

EIGHTPENCE

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TV TIMES



COVER **PATRICK MCGOOHAN**
in his new series
THE PRISONER on Friday 8 p.m.

My destiny—by **IAN HENDRY** pages 2-3

PETER SNOW: 'Haven't I seen you on TV?' page 8

ON ANGLIA this week

The Prisoner

THE big question when *Danger Man* came to an end was: what is Patrick McGooohan's next move?

The answer will be seen on Friday when the new McGooohan series, *The Prisoner*, makes its bow.

There has never been a better kept secret than this one.

The studio sound stages have been banned to visitors since the day filming began. For McGooohan believes that he is breaking into completely new television territory—in presentation and stories alike.

The idea is his own. He is also the executive producer. He has taken over direction of many of the sequences (but without giving himself a screen credit for this).

He has buried himself in the cutting-rooms during the editing of the episodes. And he has worked on every script, irrespective of who may have written it.

"So," he says, "if people don't like it, there's only one person to blame—me!"

When he went into *Danger Man*, he did so because he wanted to prove that television thrillers could have integrity. This time, his aim is to demonstrate that they can contain food for thought as well.

The character he plays isn't even given a name. Like all the other characters, he simply has a number—No. 6. His background is never fully explained. It's sufficient that he has a highly confidential and important job from which he resigns, and is abducted to an unidentifiable village which might be anywhere in the world.

McGooohan found such a village somewhere in Britain in which to film these scenes, but is refusing to reveal where it is. It's part of the mystery.

The village has an Alice in Wonderland flavour to it. It's lovely but menacing, old-world yet futuristic. Escape



The secret is out... Patrick McGooohan's new series, his own idea, is *The Prisoner*

from it is well-nigh impossible.

No. 6 and the inhabitants have complete freedom within the village. They have credit cards for purchases, a pleasant social life and servants to look after them. But they have no idea who is holding them prisoner. They could be representatives of one country or several countries in collusion. They could even be British.

The prisoners have one thing in common. They have been, are being, or are about to be brainwashed—in No. 6's case, to try to force him to reveal the secret behind his resignation. Was he going to sell out? If so, to whom?

The village is the ultimate in indoctrination and the subjection of the individual. The Establishment has taken over entirely. Individual freedom is dead. People no longer want to think for themselves, even if they are capable of doing so.

The Prisoner of the title is the one man who is resisting.

And freedom of the individual, one feels, is what McGooohan is driving at.

There is a second theme: *The Prisoner's* efforts to escape. This provides suspense and excitement of the physical nature that one associates with a man like McGooohan.

Peter Moloney

ON . . .

IT was paradoxical to say the least. For Peter Moloney, described as one of the most gifted word-spinners on television and whose series *Moloney on . . .* begins on Saturday, was talking seriously about silence.

Recently Moloney gave a lecture to an audience of Jews and Christians on "The Brotherhood of Silence." All part of the enigma of Peter Moloney, one of the screen's funniest new faces.

In this series Moloney will

be commenting spontaneously—and how!—on subjects from sport to spiritualism. His new programme is certain to be controversial, because his thinking and humour are as original as his comment is unique.

Programme editor Andy Allan said: "We might see him at Chester Zoo, or talking to soccer star George Best—and what Peter has to say might not please."

"He thinks animals can be disgusting and funny at the same time. Says sport has degenerated into a lower form of show business. Peter prophesies that in time all sporting events will be fixed to produce the most agreeable and profitable result."

You may ask who does Moloney think he is? What right has he to say this or that?

Your point will be made later in the series when Moloney, having made his pronouncements, will be asked to face a studio audience of experts and critics.

Said Andy: "We hope people will get angry and howl in protest if they disagree with what he's got to say."

How does Moloney feel about words?

"Words," he told me, "are like bricks, and silence like space. Architects are giving more and more importance now to space which, after all, is the form, the set."

"Thomas Merton described the neurotic conversation today as being like a nervous gunner at night firing off into the dark at an unseen enemy."

"That is the way people talk these days."

"Beautiful things are better appreciated in silence," he said, looking through his French windows on to his back garden and his newly-planted fruit trees.

Subjects from sport to spiritualism will be covered by talker-extraordinary Peter Moloney (facing camera) in his new series