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A managing editor's imprint after 400 issues



GEORGE HUNT

For eight years, for the last 400 issues of LIFE, George Hunt was managing editor. Now he is leaving on a year's sabbatical before returning to a new position at Time Inc. But the magazine will continue to carry George Hunt's imprint in many ways. Every new managing editor makes his own changes and choices, but the LIFE staff will continue to be influenced by what George Hunt believed and taught.

He believed in a lot of things that regular readers of the magazine will recognize as soon as they are mentioned. He believed in news—the excitement of a major event taking place somewhere in the world and the necessity of delivering that event to the readers. He believed in beauty, whether it appeared in great paintings or great photographs. He believed in personal opinion—under his leadership the magazine published columns, reviews, many signed articles, and by no means all of them reflected his own strong views. He believed that LIFE has to illuminate the past—Greece, Rome, Egypt. He also believed that LIFE must expose what was wrong with the present—and published a widely praised series on Mafia operations in the U.S. and most recently the disclosures that led to the resignation of Justice Fortas. At the same time, he was constantly asking us to look for positive stories that would show the good things about this country in its time of troubles.

But what George Hunt believed in most of all was people—the people who worked for him. I was lucky to be one of the editors who began working closely with him from the day that he took over the magazine in the summer of 1961. It was a strenuous and exhilarating experience. As a Marine combat officer in World War II, George had learned a lot about leadership. He gave his editors, writers and photographers great freedom to experiment, to try new techniques, to gamble on long-shot stories. He was convinced that no story was beyond the staff's capacity, and the surest way to make him explode was to say, "George, that will never work." (I wonder if anybody in his Marine company ever said, "Sir, we can't take that hill.") His own conviction was easily conveyed and extremely contagious. Things happened because he was positive they would.

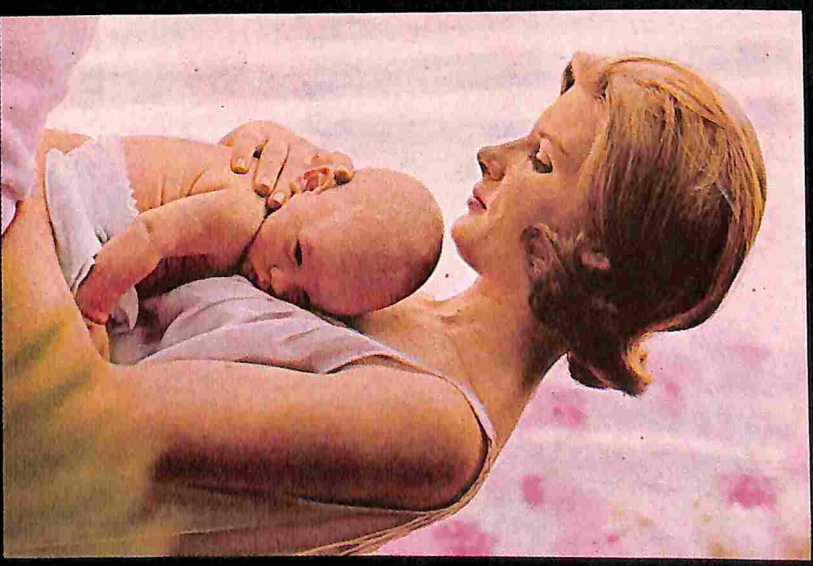
On behalf of the other members of the staff who followed him up the hill more than 400 times—and on behalf of those readers who enjoyed the view—I would like to say thank you to George Hunt.

Ralph Graves

RALPH GRAVES
Managing Editor

LIFE

THE LIFE POLL Science and Sex



When new methods
of human reproduction
become available—

Can traditional
family life survive?

Will marital infidelity increase?

Will children and parents
still love each other?

Would you be willing to have
a "test-tube" baby?



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