



50 years of *Nuclear News*: Reflecting on the past, looking to the future

BY BETSY TOMPKINS

IN PREPARING TO write this article on the history of *Nuclear News*, I have been observing, through back issues, the evolution of a publication. Perusing the early issues of what started as a four-page newsletter about the activities of the American Nuclear Society, to eventually become the glossy, full-color, electronically produced news magazine of today, has reminded me of the magazine's humble roots and of where it has traveled, through boom times and lean times, to what we anticipate is the eve of a nuclear renaissance in the United States and worldwide.

I have to stop to remind myself that I have been on the staff of the magazine for the majority of its existence, having started here with the title of editorial assistant in 1976. Oh, the changes I've witnessed—in how we are staffed, in how we write, input, and process copy and lay out pages, and in how material is provided to our printer. Technology has certainly made many of our procedures easier.

Nuclear News has gone through many changes over 50 years, but its mission remains to keep its readers informed about developments in nuclear science and technology.

In putting together this article, I have drawn liberally from two earlier articles on *NN*'s history, one written by Christopher FitzGerald for the 25th anniversary in 1984, and one written by Jon Payne for the 40th anniversary in 1999 (with updates in 2004). These past editors did much of the legwork regarding the early days of the magazine, when it was still a work in progress. I thank them for giving me a head start.

Appearing throughout the pages of this article are remembrances from past editors of *Nuclear News* (and the past international editor). We managed to track down all of the past editors, and during that process, learned that three were deceased. All of the surviving editors except for one were able to contribute, and we were sad-

dened to learn of the recent death of past editor John Graham (see obituary on page 120), who had submitted his contribution in late March.

So begins the journey of a magazine called *Nuclear News*.

In the beginning

As noted above, the first issue of *Nuclear News* was a four-page newsletter. It was initiated by Octave Du Temple—who had become ANS's executive secretary in May 1958—with the goal of keeping the members informed. The typeface was "early typewriter," and the content focused on the activities of ANS, with special emphasis on the society's meetings and publications. There is no record of any name other than

Filling a need

Editor #1 • Octave J. Du Temple, July 1959–March 1961



During my first year as the executive secretary of the American Nuclear Society, I decided that a publication was needed to keep the membership informed about the society's meetings and other activities. At that time, McGraw-Hill was publishing *Nucleonics* and was not giving attention to the activities of ANS, so I started publishing *Nuclear News*. Besides covering society news, the newsletter early on also began reporting on some limited news of the industry.

Then, on January 3, 1961, the accident occurred at the Stationary Low-Power Reactor No. 1 (SL-1) near Idaho Falls, Idaho. I was in the office of Norman Hilberry, the director of Argonne National Laboratory, when we received the news about the accident. He and I were about to go over the financial records of ANS, a task that he and I regularly undertook because he was the chairman of the ANS Finance Committee. He called off our meeting and impressed upon me that this was a serious accident.

I immediately started working with the public relations department at the National Reactor Testing Station, where SL-1 was located. I had a Q clearance (top-secret security clearance specifically related to atomic or nuclear materials) and was part of the team that decided what information was to be released to the pub-

lic. Ultimately, just about everything was released except for the pictures of the three individuals who were killed in the accident. Ruth Farmakes, the assistant who in those days typed and helped produce each issue of *NN*, and her husband, John, who worked at Argonne, helped to put together the report on SL-1 for the February 1961 issue of *Nuclear News*. We worked on it for about four days and mailed it out to all ANS members (there were about 4000 of them at that time). We beat *Nucleonics* by about 10 days and had a better, more detailed report. This issue made members really take notice of *Nuclear News* as a serious source of industry news.

Along the way, as *Nuclear News* gained importance, several ANS presidents wanted to become its editor. It became clear, however, that the publication could not have a new editor every year and that the editorship was too big a job to add to the job of being president.

This situation also illuminated the problems of my being both the editor of *NN* and the executive secretary of ANS. This led to the appointment of a separate editor, which was a great improvement. John Martens, who held a full-time job at Argonne, became the editor on a part-time basis.

Over the years, *Nuclear News* has become the most important monthly source of information about the nuclear industry for those involved in the industry, and this is because of the wonderful editors and staff who put the magazine together.

An exciting time for nuclear

Editor #3 • Malcolm Ferrier, August 1962–April 1965



time, and I loved every minute of it!

I was the first full-time editor—Octave Du Temple and John Martens fitted in their *NN* duties among their other responsibilities. I had come into the job mainly because of my work at Atomic Energy of Canada Limited's Chalk River Laboratories. My boss there, W. Bennett Lewis, was the 1961–1962 ANS president, and I fell into doing a lot of ANS work, which got me involved in lots of ANS business and eventually the job of *NN* editor. I was fortunate, too, in that Manson Benedict, of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, was the ANS president (1962–1963) during my tenure as editor. He was a wonderful friend and mentor, and we kept in touch until his death in 2006.

Being the editor of *NN* was not my only job at ANS. I was also the production editor for *Nuclear Science and Engineering*, *Nuclear Technology* (which ANS started during my tenure), and *Hot Lab Proceedings*, and handled the twice-a-year editing and production of *ANS Transactions*. We also published a series of monographs. Busy days! We made a great deal of money, having to spread it around at a dozen Chicago banks for safety.

I would never have been able to do all of this without our indefatigable production associate, Ruth Farmakes. In those days there were only limited typesetting capabilities available, and Ruth had to type everything for *NN* twice—once to get a feel for the pages and the shape of the magazine, and once again to tidy it all up and justify it (by counting each space, no less!) with her bouncing-ball IBM Executive typewriter, which allowed for justified columns (anyone remember those devices?). Typical-

ly I would plunge into each month's heap of press releases and dictate extracts, and Ruth would magically produce the issue. There were longer contributed review articles, too—members of ANS were happy to contribute whenever asked. The production of most of our other publications was handled by commercial houses.

There was no advertising at first, but Dick Quinn came on board in July 1963 to handle that, and the magazine expanded quickly. I was very naive about advertisers: I remember unilaterally changing an ad's copy a couple of times because I thought it too high-blown and fanciful!

There were other nuclear publications, mainly McGraw-Hill's *Nucleonics*, but *NN* took over the top spot as the nuclear industry's magazine. (Having thousands of ANS members to call upon was a huge advantage.)

One special year was 1964, the year of the Third Geneva Conference on the Peaceful Uses of Atomic Energy. Many ANS members helped with the writing of the technical reports of the many sessions, and we were able to give the event comprehensive coverage. I well remember that upon my returning from Geneva, the customs officer in New York was convinced that my very heavy briefcase was stuffed with gold or some such contraband. Paper is exceedingly heavy, and I was carrying scores of papers from the conference!

We also made a start on what is currently a hot topic: Several articles in 1964–1965 covered the importance of nuclear power's not emitting any greenhouse gases (although that term wasn't yet in vogue). We also demonstrated that a coal-fired plant emitted more radioactivity, via thorium, than did any power reactor.

But such a paradise could not last forever. I had long fought a losing battle with the ANS Board of Directors to try to get them to realize that our industry was only partly technical; public acceptance was an equally crucial part of the industry's health and growth. But no money was designated for that aspect, and I left ANS with great regret. I felt that we'd never grow the industry to its full potential in technical isolation.

Nuclear News having been considered for the publication—and that is in contrast to at least 10 possible names having been considered for the society!

It took less than a year for significant changes to occur in the fledgling publication, most notably the broadening of its scope beyond the activities of ANS and an increase in the number of pages, to allow for more in-depth coverage. Items reporting industry news appeared in the April 1960 issue—for example, that the Midwest had received its first nuclear-generated electricity from the Dresden-1 nuclear power plant when it supplied power to Commonwealth Edison's grid. Reflecting the growth of the nuclear industry, which also meant more news to report, *NN* grew as well, and by the end of 1960, the issues were in the neighborhood of 32 pages. It is difficult to pinpoint exactly when the newsletter graduated to magazine status, but the January 1961 issue was the last to carry the word "newsletter" on the cover.

Topical coverage

The exploration of the various possible applications of nuclear technology in the early days of the industry afforded *NN* the opportunity to cover a broad range of topics, including the Rover program, for nuclear rocket propulsion; nuclear ships (the *NS Savannah*, the first cargo-passenger vessel built in the United States, and the icebreaker *Lenin*, in Russia); and Project Plowshare, which involved the development of techniques to use nuclear explosives for excavation, mining, and other peaceful construction purposes.

Along with this array of news coverage were articles about developments in the structure of ANS. For example, an article in the June 14, 1960, issue notes a resolution by the board of directors whereby the divisions of the society would be based on the applications of nuclear science and engineering (Isotopes and Radiation Division, Power Division) or on a segment of nuclear technology (the Hot Laboratory Division),

rather than on the technical discipline involved. Members were observing the inventing of ANS in the pages of *Nuclear News*.

It is also notable that even the early issues of *NN* had an international flavor. Reports of books published in Europe appear as early as the January 1960 issue, and the March 1960 issue presented the entire table of contents of the January 1960 issue of the *Soviet Journal of Atomic Energy*.

And there are some topics that seem to have been in the spotlight from the very early days of the industry. The March 1960 issue contained this comment about a talk that had been presented that month by Alvin Weinberg, who was the ANS president at the time and the director of Oak Ridge National Laboratory: "Weinberg also reemphasized to the group the importance and magnitude of the waste disposal problem when we get into a nuclear power economy." There really *is* nothing new under the sun!

The January 3, 1961, accident at the Stationary Low-Power Reactor No. 1 (SL-1), in Idaho Falls, Idaho, presented *Nuclear News* with its first real journalistic test. With Du Temple using his connections to a source at the National Reactor Testing Station (where SL-1 was located) and dictating the text to assistant Ruth Farmakes, the two produced a 14-page illustrated report that was part of the 48-page February 1961 issue. *NN* scooped McGraw-Hill's *Nucleonics* on the story, bringing it well-earned recognition from society members and others in the industry. In fact, the SL-1 report and excellent follow-up articles through the November 1962 issue quieted talk among some board members about discontinuing the magazine because of rising production costs.

As the industry developed and grew through the middle and late 1960s, *Nuclear News* grew and changed, too. Although varied potential uses of nuclear science and technology were still being pursued, nuclear-generated electricity was becoming the major application. The March 1966 issue of *NN* reported that nuclear power plant sales averaged one per week during the first five weeks of 1966—an anomaly, to be sure, but a significant indicator of the shift toward nuclear-generated electricity and a precipitator of other occurrences, including an increase in individuals employed in designing and building nuclear power plants, in utili-

ty people in ANS's membership, and in coverage of nuclear power in the magazine, as well as the creation of a focal point for the newly forming antinuclear movement.

Along with this growing interest in nuclear power generation as a rapidly expanding commercial enterprise, ANS sought to develop products that would reflect and assist this growth. The first issue of the *Nuclear News* Buyers Guide—with 242 product and service categories and 550 companies—was published in February 1969, and the initial *Radioisotope Directory*, which was bound into the December 1969 issue, was produced. The latter lasted for only two issues, but the Buyers Guide was a huge success and still exists today, having been published every year since its inception. In fact, the 40th edition of the directory was published as the mid-April issue this year, and

includes 472 categories and 967 companies. The first issue of the Buyers Guide also contained a two-page spread titled "Facts and Figures about the Nuclear Field" listing nuclear power plants in the United States, along with a one-page table of nuclear employment statistics. The list became a standard feature of the Buyers Guide and eventually evolved into what is today the World List of Nuclear Power Plants.

Another point of note from the 1960s issues of *NN* is the person whose photo appeared most often on the cover: the late Glenn Seaborg. This occurred primarily because of his prominence as an advisor on science policy to three U.S. presidents—Kennedy, Johnson, and Nixon—and because he was a member of the U.S. Atomic Energy Commission during most of that decade, chairing the commission for seven

Editor #2 • John Martens, April 1961–July 1962

Died April 7, 2006, at age 86

Editor #4 • David Sundberg, May 1965–April 1967

Died June 18, 1999, at age 63

Editor #7 • Christopher FitzGerald, March 1970–September 1972

Died July 11, 2001, at age 74

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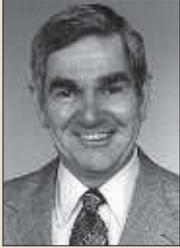
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From Italy to ANS

Editor #5 • John Graham, May 1967–June 1969



I had been working for about five years at a U.S. Navy/NATO antisubmarine warfare laboratory in La Spezia, Italy. I was there with my family, and although we were happy there, my wife and I were anxious to get back to the States so that our five young children could attend school there.

Word got to me through a colleague at the lab that the American Nuclear Society was seeking an editor, and that he had been approached about the job. He was not interested in the job, but I was! By the next day, my resumé was in the mail to ANS.

Arrangements were made via a phone call from the ANS headquarters office for the society's executive director, Octave Du Temple, to meet with me in Naples during one of his trips abroad. The meeting and interview were a success, and I joined the ANS staff in August 1965 as a senior technical editor.

In college, I had edited a magazine that became the "slick" variety, printed in a print shop. We on the editorial staff snatched the idea from a national magazine that the cover should be a different color each month, with the title in clean block letters. And there would be some photographs (*Time* magazine fashion) and

a subhead or two. That was all. I carried a similar design to *Nuclear News* when I succeeded David Sundberg as the editor in May 1967.

Another highlight of my tenure at *NN* was bringing Bill Minkler on board, with his humor column, "Backscatter," on the back page. Other firsts under my regime were the pages now called Late News, the staff-written ANS president profile articles, the List of Central Stations (which ultimately expanded into the World List of Nuclear Power Plants), and the Buyers Guide.

I left *NN* in mid-1969 to attend graduate school, but I ended up back at the magazine in 1977 as Washington editor, based in Washington, D.C. The position, however, ultimately was turned into my being the society's Washington representative, which reduced the amount of time I could devote to *NN*.

Today, I look at the magazine and I see me, and some of my early creations that have endured. And while admiring my own contributions, I am constantly amazed at how much I approve of what I see in the magazine today.

Nuclear News was saddened to learn that John Graham died on June 6 at the age of 88. An obituary appears in the *People* section of this issue.

Nuclear News milestones

- July 1959: Publication of first issue of *Nuclear News*, a four-page newsletter
- October 1960: First commercial advertisement
- February 1961: First issue in magazine format
- February 1961: First two-color advertisement
- August 1962: First full-time editor (Malcolm Ferrier)
- January 1963: First four-color editorial illustration
- October 1967: Bill Minkler column becomes a regular feature; it was then labeled "a non-editorial"
- February 1969: First *Buyers Guide* issue published
- July 1969: First staff-written profile of incoming ANS President (Louis H. Roddis, Jr.)
- January 1971: New design, with a section for each news subject—e.g., Power, Isotopes & Radiation, etc.
- February 1971: *Buyers Guide*: First list of U.S. nuclear power plants
- Mid-October 1971: Special issue on Geneva IV, the Fourth United Nations International Conference on Peaceful Uses of Atomic Energy (132 pages)
- September 1972: First separately bound Preliminary Program issue
- September 1973: Plant list is made international, becoming the World List of Nuclear Power Plants
- July 1976: First "On Line with Verna" every-other-month column, by Bernard Verna, about plant operating experience; last column was September 1994
- April 6, 1979: Special Report about accident at TMI-2
- January 1983: *ANS News* is made a separate publication
- October 1983: First "Focus on Finance" every-other-month column, by Linda Caldwell Byus, on electric utility finances; last column was June 1996
- December 1985: First List of Scheduled Outages at U.S. Nuclear Power Plants; last list was July 2001
- June and September 1986: Special reports on the Chernobyl-4 accident
- March 1987: First of the continuing series of "theme issues" (i.e., multiple articles on one topic), with a 45-page special report about waste management
- Fall 1994: Named as most important member benefit in ANS's first professional-quality (and largest) survey of members
- August 1995: First Vendor/Contractor Profile Special Section
- January 1996: *ANS News* moved back inside *Nuclear News*
- January 1996: Program Issues are published by Meetings Department rather than as issues of *Nuclear News*
- January 1999: *ANS News* is again made a separate publication
- March 1999: First annual Reference Issue
- March 2003: First appearance of the Security news section
- October 2006: Education section renamed Education & Training
- January 2008: *NN* becomes available to ANS members in electronic form
- July 2008: "Focus on Finance," again written by Byus, resumes on every-other-month schedule
- November 2008: Education & Training section renamed Education, Training & Workforce

of those years.

One institution of *Nuclear News* was firmly established in October 1967: Bill Minkler's humor column, which appeared on the last page of the magazine. Originally called "a non-editorial," in January 1971 it was renamed Backscatter. At that time, Minkler was a senior engineer at Bettis Atomic Power Laboratory in Pittsburgh, teaching in the Bettis Reactor Engineering School. Blightsburg's most prominent resident has entertained readers for nearly 42 years.

Signs of the times

The late 1960s into the 1970s was a pivotal time in the history of the United States and the world. And while milestones and trends do not always fit neatly within a particular decade, the 1970s certainly brought important changes to the nuclear industry and, consequently, to *Nuclear News*.

As noted earlier, during this time period, the variety of nuclear technology applications that originally were "tested" began to drop away, and more efforts were focused on nuclear power. At the same time, the environmental movement began to coalesce, with the passage in 1969 of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), which had its first court ruling in 1971, employing the Calvert Cliffs nuclear power plant as a test case. In addition, the nuclear power plant business was growing rapidly in the early 1970s, with an acceleration in the reactor ordering that had begun in the 1960s.

In conjunction with this industry growth, *Nuclear News* in 1971 underwent a major redesign. The news sections were organized by subject area—Power, Fuel, Industry, and Education, for example—the basic structure of which remains in place today.

Also, even though there was international coverage, albeit limited, in the very early days of the publication, it was expanded because the industry, too, was expanding globally. Heavy coverage was given to the third and fourth United Nations International Conference on the Peaceful Uses of Atomic Energy, held in 1964 and 1971, respectively, in Geneva, Switzerland. (An entire separate issue was devoted to the 1971 conference.)

In September 1973, *NN*'s list of U.S. commercial nuclear power plants was expanded to international status, becoming the World List of Nuclear Power Plants. This was no small undertaking in those days before the advanced means of communication that are available today. At that time, no list of plants outside the United States even existed. Nor was there a list of utilities and organizations outside the United States that were operating or building nuclear

Busy times remembered

Editor #8 • Jon Payne, October 1972–August 1993



Editing a magazine such as *Nuclear News* can, even under normal circumstances, keep you busy all day long and into the night. There are always more stories to consider or to write, more printing problems to address.

Then, the job can become still busier and more intense, as happens when there is major news in nuclear science and technology. It is probably no surprise that from my 20 years as editor, the times I recall most vividly are those intense periods.

One of the favorable times was the early 1970s, when the nuclear field had the pleasant problem of many orders for nuclear power plants. Each announcement for a new plant described one of three situations: a firm order, a letter of intent, or a plan.

We published news stories about all of those announcements, but we worked at sorting them out for our readers. The orders and the letters of intent were pretty definite and settled, while those "planned" plants could represent anything from contracts to be signed soon to just the beginnings of ideas for new plants. We developed a checklist and asked many questions before we wrote those stories.

This approach also helped with the process of putting together our list of nuclear power plants. There we included the first two categories (orders and letters of intent), but not plans for new plants. This distinction proved useful to our readers.

Another challenge was expanding our list of U.S. plants to include units in all countries. Today, it seems easy to identify the plants and their owners and operators in all countries, but it was not so in the early 1970s. We put many hours and many search methods into creating the World List of Nuclear Power Plants, which made its first appearance in September 1973.

Something going wrong in the nuclear field also created editorial challenges, with the accident at Three Mile Island an example of that. It was difficult keeping our other work in motion as we searched, along with many other people, to find out exactly what had happened. The magazine's six-page special report, dated April 6, 1979, became the most widely distributed material ever produced by the magazine. The first mailing of this

special report went to the magazine's regular mailing list—that is, to all ANS members plus the library subscribers. Soon, other nuclear organizations were asking for copies, which they paid to have printed and sent to them. We printed about 250 000 copies of that report.

During my editorship (which ended in August 1993, when I became the publisher of ANS Commercial Publications), the magazine covered several trends. Among these are the impressive success in improving plant reliability and the expanding use of nuclear medicine—with about one of every three people in hospitals receiving the benefits of radioisotope tests, diagnoses, or therapies.

Also, the magazine has chronicled the political approach in the United States to developing a repository for high-level nuclear wastes. The essence of this approach, which I saw as early as the 1970s, is kicking the decision down the road to the next administration. Too often, the guiding political principle—rarely stated openly—has been that research and studies are okay, but decisions on actual facilities must wait, and wait again. Some promise did appear in the 1980s, with laws enacted that should have led to the establishment of a repository. But soon the politicians were again kicking the decision down the road. This approach continues today.

One noteworthy trend has occurred since my time as editor: the improved possibility of new orders for nuclear power plants in the United States.

More personally, I found that the two most rewarding aspects of serving as the editor of *Nuclear News* were working with the publication's talented staff and providing a magazine that I saw as central to the value of membership in the American Nuclear Society. Those two elements continue: The magazine still has a talented staff, and the publication remains important to ANS and its members.

For 50 years, *Nuclear News* has reported on the many contributions of nuclear science and technology to human society. In the magazine's second half-century, there undoubtedly will be times when the staff encounters instances of intense work. Here's hoping that the next such intense time is because of orders for new plants.

From a grumpy old man

European Editor/International Editor

Simon Rippon, May 1976–February 2000



For 50 years, *Nuclear News* has given appreciative readers all they want to know about a fascinating industry, and it was my privilege to have spent most of my professional life as its European Editor/International Editor, based in the United Kingdom.

It all started for me when I was still a student interested in atomic energy. In 1956, I watched on television as Queen Elizabeth II opened Calder Hall, the first industrial-scale nuclear power plant. For some years, Calder Hall produced plutonium for the military, but the plant was soon optimized for the commercial production of electricity and heat. The plant had taken 42 months to design and build, with nothing more than slide rules to perform calculations. It cost tens of millions of pounds in real money and produced a vast amount of electricity. If you ignore the accountants, whose rules are weighted against capital intensity, the electricity produced really was too cheap to meter. In September 2007, the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority—about the last remaining U.K. organization to have “nuclear” in its name—demolished the cooling towers of this remarkable power plant.

In the same 50 years, I have been privileged to write about the growth of a remarkable industry that currently produces about 14 percent of the world’s electricity. But how much more might it have been! We could, like France, produce 80 percent of our electricity from nuclear. We could have nuclear electric transport. We could have nuclear ships. We could have nuclear desalination and agro-industrial nuclear complexes. We could have nuclear-powered steel-making.

Instead of all these exciting things, I have spent a great deal of time reporting on and refuting protestors. It has been a challenging and rewarding task, but a sad one, too. There has been disgraceful waste, not the least of which is U.S. President Barack Obama’s intent to scrap the \$13.5 billion spent on Yucca Mountain in order to placate the not-in-my-backyard attitude of a few people in Nevada.

Now is the time to say that there is no waste problem: We will recycle it as mixed-oxide fuel as the French do, and get 25 to 30 percent more energy from it. Sure, there is still a small residue of fission products. These are vitrified and encased in steel, which makes it safe for the hundred or so years over which it decays to a lower level of radioactivity than the uranium from which it came. Yes, there will be a small bit of plutonium left, but that is still shorter-lived than uranium. How much better that is than the 9 billion tonnes of carbon dioxide waste that we pump into the atmosphere every year!

Nuclear News has been quite progressive. Back in the mid-1980s, I was sending an average of 8000 words a month across the Atlantic electronically, and Chris FitzGerald was even then editing my copy on screen. I recall Jon Payne saying happily that my copy did not have to be retyped, as was the case for anything sent by fax. He did not mention, however, that I am one of the world’s worst spellers (it has something to do with dyslexia in my youth, although we did not know about such things then, and I certainly could not spell it). I did manage to write a spell-checking program for my computer that worked quite well for a few years. It was written in machine code and occupied a massive 124 bytes—not kilobytes or megabytes or gigabytes—of memory.

I recall a visit to a powerful French simulator near Lyon. The people there told me that they had just gotten a link to a center in Paris that would accept 1 megabyte per second. Now I grumble if the Internet connection on my computer is achieving only 4.5 megabytes per second, compared with the 8-megabyte speed that is claimed to be possible by the service provider. And so, if we can push a complete reactor design down an optical line at a gigabyte per second today, why on earth do we waste 10 years assessing new reactor designs?

When I retired from *Nuclear News* in 2000, I became a grumpy old man. My main grump was with the U.K. government and the death of the nuclear industry. Now, more than 10 years too late, there are signs of a revival, but it looks as if it will have to be led by the French or Japanese.

I have greatly enjoyed writing about the first 50 years, and surely will not be around for the next 50. But perhaps we can—we must—see the renaissance start off, even if too slowly, on the right path, with *Nuclear News* still there to tell you all about it.

I warmly congratulate *Nuclear News*. And to the politicians who have done so much to hold us back, this grumpy old man says “bah!”

power plants. It was difficult even for the International Atomic Energy Agency to obtain power reactor information from some of its member nations, especially those in the Soviet bloc. Consequently, a major effort that involved writing many letters and making many phone calls, as well as calling in numerous favors, was required to assemble that initial international list.

Because of the large number of nuclear plants being ordered in the 1970s and the literally hundreds of projects requiring frequent changes in the “construction completion” column of the World List, its publication frequency was increased to twice yearly. It appeared in the Buyers Guide issue, to reflect updated data as of the end of the previous year, and in the August or September issue, to reflect updates as of mid-year. Starting in 1979, the first of the year’s two World Lists was moved from the Buyers Guide to a regular issue of the magazine, generally the February issue.

In May 1976, *Nuclear News* showed further commitment to international coverage of the nuclear scene with the hiring of Simon Rippon as its European editor. He was able to make effective use of a few “stringers”—some of them writers, some of them nuclear industry people—in Europe who were able to help provide expanded international news coverage and content. A couple of those stringers still write stories for the magazine today.

The On Line with Verna column, authored by Bernard Verna, an independent consultant and publisher of a newsletter called *Nuclear Power Experience*, first appeared in the July 1976 issue of the magazine. In the every-other-month column, Verna covered a variety of topics related to the nuts and bolts of plant operations. Probably his most significant column was on the 1977 Davis-Besse feedwater transient, a precursor of the Three Mile Island-2 accident. That column appeared in the May 1979 issue of *NN*, just in time to be a big part of the magazine’s TMI-2 news coverage.

Plenty of news was also coming out of Washington, D.C., in the 1970s, with events that were redirecting nuclear science and technology. The Atomic Energy Commission was split into two parts—the Energy Research and Development Administration (ERDA) and the Nuclear Regulatory Commission—in 1974; President Gerald Ford issued a statement in 1976 that directed agencies of the executive branch to delay the commercialization of reprocessing until uncertainties were resolved; Congress’s Joint Committee on Atomic Energy was disbanded in 1977; and President Jimmy Carter announced in 1977 that commercial reprocessing and recycling of plutonium would be deferred indefinitely, and he then vetoed S. 1811, the ERDA Authorization Act of 1978, which prevented the legislative authorization required for the construction of

a breeder reactor and reprocessing facility.

In conjunction with all of this activity in the nation's capital, John Graham, who had been the editor of *NN* from 1967 to 1969 (not the John Graham who was the 1995–1996 ANS president), rejoined the magazine in 1977 as Washington editor.

Ending on a down note

Although far from a positive occurrence at the end of the 1970s, the accident at GPU Nuclear Corporation's Three Mile Island-2 on March 28, 1979, was one of the most notable events covered by the *Nuclear News* staff, and also one that had profound effects on the nuclear industry going forward.

Because of the nature and significance of the accident, it was decided that *NN* would produce a special report to provide a factual accounting of events. Collecting information for that special report was a noteworthy challenge and required that other editorial work be set aside during the first few days following the accident as we, along with thousands of other people, tried to learn exactly what had happened.

The six-page special report that resulted from those several days of concentrated effort turned out to be the most widely distributed material ever produced by *NN*. Dated April 6, 1979, the report's initial press run was the same as that of the regular issues of the magazine—all ANS members (at that

time numbering about 13 000) and library subscribers. Within days of the report's distribution, an organization called asking to purchase 10 000 reprints. This was followed by a request for 50 000 copies from another organization. This continued until ultimately, within a few months after the accident, 250 000 copies of the report had been printed.

Nuclear News also provided follow-up articles over the years as various steps in TMI-2 investigations, cleanup, and report issuance were undertaken and completed.

Adapting to the times

The 1979 accident at TMI-2 had a substantial influence on the events that followed. Besides the NRC's calling for numerous equipment backfits and modifications of plant procedures, the Institute of Nuclear Power Operations was formed in late 1979. INPO set high goals for the United States' fleet, placing emphasis on improving plant operations. This set the tone for the 1980s—particularly in the early years of the decade—and affected *NN*'s coverage, too.

In October 1983, Linda Caldwell Byus joined *NN* as a contributing editor with an every-other-month column called Focus on Finance. She provided insights into the financial workings and dealings of the nuclear power industry as it dealt with the new focus on plant operations.

In order to provide more in-depth reporting on plant operations, Gregg Taylor was hired in 1984 to focus solely on those activities. He visited plants around the world, providing a look at nuclear operations worldwide through his writings and photographs.

Also developed during this time was the List of Scheduled Outages at U.S. Nuclear Power Plants, which made its debut in December 1985. This list came together through many hours of work by the editorial staff and, not unimportantly, the good graces of the utilities. Over the years, it proved to be of value to many people, among the more interesting being individuals who moved around the country to work at the outages, or needed the list to learn when outages would be occurring in their part of the country. For example, a St. Louis-based welder called to purchase the list so that he could see when outages were scheduled in his area. A subscription to the twice-yearly list was started in 1992, whereby individuals paid a nominal fee to receive the list at about the same time that it was to appear in the July and December issues, or a higher fee to receive it by mail a month before its appearance in the magazine. It was a very successful product during its lifetime.

April 26, 1986, the date of the disaster at the Chernobyl-4 nuclear station, in Ukraine, presented *Nuclear News* with one of the most challenging reporting situations in the

The employees and American Nuclear Society members of PPL, whose Susquehanna nuclear plant recently achieved the second-longest continuous run in U.S. nuclear history, congratulate Nuclear News.

Thank you for 50 years of promoting excellence in the nuclear industry.



magazine's history. Ukraine at that time was still part of the Soviet Union, and obtaining factual information about the accident was a difficult process. Once again, as with the TMI-2 report, other editorial work was set aside while efforts were made to ferret out the details. The IAEA became the conduit for information from the Soviet Union to the rest of the world. Ultimately, after many hours spent making phone calls, and relying on a great deal on European Editor Simon Rippon to track down and verify the facts, the editorial staff managed to put together another special report that appeared in the June issue of the magazine. Reprints of that report were also widely distributed.

Later that year, *NN* prepared another special report, dated September 11, 1986, based on an August IAEA meeting held in Vienna that was devoted entirely to the Chernobyl accident. That meeting featured the presentation by Soviet officials of what some called "a surprisingly large volume" of in-

formation. Rippon attended the conference and provided coverage of the Soviets' revelations, as well as analyses of that information by outside observers. Like the TMI-2 report, this special report was mailed separately to members in addition to their regular monthly issues of the magazine.

Another topic that garnered increased attention during the 1980s was waste management. The magazine's Waste Management section included heavy coverage of the topic, and the first of *NN*'s special sections—consisting of a group of feature articles on a single topic—encompassing 45 pages, appeared in the March 1987 issue.

In a departure from magazine publishing, and to provide another source of revenue for ANS, the *Nuclear News* staff in 1988 developed, gathered data for, and published the first volume of the *World Directory of Nuclear Utility Management*. It has been (mostly) an annual publication ever since, with its 21st edition (in print and on CD-

ROM) just recently made available.

And in another move that affected the content of the magazine, *ANS News*, which had been a part of *Nuclear News* from its beginning in 1959, was launched in January 1983 as a separate publication. This change, made with the intent of keeping members better informed about society activities, was nurtured through to its realization by ANS member Roger Tilbrook, who is currently the chair of the ANS Publications Steering Committee.

Entering the steady-state years

The general editorial direction of *Nuclear News* did not change much in the 1990s, although there was somewhat greater coverage of nonpower areas, including nuclear medicine, food irradiation, industrial uses of radioisotopes, and aerospace applications. Special sections also continued to grow in importance after they put down roots in the late 1980s. Among the topics of

Some lean years

Editor #9 • Nancy Zacha, September 1993–November 1995



It certainly wasn't the best of times, nor was it quite the worst of times, but the future looked pretty grim on the nuclear front during the two-plus years I served as *Nuclear News* editor. (I assumed the position, after a decade or more as an associate editor, when longtime editor Jon Payne was promoted to publisher.)

During those years, plants were shutting down early left and right, and you couldn't give a nuclear plant away. Many industry experts were predicting that fully 25 percent of the 100 or so operating nuclear plants would permanently shut down early and enter into decommissioning. The Nuclear Regulatory Commission had issued its rule on license renewal in 1991 (it was amended in 1995), but at that time, only the most optimistic of industry pundits thought that any plant would ever apply for extended operation.

As a result, nuclear plant decommissioning appeared to be the profession of the future: In 1994, the American Nuclear Society formed the Decommissioning, Decontamination, and Reutilization Division and launched *Radwaste Magazine*, which would cover nuclear site cleanup, decommissioning, and waste management activities. With 25 plants expected to be shut down in the next few years, and more added to the total as their licenses ran out, decommissioning work promised to keep nuclear industry professionals busy until retirement. Then the nuclear industry would quietly fade into history, a failed experiment that never reached its potential—this despite the fact that most nuclear plants, especially those built before the days of 20 percent interest and runaway costs, were steadily producing much-needed power and doing it with increased efficiency each year.

With advertising revenues down and general ANS membership falling as well, during those years *Nuclear News* was forced to cut the number of pages it published. Several sections, including Fuel and Isotopes & Radiation, went from appearing monthly to appearing only occasionally. The contents pages reverted to a single page, and even Bill Minkler's "Backscatter"

column was limited to two-thirds of a page.

In 1994, the responsibility for publishing *ANS News* was transferred from the Membership Department to *Nuclear News*, and in 1995, the monthly tabloid was reduced to a bimonthly publication schedule, again for budget reasons. A new design, however, and more personalized content increased its readability, and in June 1995 the newsletter won the Silver Award in the Association category from the Newsletter Publishers Conference.

Within a month or two of my taking over the editorship, I lost two longtime editors and thought that I would lose my mind as well. Fortunately, I was able to hire several new editors who brought new excitement and energy to the magazine. One of these editors, Rick Michal, remains on staff to this day as Senior Editor. (Looking back, I think that hiring Rick was the highlight of my tenure as the editor of *Nuclear News*.) And during these years, the magazine moved from an outside typesetter to in-house desktop production. Certain design and printing options, including color reproductions, suddenly became much easier and cheaper and changed the look of the magazine significantly.

This stint at the helm of the magazine was my last at ANS headquarters. I left *Nuclear News* and ANS, not because of the grim state of the industry, but because a change in my personal situation necessitated a relocation to another state. I remained committed to nuclear energy, however, and was thrilled when only a few years later, Jon Payne approached me to return to work for ANS as the editor of *Radwaste Magazine*—these days known as *Radwaste Solutions*—from wherever I happened to be living. I continue to hold this position today.

And isn't it nice to know that all those experts who predicted the early demise of the nuclear industry have been proven wrong, wrong, wrong! Decommissioning work is nearly finished for commercial plants, license extensions and 60-year operating lifetimes have become standard (indeed, there is talk of 80-year, 100-year, and even "perpetual" plants), 17 combined construction and operating license applications for 26 reactors have been submitted, and nuclear power once again is poised to be the energy source of the future.

special sections in the 1990s were waste management, materials management, nuclear training and education, outage management, robotics, and maintenance. In 1992, the September issue contained a section on new reactor designs, and the November issue included an article by Nancy Zacha, who at that time was the director of the ANS Public Communications Department, that told the story of CP-1, the first nuclear reactor, in anticipation of the 50th anniversary of the first controlled chain reaction in December of that year.

Some changes did occur, however, resulting at least in part from the need to tighten the collective ANS belt as the nuclear industry (particularly in the United States) went through a period of little to no growth. ANS staff was downsized, and Senior Editor E. Michael Blake left the magazine's staff in 1993. In 1994, the On Line with Verna column ended. In 1996, the Meetings Department took over the publication of the two program issues for the twice-a-year ANS national meetings. These had previously been published as separate issues of *Nuclear News* and had included some editorial content, as well as advertising, which had dramatically declined. Also that year, *ANS News* was moved back into the magazine for budgetary reasons, and Linda Byus's Focus on Finance column was discontinued.

But there were some positive develop-

ments during these years, too. The growing importance of waste management was recognized by ANS with the creation in 1994 of *Radwaste Magazine*, a specialty magazine covering practical approaches and solutions to waste management and environmental restoration issues and problems, available by paid subscription. Nancy Zacha, a former editor of *Nuclear News*, became the editor of the waste publication (renamed *Radwaste Solutions*) in July 1998, and still holds that position today.

By the 1990s, changes in the status of nuclear programs worldwide had slowed considerably, especially in the United States, with the advent of the deregulation—or restructuring—of the electric generating industry. New power reactors were still being built in a number of countries, but not so many that the World List of Nuclear Power Plants had to continue its twice-yearly publication schedule. In 1995, it was returned to annual updating, and it is now the centerpiece of the annual Reference Issue, which was established as a regular feature of the March issue starting in 1999.

Another development at the end of the 1990s was the decision by ANS governance to move *ANS News* back out of *Nuclear News*, in order to better serve the members by providing more coverage of society news. Funding was allocated to bring on a full-time editor to handle the once-again

stand-alone bimonthly publication, and in October 1998, Phyllis Ruzicka became its editor. She still oversees its production as editorial director, and is an associate editor for *Nuclear News*. She edits all of the copy for both publications.

The processes used to put together *NN* had been slowly changing over the previous decade, with typewriters and manual paste-up methods replaced in the mid-1980s by word processors, and in 1993 by personal computers. The switch from an outside typesetter to in-house desktop publishing was made with the January 1995 issue, with layouts produced on a Macintosh system. The full-scale electronic publishing operation—that is, no film and all digital—was in place by 2002. The improvements in efficiency, quality of graphics, and design flexibility have vastly improved the attractiveness of the magazine. The prepress work is handled for both *Nuclear News* and *Radwaste Solutions*—as well as for the *World Directory of Nuclear Utility Management* and *ANS News*—by Chris Salvato, who processes all of the copy and graphics and designs the layouts for the pages. For *NN*'s layout, he is guided by the "form breakdown," which shows the positions of all of the ads and editorial material and is prepared for each issue by the production editor, Patti Matas.

Continued

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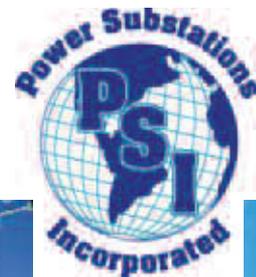
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The new millenium

As the new century began, *Nuclear News* saw some changes. International Editor Simon Rippon retired and Dick Kovan, who like Rippon is based in the United Kingdom, stepped into the position, with a vast world of news to cover.

In keeping up with changes in the industry, the Power section of the January 2000 issue included a sidebar headed “Nuclear plant dealings—completed, under way, and in negotiations,” a series of bullet points on ownership changes, license renewals, mergers, and utility name changes. This “feature” ran in nine issues in 2000, and also in the January, March, and May 2001 issues.

In April 2001, “Status of license renewal applications in the United States” appeared for the first time. It next ran in the August issue, and then every two or three months for the next three years.

The terrorist attacks on September 11, 2001, in the United States affected many aspects of people’s lives and various industries, including the nuclear industry, with heightened interest in nuclear facility security. In response to the continued emphasis on security issues, the March 2003 *NN* included a newly created Security news section. Also in response to the times and the restructuring of utilities, the List of Scheduled Outages was halted as

utilities came to see the detailed information that they provided for the list as proprietary and grew less willing to allow for its printing in the magazine in advance of plant outages. Its last appearance was in July 2001. To this day, *NN* and the ANS Accounting Department receive calls asking whether the list—a valuable tool to many—is still available.

In early 2004, a familiar face returned to *Nuclear News*: Mike Blake, who had been gone since 1993, returned to once again write for the magazine. As activity picked up in the areas of license renewal and the sales of plants, and talk of new nuclear power plants in the United States increased,

A score of years at *Nuclear News*

Editor #10 • Gregg Taylor, January 1996–July 2004



There is a saying that a journalist has a license to be curious. My 20 years with *Nuclear News* enabled me to visit 70 nuclear power plants in 14 countries. The life experience was immense: I stood inside control rooms, trained in a simulator, explored operating plants of every reactor type, trotted

around in anti-Cs during outages, and crawled through sites under construction.

Of the many memories that flood back, several stand out:

- Looking down the long, long row of *eight* reactors at (then) Ontario Hydro’s huge Pickering site.
- Being lectured by a nuclear plant manager in Scandinavia: “Here, if we have a problem, we hire 20 engineers. In America, you hire 20 lawyers.”
- The morning I was lifted into the Georgia sky on a platform by a crane, high above the two-unit Vogtle plant—then under construction—to take a cover photo with a fisheye lens.
- Being told by a plant official at the Qinshan-1 nuclear plant, southwest of Shanghai, that he knew nothing about any plans for a second reactor there. At that very same moment, I was hearing booms echoing across the site from an unseen location over a nearby hill. I later learned that those explosions were actually demolition to excavate for the next unit.
- The time someone phoned in what turned out to be a phony bomb scare for my hotel room in Karachi, Pakistan (even so, the hotel put a guard at my door afterward).
- Jumping into the cold Baltic Sea with utility managers, between scalding sessions in a sauna, *cum* vodka, the evening before visiting their nuclear plant in Finland.

What impressed me most, though, was the professional intensity of almost all plant staffers I ever talked to, and their joyful interest in sharing ideas with peers across the world. There was, and truly is, an international nuclear safety culture.

I started at *Nuclear News* in 1984 in the newly created position of *NN* Associate Editor—Nuclear Power Plant Operations. With a journalism degree and previous newspaper and technical editing experience, I learned on the job about nuclear technology and how reactors are operated and maintained.

Each article I wrote was also a short course for me on the subject at hand. The Baltimore Gas & Electric executive I interviewed for one of my first articles snorted with impatience when I asked, “What do you mean by ‘INPO?’” A few months later, I was in Atlanta doing interviews for an “INPO at five years” fea-

ture article.

In the 1980s, speculation at industry meetings centered on when the next U.S. nuclear plants would be ordered. Who could have imagined then that new construction would be confounded for at least a generation by—of all things—electric industry deregulation?

As my 20 years at *NN* progressed, I learned that the magazine’s readers are a special breed. They are well educated, cosmopolitan, intensely interested in their profession, and intellectually aggressive. They *care* about the magazine and its contents.

Being the editor-in-chief of *NN*—from January 1996 to July 2004—gave me the privilege of a front-row seat in exploring cutting-edge science and technology worldwide and talking to the fascinating people who led the way.

Through the years, developments in computer technology and the Internet made our job easier and news gathering and print production more efficient. When the Chernobyl accident occurred in late April 1986—in the “old” days, before the Internet—it was a challenge to get our hands on relevant documents in time for the next (June) issue of *NN*. We used all of our international, U.S. government, and industry contacts to pull in the necessary information. We even managed to quickly send out a separate special report about the accident to our readers.

Talking with the “gray heads” of the nuclear industry—the highly talented and charismatic individuals in government, industry, and academia who pioneered the science and technology during the early years—was a privilege and a stirring experience. They had gravitas, gentility, and class, and were true statesmen with vision. Most of them have now passed on, alas, and their example is missed. But we managed in time to induce many of them to write wide-ranging feature articles for *NN*. Those stories preserved historical memory and documented the exciting past of the nuclear heritage for our younger generations of scientists and engineers.

Now just a reader of *NN* these days, I remain impressed by the depth of coverage the staff provides. The magazine has a highly integrated crew of talented professionals, with many years of experience, who track and report significant and useful information. *NN*’s news articles and feature stories disseminate developments, lessons learned, good practices, and new ideas that help to cross-fertilize the excellence of operating nuclear plants worldwide. They also give a view of the technology’s promising new future. I am proud to have been a part of that noble mission.

Blake sought a way to impart the ever-changing information to readers. The result was a rotating series of columns—"License renewal and power uprate status report" (which ultimately became "Maximizing the Assets"), "Renaissance Watch," and "Reactor Marketplace." With the falling off of reactor sales among utilities, "Reactor Marketplace" was discontinued in August 2007, but the other two continue in alternate issues.

Certain special sections of the magazine claimed a regular spot on the editorial calendar in the 2000s: the Reference issue, in March; Outage Management, in April; and Plant Maintenance, in October. The editorial staff ventured into some new territory, too, with first-time special sections on Instrumentation and Controls, in December 2006 and 2007; Fuel, in June 2008; and Security and Safeguards, in December 2008 (a Security special section had been included in the December 1989 issue, but that did not encompass safeguards). Senior Editor Rick Michal has conducted many interviews with people knowledgeable in their subject areas for these and the other special sections that have appeared in the magazine.

In 2004, *Nuclear News* covered the 50th anniversary of the American Nuclear Society with a special article in the June issue, and throughout the 2000s, the magazine has

run feature articles on the newest reactor designs from the major vendors.

The continuing discussions of a nuclear renaissance and the challenges it presents require that *NN*'s coverage keep up with the times. In October 2006, the name of the Education news section was changed to Education & Training, and then, as more focus was placed on workforce issues, in November 2008 it was changed to Education, Training & Workforce. In July 2008, Linda Byus rejoined the magazine as a contributing columnist, resurrecting her Focus on Finance column from the 1980s and 1990s and once again providing her insights as a financial analyst into current nuclear events.

Another important step for the magazine was its inclusion, starting with the January 2008 issue, in the Members section on the ANS Web site, providing members with earlier access and the ability to search each issue. Library/nonmember subscribers now also have electronic access, as of early 2009.

The staff behind the pages

None of all that has been covered in this article would have been possible, or would continue to be possible, without the people who have contributed their time and efforts to making *Nuclear News* a success. The talents of those people fall in the areas of both

advertising and editorial, and the two working together over the years have brought the magazine to where it is today.

Advertising

Advertising has been an integral part of *Nuclear News* from the publication's early years. The October-November 1960 issue (for a few issues, *NN* was published every other month) carried the first commercial advertisement, from Central Research Laboratories. For many years, Central Research held the back cover ad position in every issue, and it still advertises in the magazine today. The first two-color ad appeared in the magazine in February 1961.

Over the years, advertising has helped support the magazine, as well as ANS. In fact, the magazine's advertising revenues from 34 120 total pages of advertising (through July 2009) amount to more than \$56.2 million (not adjusted for inflation) over its first 50 years, representing a substantial portion of ANS's total revenues. In the early 1980s—when great expansion in the industry was still expected—advertising contributed about 30 percent of the society's total revenues. Today, *NN*'s contribution is about 18 percent, a relatively large proportion of revenues as compared with other organizations (5–10 percent is much more usual).

The success of the advertising operation did not happen by accident. Under the en-

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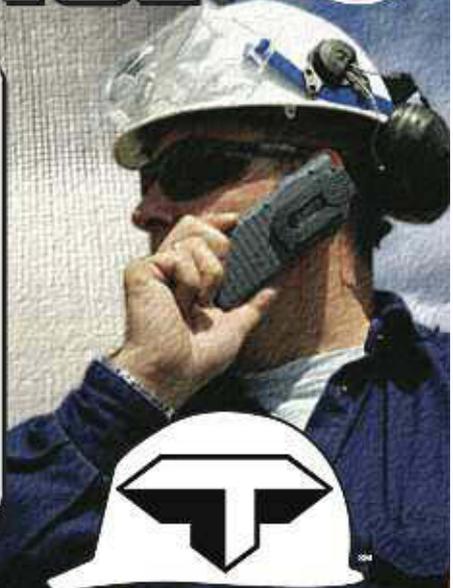


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trepreneurial propensities of Executive Secretary Octave Du Temple, individuals were brought on board to pursue advertising from companies even in the early days, when the industry was very new. Those who have served as advertising sales manager over the years are Richard Quinn (July 1963–April 1967), Richard Harris (November 1967–May 1982), Rosemary Harvey (June 1982–January 1994), Gregg Taylor (February 1994–April 1997, during part of that time—January 1996–April 1997—serving also as the *NN* editor-in-chief), and, currently, Jeff Mosses, who started in ANS’s Membership Department in January 1996 and moved into the sales manager position in May 1997.

No small contribution to the advertising effort has been made by a loyal group of advertising representatives who pound the pavement to drum up advertising for *Nuclear News*, as well as for *Radwaste Solutions* magazine. Collectively, they have more than 225 years of service to the society. The accompanying map provides more details on these reps, who are contracted to work for ANS. The first to sign on to become a rep for *Nuclear News* in 1960 was Dave Kingwill, who remained a rep until his death in 1995. The years of service of his sons, Baird (1982) and Jim (1989), overlap with some of their father’s service time as a rep, and they continue today to work



The current *NN* Advertising staff (from left): Bess Weglarz, Jeff Mosses, and Erica McGowan

for ANS’s commercial publications. Conversely, the newest member of the sales rep team is Kazuhiko Tanaka (2008), who is based in Japan. The other sales representatives and their start years are Ken Jordan (1965), Lee Fernandez (1972), Doris Weinberg (1973), Bill Powell (1982), Warren DeGraff (1984), and Andrew Baker (1994).

Mosses, who ably leads the overall advertising effort, also has a staff of two at the headquarters office: Erica McGowan, advertising/production assistant manager, has been with the magazine for three years, and Bess Weglarz, circulation assistant, has 21 years of service. It seems appropriate, too, to recognize others who were employed in



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the Advertising Department in the past who had long service records and spent a large part of their careers at *Nuclear News*, learning and practicing their commercial art. Those individuals include Rosemary Harvey (29 years), the late Patricia Fairchild (21 years), the late Gloria McCabe (18 years), and Richard Harris (17 years).

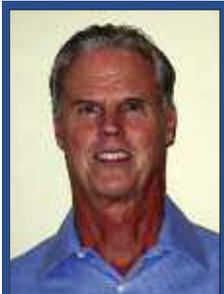
Starting with that first advertisement in 1960, more than 1000 companies and organizations have advertised in *Nuclear News*, some running ads regularly, and some now and then. The universe of companies that

offer products and services to the nuclear industry has changed over the years, following the phases the industry has gone through, from its beginnings and through major growth, and then to decreasing business, to a leveling off, and to where it is today, with renewed interest in nuclear as a clean, efficient source of energy.

A special feature that has become a staple of the August issue is the Vendor/Contractor Profile Section, which offers advertisers a free page or half-page of space for an advertorial "profile" with the pur-

chase of an equivalent size ad, providing an opportunity to tell about their products and services, capabilities, and accomplishments in detail alongside their advertisement. As a result of this special section, which in 2009 makes its 15th appearance, the August issue has become the largest regular issue of the year (the August 2008 issue included a record—for an August Vendor/Contractor issue—60 ad pages), and gives *NN* the opportunity to thank its advertisers for their continued support.

Continued



Warren DeGraff
25 years
San Rafael, CA



Jeff Mosses
Sales Manager
12 years
La Grange Park, IL



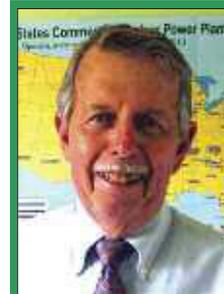
Baird Kingwill
27 years
Chicago, IL



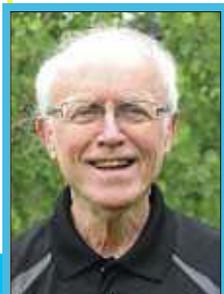
Jim Kingwill
20 years
Chicago, IL



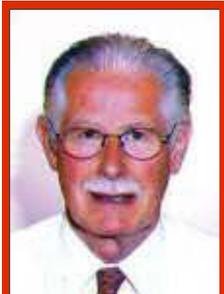
Lee Fernandez
37 years
Boston, MA



Ken Jordan
44 years
McKinney, TX



Bill Powell
27 years
Spring, TX



Andrew Baker
15 years
Ashtead, UK



Doris Weinberg
36 years
Paris, France



Kazu Tanaka
1 year
Tokyo, Japan

The team of advertising representatives for *Nuclear News* (and *Radwaste Solutions*), led by Sales Manager Jeff Mosses, has a total of more than 225 years of service representing the sale of more than 34 120 pages of advertising (and counting) and more than \$56 million in revenues over 50 years.



The current *NN* Editorial staff (standing, from left): Phyllis Ruzicka, Mike Blake, Patti Matas, Rick Michal, and Andrea Bianchi. Seated: Betsy Tompkins and Chris Salvato.

An additional function of advertising, besides the obvious one of helping potential customers make purchasing decisions, is to provide readers with an idea of the trends that are occurring in the industry. Also, especially as the magazine has moved toward more extensive use of color in its pages, the advertisements have added tremendously to its visual appeal.

Editorial

Working alongside the Advertising Department—and providing the content that allows for the sale of advertisements—is the editorial staff. Credit is due Octave Du Temple for starting *Nuclear News*, and for the magazine's growth and the improvements it incorporated, both in the early years and later on. Du Temple, who retired as the society's executive director in 1989, was also the first editor of *NN*. He nurtured and stood by the magazine, helping guide it on its course toward excellence, and protected it from well-meant but questionable suggestions that might have hindered its future importance to the society.

The transition of hiring a staff dedicated to the production of the magazine as it grew was inevitable because the work involved was too much for Du Temple to handle on a part-time basis in addition to his other work. In April 1961, John Martens, who was employed at Argonne National Laboratory, was hired as part-time editor, and Du Temple continued to handle the news about ANS activities. The first full-time editor, Malcolm Ferrier, came on board from Atomic Energy of Canada Limited's Chalk River Laboratories in August 1962.

The following 11 people have served as the lead editor of *Nuclear News*, six of them in the magazine's first decade—a high

turnover, but perhaps to be expected in the early years of a publication's life: Octave Du Temple (July 1959–March 1961), John Martens (April 1961–July 1962), Malcolm Ferrier (August 1962–April 1965), David Sundberg (May 1965–April 1967), John Graham (May 1967–June 1969), Ted Meinhold (July 1969–February 1970), Chris FitzGerald (March 1970–September 1972), Jon Payne (October 1972–August 1993), Nancy Zacha (September 1993–December 1995), Gregg Taylor (January 1996–July 2004), and Betsy Tompkins (August 2004–present).

Having a staff with strong editorial skills is key to producing a quality publication. It is also beneficial to have at least some of those individuals remain on staff for a number of years to gain an in-depth understanding of the field and to learn good publishing practices, as well as to acquire and



NN International Editor Dick Kovan

pass along their historical knowledge in both of these areas.

Several people have had long tenures at *Nuclear News*. Those who have retired after many years of service are Jon Payne (21 years as editor, 11 years as publisher of Commercial Publications), Simon Rippon (24 years), and Gregg Taylor (18 years). Chris FitzGerald, who retired in 1986 and died in 2001, had 15 years of service.

The current *NN* editorial staff boasts an impressive 99 collective years of service (in equivalent full years): Betsy Tompkins, editor and publisher (30 years), E. Michael Blake, senior associate editor (22 years), Rick Michal, senior editor (15 years), Chris Salvato, desktop editor (12 years), Dick Kovan, international editor (9 years), Patricia Matas, production editor (6 years), and Phyllis Ruzicka, associate editor (5 years; she was the editor of *ANS News* from October 1998 to August 2004 prior to moving over to *NN*). The newest full-time member of the editorial staff is Andrea Bianchi, *NN* editorial assistant and editor of *ANS News*, who has about eight months of able service under her belt. Also, Susan Gallier, who was the *NN* production editor from 1997 to 2000, now provides proofreading and other editorial services to the magazine as a contractor.

The stability, longevity, and knowledge of the staff are key to the amount and quality of the work it produces for the magazine. For example, material for the special sections—in 2009, there have already been four, and in addition to this special anniversary section, there will be two more later in the year—would be difficult (if not impossible) to research, assemble, write, and edit with an inexperienced staff.

Other people with close associations to *Nuclear News* who put in substantial time are Nancy Zacha, currently the editor of *Radwaste Solutions*, who worked the equivalent of about 13 full years on *NN*, from 1980 to 1995, and John Graham, who worked a similar number of years during two separate periods of time, in the mid- to late 1960s, and 1977 to 1990.

Looking back, moving forward

Nuclear News has grown over the past five decades from a society newsletter to a full-color magazine, right alongside the nuclear industry's and ANS's growth and development, and many dramatic events have been reported in its pages.

The ways we gather and write the news and produce the magazine certainly have changed and improved, but as we move into the sixth decade of the nuclear industry with a nuclear renaissance within reach, *NN*'s mission remains the same: to report the news and to provide in-depth feature stories to keep our readers informed about the latest developments in nuclear science and technology.

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