The Earhart Project has been covered by the media since its inception, usually in a news format. Many of you have very kindly sent us clippings from your local papers, and we hope you’ll continue to do so. Now here are some things for you to look for outside of the traditional newspaper/news t.v. format:

March 16, 1992 – LIFE magazine’s April issue goes on sale with a major article by Ric Gillespie about the Earhart Project; photos by a LIFE photographer and by Pat Thrasher. LIFE is available at all news stands and often at grocery and convenience stores.

Between April 6 and April 20 – NBC News Productions’ two hour documentary, “Untold Stories: The Search for Amelia Earhart” on Earhart and the Earhart Project will air on syndicated television in the States. Sales to Europe, Australia, and Asia are also expected. Check your local TV listings for exact day, time and channel in your area. VHS videotapes will be available in the States; PAL system tapes elsewhere. The good news is that TIGHAR will get a percentage of each videotape sale. The bad news is that you’ll have to wait for the video distribution deal to be set up to get a tape, as we’re outside that loop. We’ll keep you posted.

Other coverage possible/probable: news magazines; morning news programs on network television; news programs on radio and television in the U.S. and Canada; newspaper coverage in the U.S., Canada, Europe, Japan; talk shows on U.S. and Canadian radio programs. Help us keep track of what’s out there – if you happen to hear or see something, copy it or note the time and station, and drop us a line. Thanks!

British Columbia called to say that he had come across an interesting document relating to Amelia Earhart in the company’s old files. His description of the document made it clear that what he had was the lost Chater Report and he offered to send TIGHAR one of the two “flimsies” which accompanied the original report, and photocopies of the various telegrams and letters which document its transmittal.

The odyssey of the report goes like this: Following the failed search for Earhart, W.T. Miller of the U.S. Bureau of Air Commerce wanted to find out what had happened in Lae. He knew that his friend Frank Griffin of the Canadian gold mining firm Placer Development had connections in New Guinea where the company had a large operation so he asked Griffin to help him get information. Griffin was an old friend of Eric Chater of Guinea Airways so he asked Chater to prepare a report for the U.S. government. Chater sent his eight page report, quite naturally, to his friend Griffin who forwarded a copy to Miller at the Bureau of Air Commerce in Washington. What became of Miller’s copy is still a mystery, but the original and two flimsies remained in the Placer company’s files until recently found by Mr. Leggatt. Following TIGHAR’s announcement that the Chater letter had been discovered, author Fred Goerner told an Associated Press reporter that “he has had a copy of the report for 30 years” and was quoted as saying, “The Chater report has been around forever. Somebody finally sent [TIGHAR] a copy of it after all these years.” Yet the Chater letter does not appear as a source or as information, in any Earhart book or article TIGHAR has seen, including Goerner’s own book *The Search For Amelia Earhart* published in 1966.

The report itself confirms that the delay in Lae was caused entirely by difficulties in getting an accurate time check for Noonan’s chronometers. It describes a test flight AE made on July 1 in which she could not get the Radio Direction Finder to work and assumed the problem was her proximity to the ground station. And the report settles forever the question about fuel. There were 1100 U.S. gallons of fuel aboard the aircraft when it departed for Howland. Also, Earhart left without waiting for the current weather report. Although it was sent to her by radio later, there is no confirmation that she received it. All in all, the report describes a series of events and decisions which suggest that Amelia Earhart died of “get-home-itis” – a malady that has always killed impatient pilots.

Critics of TIGHAR’s work have held that Earhart and Noonan could not have landed at Nikumaroro because nobody who came along later found them. It is a visit by British colonial authorities in October 1937 that has been most loudly touted as proof that TIGHAR is wrong. According to a “History of Gardner (Nikumaroro) Island” by Osborne Publisher, the visit was made by “Professor Henry [sic] E. Maude and a team of British surveyors” who “spent 3 days on Gardner, conducted a full investigation of island and lagoon”; “No evidence of Amelia/Fred was found.”

According to the official report of the trip, the British delegation that visited Gardner on October 13 – 15, 1937 was made up of Lands Commissioner Harry Maude, Cadet
At this time we are planning a third trip to Nikumaroro to depart July 2, 1993. Fund-raising and the search for a suitable ship will begin immediately.

Anyone interested in participating in the expedition should complete the following steps:

1. Join TIGHAR.
2. Participate for a minimum of one week in field work with TIGHAR. Opportunities to do so will be scheduled at least three times between now and May of 1993.
3. Take TIGHAR’s Introductory Course in Aviation Archeology. See the 1992 Schedule included with this newsletter for the current schedule.

In addition, we require people who are participating in an expedition of this difficulty to meet the following qualifications:

1. Be a non-smoker.
2. Be able to participate in the full expedition, including any training or familiarization procedures. There will be no opportunity to come late or leave early. We expect the expedition to last four weeks, San Francisco to San Francisco. We also expect a minimum of two long weekend training sessions prior to departure, one on each coast of the U.S.
3. The obvious corollary to the above – be able to be gone from home and ordinary pursuits for the entire period of the expedition, recognizing that no option exists for returning home for emergencies once embarked.
4. Pass a rigorous physical, designed and administered by the team physician who will have the responsibility for your health while on a desert island three and a half days from the nearest hospital.
5. Sign the required releases and assignments on selection as a team member.

The team will be selected from among those TIGHAR members who have expressed a serious interest and have met all of the above criteria. Anyone who is interested and willing to make the commitment to TIGHAR and to the project is invited to participate in the selection process. Once selected, volunteers are not required to pay their own way or any portion of the expedition’s expenses. Ability to contribute financially to the expedition is NOT a consideration in the selection process. If you have any questions, please feel free to call or write Pat Thrasher at TIGHAR headquarters.