to leap again, returning to athletics as a veteran representing the Harriers.

He dusted down the spiked shoes he had had specially made in 1957 and began straddling the bar once more. Glory followed and he now competes regularly — often against men half his age — and size.

But Gordon admits he's getting too big to go on jumping for ever, and he's started putting the shot for his club, winning the Southern Area title twice.

But he'll probably never leave high-jumping completely. He says his size and weight make him ideal for testing the air beds which cushion the jumpers' falls!

Built for speed?

Sybil Joseph's slender figure makes her more suited to track events. She's ranked among Britain's top twenty in both the one hundred and two hundred metres sprint, this year. That's a dramatic improvement on last year's ranking of thirty sixth. And at twenty-three she doesn't reckon to reach her peak for a couple of years!

She was Kent county champion in both events last year. This year an international beat her into second place, but she improved her time.

"I'm getting faster every season," she says, and has set her sights on international recognition.

Like Gordon, Sybil started serious training once she left school. She joined Bromley Ladies Athletics Club and has represented them at county and national level ever since.

Financial restraints

Her biggest problem is money. "I need a sponsor. As an amateur I can't earn from competing, and I spend hundreds of pounds each season on shoes, tracksuits, rainwear and paying to enter competitions."



She trains hard — five nights a week in winter, three nights in the summer and both Sybil and her coach — Juno Field, her boyfriend and former sprinter himself — have high hopes she'll knock those vital tenths of a second off her times to reach the required international standard. Next year she'll be trying for a place in Britain's Olympic relay team.

"I do it for fun, and it keeps me slim," she says. "The day I don't enjoy running I'll stop, no matter how well I'm doing."

