

## TV CANDIDS by <br> Terrence O'Flaherty

Out of the muddy tunnel came a young mother
and her husband and child, followed by a gray-haired grandmother. The women's stockings were torn at the knees, and their clothes shredded and covered with mud.
that kind of a life must they be leaving to reto this?" asked the narrator.
The program was the NBC documentary "The unnel," a special 90 -minute film of the digging of an been engineered and dug by several brave young men who gave a helf a year of their lives to the project. It resulted in the escape of 59 refugees from East Berlin and made possible the most genuinely absorbing tele-

Bearded Piers Anderton, who currently is NBC's Berlin correspondent, was the co-author and narrator. For some while NBC had been toying with the idea of discovered this one and alerted NBC, The skilful engineering and the interesting young people smide it a successful choice.

Two of the young men were Italians who had been tudying engineering in West Germany. The thind was child.

The Italians main interest in the tunnel was to help a friend escape with his wife and family. Only the faces of the people who gave their approval were lem was to dig into East Germany, not out of it.

The place chosen was the basement of a deserted swizzle-stick factory almost under the noses of Russian something in an open space. At times they could even hear the Russians talking. In the end, it was the water rom broken East German pipes that closed the tunnel that had been expected to provide rescue for hundreds. A sly reference was made by Anderton to another stronghold. Spies of mine claim that CBS was making a film record of that project.
ester Bernstein phogram in the company of NBC's planning the program
hree young bachelficilt to envision the reasons why courageous venture, as well as allow their faces and names to be used throughout the film," commented (NBC would not specify the motive was not money." use of their faces but Bernstein they were paid for where between $\$ 8,500$ and $\$ 12,000$ to be dived some-them-a mere drop in the TV talent cost buedet)

None of the NBC money was used to finance the project which was a costly afrair involving, for exand supplies was provided by a West German igging zation which solicits donations for escape projects. The NBC coin was an added bonus--similiar to the money paid to the astronauts by Life Magazine.

The refugees brought no belongings except an oc casional hand satchel. And wouldn't you know it-one of the ladies wore high-heeled white slippers for the occasion! At the other end of the tunnel she casually dipped them in a bucket of water to wash off the mud the refugees in a private party shortly after their of cape. (Ironically they had split into two factions and some did not come!) But those who came were clean and happy and their faces were bright with the expres sions of optimism that are eternally a part of young people in a free land,
hey just had to dig for THEIR chance to smile,

## BIRTHS

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