

A MESSAGE FROM YOUR CHAIRMAN.

Welcome to this the first edition of your new independent, self-funded NCR Retirement Fellowship magazine; to ensure continuity, we shall continue to call the publication PostScript. As a brief reminder, due to cost savings the Company withdrew all financial support for the Fellowship in the first quarter of this year. Despite considerable representation to both the UK Management and the CEO in Dayton the decisions were not rescinded nor were we granted a period of grace during which we could have evaluated the future of the Fellowship in a more controlled manner. Rather than allow the Fellowship to die, we held an emergency committee meeting in March and it was unanimously agreed that we should try to maintain the existence of the Fellowship. However, to ensure the financial viability of the new Fellowship, we would survey all the current pensioners to ascertain whether they would be prepared to make a financial contribution in order to sustain the existence of the Fellowship. The results of the survey indicated that 330 ex employees would be prepared to make a contribution, and it was based on this knowledge that we agreed to proceed with the continuance of the Fellowship.

I am delighted to report to you that at the time of writing this article we have 425 fully paid up members within the Fellowship; this represents a healthy 29% increase over the original expectation. I also personally wrote to 56 pensioners who now reside outside of the British Isles and I am pleased to advise that a number of these ex employees have also contributed and have signed up to the new Fellowship. May I take this opportunity to thank you all for your loyal and generous support in enabling the Fellowship to continue to exist.

To provide decision making control and visibility, we have formed a Committee which consists of all the Regional Organisers, our Honorary President **Harry Redington**, **Lin Sandell** who was unanimously elected as our new Treasurer, **John Nash** agreed to continue as our Secretary as did **Geoff Jackson** as our magazine editor, with myself as Chairman. **Des Woodall** drew up the NCR Retirement Fellowship Constitution a copy being attached to the application to join the new Fellowship, which was forwarded to all pensioners in May.

This document details the procedures to be adopted in the future, including a report from the Chairman and details of income and expenditure for the year ending 30th. April. To ensure transparency to all members, both of these reports will be published in the first edition of PostScript following the Annual Meeting.

Along with PostScript, the other fundamental cornerstones of the Fellowship has been the Regional lunches where old friends and colleagues have the opportunity to meet up in a convivial atmosphere to renew acquaintances and maintain contact with each other. I am aware that the Regional Organisers are continuing to arrange these get togethers, however as there is now a cost attached for the meal the response from those who wish to attend is lower than in the past. This is entirely understandable when the cost of travel is taken into consideration and it may be that smaller more local luncheons will be arranged. The decision on the best way forward is left entirely at the discretion of the Regional Organisers they being



YOUR COMMITTEE

Back Row:

Jo Leighton, Wallace Hay, Alan Hutchings, Charles Southall, The late Tony Poil, Eric Grace, John Jones, Des Woodall.

Front Row:

George Wallace, Lin Sandell, John Birchfield, Ted Young, John Nash, (Geoff Jackson is behind the Camera).

the best persons on the spot to make these judgments. Whatever the decision, I strongly urge you to attend these functions in order to maintain contact with your old friends, as it is more than likely that we will be holding only one luncheon per year within each Region.

The distribution of PostScript is now restricted to those members who have contributed to the Fellowship fund. By definition this means that we shall have a limited source from which to obtain articles of general interest in the future. The report, along with photographs from the Regional Organisers on the local lunches, will still of course figure prominently in future editions, but if you feel that you can contribute an article on any topic such as hobbies, holidays and reminiscences from your previous employment with NCR then don't be shy, let us have a copy and we include it in future editions.

Before I close I feel that I should identify two people who without their personal commitment, effort and time the Fellowship would not be in such a strong position as it is today. Firstly, our Treasurer **Lin Sandell** who organised our new banking facilities and created and continues to maintain the database that we are now using to identify the full membership from the application forms received. Additionally, to **John Jones** (Regional Organiser Region 7) who has provided invaluable support and software knowledge to **Geoff Jackson** in enabling this edition to be published at reduced cost. To both of you my thanks and appreciation of your considerable efforts. Finally, I hope that you enjoy this edition and that we can continue to provide interesting publications in the future. If you are in contact with fellow pensioners who have not yet signed up to belong to the new Fellowship then use your influence to persuade them to join as the greater the numbers we can attract then the stronger the Fellowship in the future. Once again my sincere thanks for your continued support to the new NCR Fellowship; long may it continue.

John Burchfield.

Region 1: (Scotland) Wallace Hay

On the 3rd of September 2003, we held the second of the Years Lunches at the Murrayfield Hotel Edinburgh. It was a glorious sunny day and I was able to take a group photo of our Edinburgh Members at the front of the Hotel. Visitors included **Hamish MacKenzie, Bob McCarthy, George Brown, Frank McCarroll, Dave Walker and Bob Stewart** from Glasgow (it was Bobs first lunch as a fellowship member). **Bill and Margaret Gibson** came over from Kinross and Con Dailly also joined us from Dundee as he was going to be on holiday on the date of the Dundee Lunch.

Eighteen Members present altogether and we all enjoyed an excellent lunch and as it was such a perfect day some stayed all afternoon till around 6:00 pm sitting in the garden having a good old chat as well as a wee dram or two. Those members unable to attend were **Gerry Cowie, Margaret Crooks, Noreen Livingston, Ursula Woodburn and May Henderson**.

The 12th of November 2003 was the date of our 3rd Scottish Lunch and last for the year. It was held at the Woodlands Hotel Broughty Ferry, this was a new venue for the Fellowship as in previous Years we had held the Dundee Lunch in the Hilton Hotel Dundee. I have to report as we were breaking new ground so to speak I was a bit apprehensive but I need not have worried, the meal was first class, and feedback from the Members plus some Members Wives, 23 of us in total was very positive and maybe if the cost is in budget we may be there again in **2004 John McElroy** from Aberdeen was attending his first lunch as a new member of the Fellowship accompanied with his wife **Linda** as was **Joe Hall** from Dalgetty Bay, many of the readers of Postscript will remember Joe as an instructor when the Training School was located in Dundee. It was good also to welcome back **Ron Fraser** and **Rita** who had been abroad at the time of the Dundee Lunches in previous years



Jean Allan, Pat Pollock and Margaret Gilmour. Glasgow Lunch
9th April 2003

As we look forward to a New Year folks, keep well and warm and long may yer LUM REEK!!

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome you all to the new 'stand alone' Fellowship. The figures are very encouraging and in the Region 1 area we have around 20 members who wish to contribute and receive the magazine Postscript. I am very pleased to state that with the help of Scott and his wife Margaret we hope to organize an Autumn date for a 'pay as you go lunch' in the Glasgow area. I will inform you all of the time and place shortly when we finalize things.

On a sad note I have to inform you that we lost two fellowship members during the summer of 2004. **David Hepburn** from Hamilton and **Bob McNiven** from Cumbernauld passed away and our condolences go out to their families.

I look forward to working with Scott in the new 'stand alone' fellowship and meeting you all at our planned lunches / get-togethers in the future. Keep well everyone and take care.

Wallace Hay



Edinburgh Lunch 3rd, September 2003

Region 2E: (NE England) Maureen Burdis

Two lunches were held during 2003 (May and October), both at the Buckles Inn – average attendance – 38. We have found that our younger, fitter and more active members take 3 or 4 weeks holidays a year which means that there are fewer chauffeurs available. Many older, non-driving members have erratic attendances as they can't get there. Our total membership numbers are fairly static but we rarely get everyone to both meetings. Perhaps a change of venue might help. Two new members this year transferred from region 9, namely **Gladys King** and **Ted Cluff** from London. We were all sorry to hear of **Frank Murray's** death, a regular attendee. Members were delighted to see **John Burchfield** in October and perhaps we may see him again with **Pat Keogh** in 2004? Finally, we were all saddened to learn of **Tony Poil's** passing – he will be sadly missed.

Maureen

Region 2W: (NW England) Charles Southall

This is the report, which we have all been waiting to see printed in a completely new edition of **OUR MAGAZINE**.

Some of you will already know or perhaps realise that the reason it has now become possible to produce at least some form of the magazine is because of the support of enough old members. There were in fact 425 members who replied positively to the request from the newly formed committee, and you now of course have received the first edition. This is necessarily covering old ground in a number of cases; mostly to catch up with events and of course to keep everyone concerned up to date with our changed position as independent "Fellowship" members.

I must now inform our readers in other districts, how we are dealing with arrangements for keeping the North West region in touch and attempting to continue to have our lunches twice a year and of course to produce the magazine, these being the main reasons for wanting to keep the "Fellowship". We were very gratified at having had 40 members who contributed, which was most encouraging. We have pre-booked the last two meetings, so that everyone knew the date before we had left the last gathering. Communication always seems to be the main difficulty so I waited for the members to contact me for a change; and if they were able to attend and only then and when I had received the necessary finance was I able to inform our pre-booked venue of the numbers.

As I write this, I am waiting for responses concerning our September meeting. Anyone who would like to join us is very welcome. Just give me a call and I will let you know what it will cost you.

Everyone hopes of course that as we progress and our membership increases, we will be able to return to our old form of arrangements.

I know that there are many people who are former guests, friends or associates who are interested in joining us; and they would be most welcome. A fellowship is for exactly that sort of person.

I am personally looking forward very much to the new freedom which, being separated from NCR, has created. We know now that those amongst us who decide that they wish to spend their time in each other's company are true "Fellowship" friends.

Charles Southall

Region 3



Animated Groups enjoying themselves at the Region 3 Lunch at the Bass Brewery Museum

Region 5: (Kent) Peter Bodley

The alternative lunch held at The George and Dragon Headcorn Kent on 17th September 03. Due to **Geoff Jackson's** move to pastures new in glorious Devon, I agreed to take over the organisation of this lunch for pensioners in Kent and East Sussex. The George and Dragon is a delightful Kentish pub, serving excellent food and beer, run by John Farrow and his helpful staff. We had a good response, in fact we squeezed 29 people into a restaurant area designed for 25! It must have been the fine weather that encouraged everyone to venture out to sunny Kent. It was a pleasure to see so many familiar faces including our Chairman, **John Burchfield**, **John Nash**, our hard working secretary and our guest, **Keith Pyle**, Pensions HO. It was especially good to see **A. Jefferies (Jeff)**, a sprightly 91 years old, who I have known since my early days with NCR as a Junior Clerk in District 1 CRD. Jeff in those days used to drive the salesman with cash registers in the back of a van to shops and pubs so as to demonstrate and close a few sales! Those were the days!



The George and Dragon" Headcorn in September 2003

Region 6: (South) Alan Hutchings

Region 6 held their regional lunch on October 1st. We met at the Queens Hotel Southsea which has been our venue for some years now. The weather being dry and still reasonably warm for the time of year helps to put everyone in a good mood for the day. Good food, good service and very pleasant company were had so we could not fail to enjoy ourselves. I am pleased to report we again had a large response from the members, with so many attending, some with partners I think our venue is about right.

Our chairman **John Burchfield** came with his wife Pam and gave a talk on the fortunes of the Company and the proposed closure of Head Office. **Stephen Swinbank** was unable to attend due to business commitments but sent a message regarding the good 'health' of Pension Fund which we were all pleased to hear. **Cliff Hull** attended for the first time and met some of his former colleagues who were all pleased to see him and renewed old friendships. We left hoping to all meet again next year and hoping to see those who were unable to attend this year.

Alan Hutchings



"Well there's a thing"

Alan Hutchings (Region 6) and Derek Hutchings (Region 4b) have a total of 68 man years with the company and only recently discovered they are second cousins

Region 7: (W England & S Wales) John Jones

Since the last AGM of the fellowship we have had three meetings. The first meeting was a resounding success when **Stephen Swinbank's** offer to be our speaker saved my blushes as a first time regional organiser.

The unofficial meeting took place in Weston Super Mare on 1st of July, organised as usual by **Bill Park** and his merry band of rebels everything was "Shipshape and Bristol Fashion". It even attracted some of the 'boys' from South Wales.



Unofficial Lunch at Weston Super Mare
Left to Right Mr & Mrs Maurice Davis, Mr & Mrs Dave Robinson, Mr & Mrs Maurice Keene, Mr & Mrs Dave Jones and Mr & Mrs John Watts"



Official Lunch at the Wheatsheaf

Keith Ponting, John Watts, Jim Kembery, John Cooper, Geoff Batcup, Ken Bloxham, Maurice Keene, Stella Wall, Jean Jones, Roy Back, Eric Thrush, Margaret Thrush, Maurice Davis, Mrs Davis and Bill Park

Our second official meet in September was to have been back at the Wheatsheaf in Winterbourne but a change of management had given rise to a sharp increase in prices. Therefore ever conscious of our budget restraints it was back to the drawing board, or rather a frantic phone call from me to none other than the redoubtable **Bill Park**. Who consulted with all people, his plumber and came up with The Swan Hotel at Almondsbury. Twenty four members, wives and other guests enjoyed a two course meal for well under a tenner and a reassuring speech from our Chairman **John Burchfield** plus all the chit-chat that always accompanies these meetings.

Apologies came from **Chris Mumford**, **Manfred Pfeiffer** (on Holiday in Bavaria), **Gerry Cole** (who has sold his boat, and now has nowhere to live, aah) **Ken Bloxham**, **Mary Bird**, **Thelma Ostone**, **Jean Cheek** (all off on holiday) and **Maurice Keene**.

We had entered into the transfer market in the closed season and at great expense (about 27p) secured the services of a new centre half from Birmingham named **Elwyn Davies**, to add strength to our South Wales contingent. (Another one with an address I can't pronounce).

Colin Easterbrook attended as a guest, we had met earlier in less happier circumstances at the funeral of **Bill Hudson's** wife, and I took the opportunity to invite him and his wife. So this year we have had three meetings and one funeral although regrettably we are soon to have another funeral, this time for **Rita Back** wife of **Roy Back** who passed away last week after a long illness.

As soon as possible I will organise our next meeting for the end of April and providing our budget will stand it, another in September. No doubt "the rebels" will fix up something for June or July in "sunny" Weston.

All of the above was written before the withdrawal of financial support by NCR. As soon as was practical after the news was announced we held a meeting in the usual form of a get together lunch. **Jim Kembery**, **Bill Parks** and his wife, **Maurice Keene** and his wife, **Chris Mumford**, **Don Pengilley**, **Roy Back**, **Alan Wall** and his wife, **Eric Thrush** and his wife, **Maurice Davis** and his wife and myself attended. Apologies came from **Dave Jones**, **Graham Watt**, **Dave Robinson** and **Maurice Chivers**. At this get together we decided to continue meeting regardless of what happened to the fellowship.

Now that the Fellowship is established we have nineteen members in the region our next get together is scheduled for 19th October but I don't think this edition will be published by then, however It is my intention to urge the nineteen members to invite any old friends who have not joined the New Fellowship to come along, maybe we can persuade them to change their minds.

John Jones

Regions 8 & 8a – Des Woodall

On 21st October 2003 at HO a lunch was held for Region 8 where we were pleased to welcome Chairman of Pension Trustees, **Stephen Swinbank** who brought us up to date with the company's current activities including their proposed move out of HO. The event was not as fully supported as in the past due to illness among members. One notable absence was our good friend and previous Chairman, **Tony Poil** who was in hospital. Sadly Tony has since died and will be greatly missed by everyone involved in the Fellowship. Other recent losses in the Region include **Harold Goldner**, **Viv Hyde** and my good friend **Paddy Ellis**. We had not had the pleasure of seeing Paddy at Region 8 lunches lately, but I remember such good times with him in **Jerry Marsh's** District 3 days.

I am delighted to report that 61 members of the original Region 8 have joined our new Fellowship, and we are, with Regions 4 & 5, holding a lunch on Wednesday 27th October at the London Cricketers Club, Blandford Street, London W1.

Region 8A members have also responded extremely well - we have 13 of the original 19 members in the new Fellowship, and we are having lunch together at The Black Horse, Swaffham Bulbeck on 6th October. I am looking forward to both events and sincerely hope that some of our original members who have not yet joined will have second thoughts.

Des Woodall



Region 8 Lunch .

Clive Clatworthy, Bill Flynn, Stephen Swinbank, Pearl Ridgley, Walter Keen and Des Woodall



Region 8 Lunch

Sheila Twena, Tikua Benin, Ann Humphrey and Pat Haigh



Region 8 Lunch.

Brian Lancaster, Mike McKenna and Alan Perryman

Region 9 South West – George Wallace

It seems an age since last Christmas, when the region last met and such a lot has happened since. I attended this most recent lunch as a region member rather than as a guest and really thought it would be my last! However, the members of my new region have really rallied round producing 25 members which is a better response than most – well done!

George, our Regional Organiser, has written to us all telling us that we are to celebrate Christmas as before at the Great Western Hotel, Exeter on Monday 6th December and, to whet your appetite I am printing some pictures I took at last Christmas' do. Look forward to seeing you all this time.

Geoff Jackson



Guests at the Great Western Christmas lunch, including George Wallace & Lin Sandell



More guests at the Great Western Christmas lunch

Since writing the above as "official region reporter" I have received the following from George:

Well, this is the start of the 'brave new world' and as you would probably expect there is as yet little to report. I am pleased to say that the response in the South West has been excellent and that we are now 25 fully paid up members (so far) from all geographical regions and vastly differing work areas of NCR. Post-work migration to the South West has produced a healthy mix in our case! However, we are not dormant and the first event of our new world is the Christmas lunch to be held at the Great Western Hotel on 6 December. I look forward to the usual excellent turn out and hopefully the attendance of one or more of the Pension Fund Trustees. As usual we will take all necessary steps to return them safely to NCR! This time of change seems to me to also be a good time to perhaps review how we meet and operate as a group and hopefully that is a process we can kick-off at our Christmas gathering

Best wishes to everyone in the new Retirement Fellowship.

George Wallace

Region 10 – Ronnie McGowan



Region 10N Christmas 2003

Left to right: John Bates, Victor Frizell, Colum Hughes, Jack Martin and Ron McGowan.

Ladies: Sally English, Jean Thompson and Sally Keel"

We had a lunch at the Europa Hotel Belfast on 3rd December and it was good to welcome a new member, **Sally Keel**. We were however sad to learn of the passing of friend and colleague **P J Moth**.

Ronnie

(note; no members from the Republic have joined the new Fellowship so it is all down to Ronnie now!)

WE ARE ON THE WEB

<http://ncrretfel.mysite.wanadoo-members.co.uk/>

NCR Retirement Fellowship

Membership Application Form

I would like to join the NCR Retirement Fellowship please:

Name

Address

.....

.....

Send details to:

Lin Sandell
9 Fangrove Park,
Lyne Lane,
Lyne,
Surrey

WE ARE ON THE WEB

<http://ncrretfel.mysite.wanadoo-members.co.uk/>

WE ARE SAD TO REPORT THE PASSING OF THE FOLLOWING UK NCR EMPLOYEES:

Name	Date of Death	Name	Date of Death
Mr S Anderson	19/05/04	Mrs B Lancaster	31/12/03
Mrs Z M Andrews	21/04/04	Miss D M Martin	26/01/04
Mr J Baldassari	06/02/04	Mr D McLeish	04/01/04
Mr D J Barber	07/02/04	R M McNiven	16/06/04
Mr F E Bickerstaffe	18/04/04	Mrs V Mills	03/01/04
Mr E S F Bliss	14/05/04	Mr J S Morden	31/03/04
Mr G H Bradley	26/10/03	Mr C H Morgan	04/07/04
Mr D A Burchett	22/12/03	Mr P J Moth	04/11/03
Mr H G Cater	27/02/04	Mr P L Murphy	20/10/03
Mr G R Cleaver	02/01/04	Mr H L S Orde	03/03/04
Mr W A Cook	31/10/03	Mr G W Owen	05/09/03
Mr B Cowan	05/05/04	Mrs V Palos	06/06/04
Mrs E Curry	01/08/03	Mr A H Poil	11/11/03
Mr J B Dickenson	19/03/04	Miss E M Rippin	08/02/04
Mr O A Ellis	22/10/03	Mr K Robinson	25/07/03
Mr A C Ellison	30/08/03	Mr C Rowley	29/08/03
Mr S J Ford	23/06/04	Mr H G Rymer	23/05/04
Mrs N B Fry	30/07/03	Mrs E Sanderson	20/04/04
Miss A Gate	10/04/04	Mr L L Savage	09/09/03
Mr H J Goldner	25/12/03	Mr A Scully	25/05/04
Mrs E K Gray	26/08/03	Mr G H Shingleton	05/03/04
Mr D K Haley	28/09/03	Mr H Shorthouse	07/07/04
Mr B S Harris	02/01/04	Mr C F Smith	04/05/04
Mr R H Harman	03/02/04	Mr J H A Smith	01/08/03
Mrs L J Hathaway	24/05/04	Mr J E Smythe	19/01/04
Mr R F Hayhurst	30/03/04	Mr G S A Southam	28/11/03
Mr D R Hepburn	20/03/04	Mr J C Spencer	29/07/03
Mr P J Hillon	18/01/04	Mr T E Taggart	08/12/03
Mr A B Hitchings	14/11/03	Mr R H Tarling	14/10/03
Mr A A Hodgson	13/02/04	Mr T Taylor	22/10/03
Mr V E Hyde	02/12/03	Mr W R Thomas	06/01/04
Mr G E Jones	10/04/04	Mr H Waddingham	10/09/03
Mr L R Jones	17/12/03	Mr W D Walbourn	01/12/03
Mr M McFarquar	31/03/04	Mr M C Webb	14/08/04
Mr I A McKenzie	05/05/03	Mr R Williams	20/12/03
Mrs E Kew	12/12/03	Mr R W Wilson	29/03/04
Mr A A Keeler	05/05/03	Mr P Wordsworth	12/06/04
Mrs M Keen	03/08/04	Mr G E W Wright	20/09/03
Mr H W F Kensett	11/03/04		

We must apologise for the brevity of the above list in comparison to those issued in previous issues of PostScript. The Pensions Department/Mercers supplied the information when the Human Resources Dept. held information on past employees. This has all now been destroyed and, whilst it would be possible to include more information from memory on some employees, little is known about the rest and so we must be content with what NCR supply. Sorry!! Editor

TONY POIL

It is with deep and profound regret that we must advise you of the sad death of Tony Poil at Brompton Hospital, Chelsea, London on Tuesday, 11th November 2003. As you will all know, Tony was formerly Chairman of the NCR Fellowship and was currently Organiser of Regions 4A and 4B. Tony was aged 78 and had been receiving treatment for heart problems. I am sure that we will all be filled with great sadness at the news of Tony's passing. He will be sadly missed by all of us, both within the Fellowship and by those who had the privilege of working with him for so many years. Our thoughts are with his wife and family.

Tony's wife Kate has asked that the following message be included with anything else we write about Tony, which we are pleased to do:

"Kate Poil would like to thank the many members of the NCR Retirement Fellowship for their warm and very kind messages of condolence. They were a comfort at a dreadful time, and were very greatly appreciated".



Tony Poil at the last Region 8 Lunch at Head Office

RON TARLING

Norman Bowen reports, with great sadness, the demise of Ron Tarling who died in Guildford Hospital on 14th October 2003. He had successfully undergone a prostate operation and it was, whilst convalescing from this, he suffered a stroke from which he sadly did not recover. He says; apart from being my greatest friend, we had known each other for 53 years, I know that so many of you will also miss him dearly. A charismatic man of kindness and integrity, his quick turn of wit and jocular manner was enjoyed by all who had the good fortune to know him. You could say that he was known globally as he met so many from afar as an instructor at Brent.

Both Alan Hutchins and I represented NCR at his funeral. I wrote the eulogy, a difficult task, and an elegant member of his family presented this at the service. (It was beyond me emotionally). Alan and his dear wife Sheila were so kind to Ron and cared for him in so many ways – may I say that the spirit of NCR prevailed and I thank them both. It was a simple and loving service with a small group of family and friends gathered to commemorate the demise of our dear friend and colleague. I felt that you would wish to be informed and heartfelt thoughts are with his remaining family, his sister Audrey and his nieces. The world will indeed be a lesser place without him.

BILL THOMASSON

Members who worked in the North West Region, particularly the Peter Street Manchester Office between 1965 and the mid/late '70's, will be sorry to hear that, following a short illness, Bill died on 22nd July 2004, aged 79.

Bill worked in Customer Systems Support on the Century Systems and left NCR to manage his own bureau. After a spell with British Steel he returned to his profession as a Chartered Management Accountant and worked up until his death, assisting young companies who had difficulties with their financial controls

(Bill was not eligible to become a Fellowship member as he was not drawing an NCR pension and consequently does not appear in our obituary columns)

HAROLD WADDINGHAM

Dear Geoff,

It is with great sadness that I have to report to you as editor of Post Script' of the death of Harold Leslie (Lee) Waddingham on the island of Guernsey on Sept 10th 2003.

To the best of my knowledge he was 77 years old at the time of his death. He had been with company for a total of 37 years having started his career at the Hull depot in February 1948 becoming established as a cash register technician. In 1954 he moved to Jersey in the Channel Islands with his family, to work at the island depot at which Lee Hunt was the manager.

This was followed in 1956 by a move across the water to Guernsey to open a depot in the islands main town of St Peter Port, which later moved to the centre of the island as the workload expanded.

He remained in the island after his retirement in Feb.1985 and leaves a widow, two daughters and a son. I first met Lee in 1968 when I was seconded to the island to look after a couple of Series.500 installations and a couple of years later for decimalization in 1971. We had a very good relationship both at work and socially and it resumed again in 1977 when the company asked me to work on the island, and my wife and I came to live permanently as by this time I was looking after Century Series and then on to through-the-wall dispensers.

Although I retired in 1994 we still saw quite a bit of Margaret and Lee and the now grown up family, and still do, despite the fact that Lee is no longer with us.

I do enjoy receiving and reading the "Post Script"

Very Best Wishes,

Doug Francis

JOHN MORDEN

I would like to pay tribute to my dear friend and erstwhile NCR colleague **John Morden**. A man of great integrity and since our retirement and move to Canada, a very loyal friend. My heart goes out to Maria and his family in their great loss.

Dennis Triggs

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"JACK"
JOHN HARRINGTON ALLEN SMITH

Having lived with Jack Smith as his partner for over 31 years I thought you might like to include the following in the obituary column of your Newsletter. I have nursed him for the past 5 years due to Alzheimer's disease, but unfortunately I realised there was something more seriously wrong as you will read in the following.

Jack was born on 4th February 191 ~ in Birmingham, he had two younger brothers, Evan and Eric. Evan was born in 1919 and Eric 1922 Unfortunately, by the time Jack was 12 years old their father died and later on their mother died, leaving them without parents, other than elderly aunts, who promptly decided they could not look after three healthy boys so they put them into separate orphanages. Jack went into a Naval orphanage TS "Mercury" and Evan & Eric into an RAF orphanage. All we know is that Jack did not like the orphanage, but strived to do the best he could under the circumstances, because he realised there was no other option for survival. He studied hard and undertook all duties that were put before him and in 1936 he acquired the RN Higher Educational Certificate 2nd Class. During the following years he was assigned to the Ships, "St. Vincent", "Barham", "Royal Sovereign", "Drake", "Dorsetshire", "Rodney" "Drake" and "Rodney"; in order of years. His character was exemplary. In 1937 he qualified educationally for Sub-Lieutenant and for Warrant Officer. But this was not to be, Jack was invalided out of the Navy, and therefore decided to join the up and coming computer world.

In studying Higher National Mechanical Engineering he passed his Final Examinations of Institute and was accepted as Associated Member British Institute of Management (AMBIM) in 1953. From there he studied computer and Linear Programming finally accepting an offer of a position in computer management with

NCR (National Cash Register Company). In 1963 he wrote a book entitled Using Electronic Computers for Production Control whilst working for NCR. Within NCR he became acclaimed for his speeches at Presentation Meetings with Computer Staff (it would seem that if JACK SMITH was speaking - all would strive to attend). He was one of those people you rarely meet today; You could talk to him about any problem that was worrying you - he would understand, note everything you say, give his independent advice on the question you put to him and his ultimate decision was as an eclectic - UNIQUE.

He was a king among men, kind, considerate and above all a DIY buff no matter where you moved he would change the dwelling to your liking. Rarely without failure and always with a Fish Pool in the garden.

He also loved redesigning gardens, after redesigning the dwelling no matter how small the garden (i.e. London) there was always a Fish Pool for wild life.

JACK (J.H.A. Smith) died on 1st August 2003. After being diagnosed 4 years ago with Alzheimer's Disease, but died in hospital with Cancer of the Oesophagus .

People in his era with NCR "(315 plus)", i.e. **John Hill, Bert Fensome, Ron Maddley, Des Woodhall**, etc., etc., all will or should remember him. As a District Manager, he worked in Head Office, Baker Street, Greenford, Bonhill Street, Head Office, and travelled outside of the UK for NCR, always with Computers in mind. He also loved Motor Racing and was often seen on motor circuits as a Marshall

D.D. Smith

GEORGE HOWARD BRADLEY

30 October 2003

Dear Geoff

It is with great sadness that I write to inform you of the death of my father, George Howard Bradley, after a long illness. He started as Office Manager, London Districts (CRD) in 1949 and progressed through to Administration Manager, Systems Services, from where he retired in 1984.

Many people will have known him from his time as Sports and Social Officer in 1960-1962, a role he particularly relished. Dad was always terribly proud of NCR and even wrote to object to the change of name to AT & T in 1994. A picture of him featured on the back cover of Post Script No 29 Spring 2003. He always kept busy in his long and happy retirement, making many trips to Canada and the USA, Europe and numerous parts of the UK. He attended many Fellowship lunches both as a member of Region 8 I believe, and, since his move to Horsham, Region 6. He remained heavily involved in Church activities and was respected by all for his helpful and practical nature. He leaves his wife, Elizabeth, three daughters and eight grandchildren. I would like to thank you for keeping Post Script going as Dad always enjoyed reading about his former colleagues.

Yours sincerely

Mrs. Barbara Long (nee Bradley)

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<http://ncrretfel.mysite.wanadoo-members.co.uk/>

SID PETERS 1945 - 2002

Mrs Lina Peters has asked that we remember Sid by publishing this short obituary:

Sid began work at NCR in 1974 at Head Office, he also worked for a short period at Brent. In 1982 he went to work at NCR Jed-dah, Saudi Arabia where his family joined him for two years. This was a wonderful and enriching period for us all. He returned to London where he worked until 1992 when he was made redundant. He then qualified as a gas fitter/engineer and was enjoying his new career as a central heating engineer and plumber, being self-employed. Sadly Sid died suddenly on 2nd September 2002 from a heart attack aged 57 years. Both family and friends were totally shocked and we all miss him dearly.

Lina Peters

NCR Retirement Fellowship

Membership Application Form

I would like to join the NCR Retirement Fellowship please:

Name

Address

.....

.....

Send details to:

Lin Sandell

9 Fangrove Park, Lyne Lane, Lyne, Surrey

Dear Editor

I recently read your autumn issue of Post Script and was interested by all the things people have been doing since retirement. It has prompted me to write to you about my Father, Fred Fowler, who celebrated his 80th birthday in August. My Father worked for NCR after leaving the navy in the 1940's until he retired in 1984. During this time he met and married my Mum, Margaret and they had the opportunity of living and working in Bermuda, Ohio and Ghana where my brother and I were born. We returned to England in 1957 where my Father worked in the Marylebone Road office. I returned to Ghana in 1992, visited the NCR office in Accra and made contact with a former colleague of my Father's, Mr. Atta, from the 1950's. When I mentioned Mr. Fowler, He said "Ah yes, Fred", and immediately recalled him after more than 30 years.

My parents now live in Dorset, on the coast not far from the New Forest. They are still active people and enjoy walks along the beach and in the forest. There are many bungalows in the area where they live and consequently many retired people, some in their eighties and nineties. My parents act as key holders via a care line for several people in their road and are very active in their immediate community helping elderly people remain in their own homes for as long as they can. My Father carries out many "odd jobs" for neighbours and my mother helps with shopping and collecting pensions. On many occasions they have helped elderly neighbours who have had a fall and cannot get up, have called for medical assistance and kept an eye on people returning from hospital. Many families are scattered across the Country these days and my parents perform the various tasks that sons and daughters might do if they were closer. I think my parents are remarkable and if there was a good neighbours award, that they should receive it. I currently live in Cheshire and hope they will receive similar support, as they get older.

Yours sincerely

Diane D'Costa (Nee Fowler)



Fred Fowler and George Philpott at the Region 6 Lunch"

Hi Geoff.

I trust you're keeping well, it seems like 300 years since that Presentation Skills course in Brighton. (Maybe it is 300 years!!!)

I retired about 18 months ago but they keep dragging me back to cover for these young ladies having babies, you think they'd know what causes that by now wouldn't you? Anyway it keeps me out of mischief and off the golf course, unfortunately. Heh ho this present stint could be the last one so lots of leisure time next year.

The magazine has just thumped through my letterbox and it's good to see all the news, especially from my old buddy Dave Collins. I've lost contact since he 'emigrated' so if he did give an e-mail address it would be nice to touch base again (my home e-mail is mandm@asyoudesign.com).

I noticed a photo on page 10 of a group of unlikely looking footballers, well that's a discourtesy because **Dennis Ridsdale** nearly played for York City in goal and **John Jones** was quite handy too, however on the back row second left is me, not **B Choppin**. Not that it's a problem, I, just thought I'd update you. Who supplied the picture by the way? It was taken back in 1973 when there were a lot of UK engineers training in Dayton. That's when we had proper course lasting 5 and 6 months, not this web based learning that we have today! As I said great magazine, keep it coming.

Regards

Mike Wood

Sub Editor's note.

I supplied the photograph; sorry for getting your name wrong memory is not as reliable as it was. Thanks for saying I was "quite handy" and those were really good courses weren't they?

John Jones

Dear Geoff,

Long time no write but having received Post Script was stirred into action by the photo of the cash register on page 11, to me the machine looks as if it is finished in Black and Chrome, so I respectfully suggest it is a 2652.

(Alf sent me a beautiful little album full of sales tickets from businesses all over the world. The story continues:) I enclose a booklet of tickets, which may be of interest to your readers; it is a bit of a story how it came into my possession, here goes. I retired from NCR after 48 years as a technician in Brighton, afterwards I spent 11 years at Marina Cash Registers, run by **Bob Avis** ex Maidstone and Brighton sales agent, my life took a complete circle, Hoovering, making tea etc, Geoff they did not even know how to fit a toilet roll! At the end of this period my daughter thought we needed some TLC so moved up to Telford to be with her and her family. So Bob and Jenny arranged a surprise dinner for us, a lovely pub about 12 miles out of Brighton [I think they were prospects] when we got there **Frank Robinson** and **Geoff Arnold** ex NCR and their ladies, were also there.

A magnificent dinner and then Frank appeared with a beautiful Chrome 36; first thing I did was to operate it, the drawer opened and it was full of chocolate coins. I also had the enclosed booklet full of tickets from all types of cash registers; it came originally from **Leslie Sykes** who was Sales Agent at Brighton at the time.

When the machine arrived we had nowhere to put as it was a small flat, so I went along to the local cash chap and sold it for a £100, had not lost my touch! Thinking about Leslie Sykes I got a pointer which sold the last 5327 during the early war years, it was a very strange operation in those days, could not sell a machine unless you traded one in, if a 300 came in during the afternoon it went out the next day, as, what we used to call a Black Knight [a smooth black cabinet]. We used to take the printers off, so the cabinet would fit.

So Geoff I hope these ramblings may be of interest to you, I don't want the tickets back. I like the look of your cottage.

Alf Collingham

Dear Geoff,

Firstly I'm a bit late in replying to an article in the Spring edition number 29 but I would like to say how nice it was to see a group picture of region 5. Due to postal area selection, I am in group 8 but I worked with most of the region 5 members. So it was good to see if I could remember all the names of the faces, with the help of a magnifying glass.

Secondly, the article by John (as we all know him) Wellington in the autumn edition was excellent; the last visit I had to the museum was in 1998 having moved to Huntingdon. I understand that a lot more work has taken place since then. Maybe John could give us an update.

The one by Mike Hughes had me thinking back to when I retired. I was constantly being asked what job I was doing, and having to say just pottering about. So I decided to learn to fly. I had two trial lessons, one at Elstree, and the other at Leavesden; near Watford I decided to enrol at Leavesden, flying Cessna's. Although I never had the experience Mike writes about, I genuinely thought that it was a real life situation. Doing circuits was a tedious exercise but a valuable one. I eventually got my licence in 1994, and have flown to quite a number of airfields and am always looking to put another new one in my logbook.

Regards

Colin Franklin.

I was pleasantly surprised recently to receive my first copy of Post Script. I have been retired from NCR 9 years now, but turning 65 this year initiated my NCR UK pension payments, and hence inclusion on the Post Script distribution list. I was a young émigré from Edinburgh, and during a career that spanned 37 years with NCR, only a few were spent in the UK. Nevertheless, I had many contacts with NCR UK, firstly through the International Office **John Battersby**, **Tom Farmer**, and finally **Leon Vincent** and latterly in the course of positions I held in the Europe Group office in Dayton.

I also attended a number of training courses either at Marylebone Road, or Greenford and met members of the UK sales force there. Then there were CPC's. I remember well the London CPC (1960?), I will not be known to many of your readers, however, many of them are known to me. I can put a face to many of the people mentioned in the autumn issue of Post Script, and many I know personally, particularly those mentioned in **Tony Poole's** article as I spent a number of years in West African countries, and Mauritius. After some years in Iran, I finally got stranded in Dayton.

Since retiring I have become engaged in several volunteer activities that happily provide almost full-time engagement. I am active in the juvenile court system as a Court Appointed Special Advocate/Guardian.

I also participate in a program sponsored by the US Government Small Business Administration providing consulting services to small businesses; and lastly, I tutor English as a second language to foreign students.

I very much enjoyed reading Post Script and look forward to receiving future editions.

John Houston

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Your new country estate looks superb!!

The latest edition of Postscript brought me one visitor, not seen for years; **John Crossan** who I worked with for a long time and a letter from **Keith Pannet**, a retail technician with me when I was Depot Manager Head Office! So, well-done, very interesting as usual, but sad to see that **Geoff Challis** & **Mr. Sidoli** have died, two more friends from my Head Office days.

I went to another lunch on Friday the 24th October; this time with another group as I could not make the Wednesday lunch as I was studying hard at Brunel University to get a certificate to say I could safely operate woodworking machinery as I need it for my current employment as a Workshop Technician at a London school. Next stop, a Metalworking Machinery certificate. A bit late in life, when I left school in 1951 I wanted to be a cabinetmaker at Maples but could not afford to exist on the apprenticeship pay! Still better late than never, I've made my wife a coffee table while on the short course - she is impressed!!

Thanks again for the newsletter, I look forward to the next one. I was sorry to hear the sad news that NCR are to move out of Head Office, it was only last Thursday when my wife asked me where I was going for Lunch, that she expressed surprise it was still there - I in my innocence said it would always be there! Times change, not always for the better.

Best wishes

Bill Coombes

RESPONSE FROM OTHER NCR RETIREMENT ORGANISATIONS

The Editor has received messages from other NCR Fellowships who have responded with sympathy to the dropping of support by the Company. I have been delighted to be able to get in touch with them and advise them of our resurrection as a free-standing body.

One such letter is reproduced below to illustrate the point. I shall certainly respond to their request for a piece in their magazine.

Geoff Jackson

Hi Geoff

I am Bob Medley, an NCR REA trustee with an assignment to develop relationships with organisations outside the US. I followed your exchange of emails with Carole (sec of the US group) regarding your recent financial problems. I hope they were resolved to your benefit because yours has been one of the truly successful retiree organisations and it would be a tragedy if anything disrupted your progress.

As you probably already know, we publish a quarterly newsletter (not as professional as yours, I'm afraid) and I would like to start an "International Corner" with a write up of a successful International Organisation. It would cover how, when, where it got started, number of members, activities, pictures, etc. Could I interest you in developing an article for one of our future publications?

Bob Medley

PETS

A newly discovered chapter In the Book of Genesis has provided the answer to "where do pets come from?"

Adam said, "Lord, when I was in the garden, you walked with me every day. Now I do not see you anymore. I am lonesome here and it is difficult for me to remember how much you love me."

And God said, "No problem! I will create a companion for you that will be with you forever and who will be a reflection of my love for you, so that you will love me even when you cannot see me. Regardless of how selfish or childish or unlovable you may be, this new companion will accept you as you are & will love you as I do, In spite of yourself."

And God created a new animal to be a companion for Adam. And it was a good animal. And God was pleased. And the new animal was pleased to be with Adam and he wagged his tail. And Adam said, "Lord, I have already named all the animals in the Kingdom and I cannot think of a name for this new animal." And God said, "No problem. Because I have created this new animal to be a reflection of my love for you, his name will be a reflection of my own name, "and you will call him DOG."

And Dog lived with Adam and was a companion to him and loved him. And Adam was comforted. And God was pleased.

And Dog was content and wagged his tail.

After a while, it came to pass that Adams guardian angel came to the Lord and said, "Lord, Adam becomes filled with pride. He struts and preens like a peacock and he believes he is worthy of adoration. Dog has indeed taught him that he is loved, but perhaps too well."

And God said, "No problem! I will create for him a companion who will be with him forever and who will see him as he is. The companion will remind him of his limitations, so he will know that he is not always worthy of adoration."

And God created CAT to be a companion to Adam. And Cat would not obey Adam. And when Adam gazed into Cat's eyes, he was reminded that he was not the Supreme Being.

And Adam learned humility.

And God was pleased.

And Adam was greatly improved.

And Dog was happy.

And Cat didn't give a toss one-way or the other!

S. S.

BORED ON THE LONDON TUBE

I had just flown into London from New Zealand and was on my way to **Amersham** on a tube train. There I was, sitting in the train, bored out of my skull I'd finished the crossword and the blonde I was lusting after had got off at the last stop.

There are several things you can do when sufficiently bored, but most of them aren't allowed on tube trains or even in public. So I started studying the tube map that Harry Beck had so cleverly designed in 1931. Like many people, I tried designing it in a different way -and failed miserably -just like all those other people.

While I was working on this, a name popped out of the Metropolitan line. It was **Rick Mansworth**. When I thought about it; if there was one person on the map, there had to be others, and sure enough, there were many more people commemorated.

I soon noticed **Stan More**, **Arch Way**, **Colin Dale** and the brothers **Will** and **Harl Esden**. There were also **Russell Square**, **Al Perton**, **Ray Nerslane**, and **Reg Entspark**.

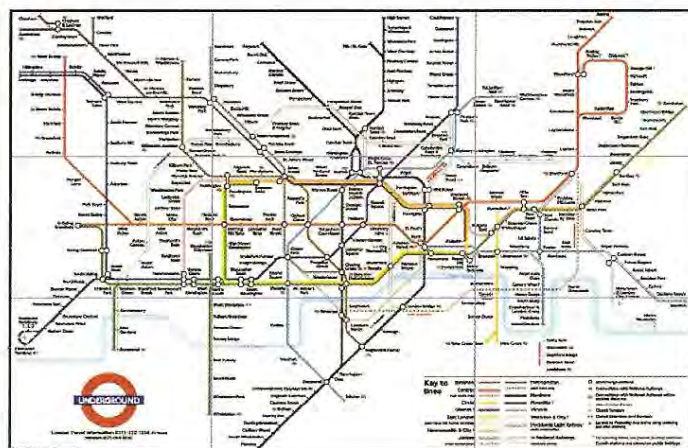
Ken seemed to be a popular name for there were **Sington**, **Nington** and **Salgreen**.

On the distaff side there was **Barbi Can** and her Seven **Sisters**, together with **Mary Lebone**, **Deb Den**, and **Victoria**.

The Black Friars represented the church and I found the **Parsons Green**. I was sure that he was going to **Turnham Green**.

There was that famous Dutchman, **Wim Bledon** and his Norwegian friend, **Dag Enham**. The list seemed endless.

As this was London, you would expect royalty to be present, and sure enough, there was **King** and **Queen Sway**, **King Scross**, **Queen Spark** and the **Prince Regent**. **Baron Scourt** and his cousin, **Earl Scourt**, were from the House of Lords, and **Gunner S. Bury** represented the armed services.



It seemed a shame that I couldn't do anything with **Cockfosters** although that fellow from an Australian brewery managed it.

The next word game was to try the station names backwards. The one that worked best was **Moor Park!**

After this, my journey went by in a flash, though the station names were not the only things on the train that were subjects for my fertile imagination.

Pity about that blonde, though!

Mike Hughes
New Zealand

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"KOSHER" EVANS (A LIKELY STORY)

I was prompted to write this article on receiving the Autumn Post Script

First of all congratulations on an excellent Magazine, I have been involved with several magazines myself, so I know the score. (Keep it up) I have used some of your humorous items in our Church Magazine.

Seeing 'Dukie' Wellington on the front page, and also his article in a previous edition. I thought we should put matters right, and let the Cash Register Division of The Old Brent Service Depot have a go at Up Staging the AMD Division! My name is **David Evans** known to some as **Kosher!** (That's through working the Golders Green area.)

'The Duke' as he was known, said in his previous article, that he had acted and sang and danced in many places. I can say the same having been on many stages and sung with the greats i.e. Gracie Fields, Harry Secombe, Judy Garland, Mario Lanza, Vera Lynn, Betty Driver (Bar Maid Coronation Street) Max Bygraves, Joan Regan, Frankie Vaughan, Dicky Valentine, Bud Flanagan, Dennis Lotis, Alma Cogan, to name just a few! I was a member of Ralph Reader's London Scout Gang Show at Golders Green. I was in the Royal Command Performance at the Palladium in 1957. Have been on TV 15 or more times, also on Henry Hall Guest Night. Having trod the boards for 53 years, my last performance was in The Wizard of Oz, as Uncle Henry and the Palace Guard.

By the way Ralph Reader, would have been 100 last May.

Can I say Hello to all my old colleagues, the older you get, names get lost in your memory. But these I can remember, **Les Ball Bunny & Colin Labbat, Rodger Smith, Norman Bowen** (our wonderful Depot Manager), **Micky Ruck, Chris Ree, Arthur Keeler, Bill Thomas, David Steel, Dicky Bright, Bruce Tate, Smugger Smith. Alec Lee, Duggie Lockwood, Alan Baker, Terry Evans, & The Duke**, ... and all those whose names that escape me. They were the good old days.

This is a true story prior to decimal change over. It is Christmas week 1970. I phoned into the Depot,

"Where are you Kosh" said Harry at the other end." Tottenham High Road" I replied. "Go to The Red Lion in the High Road they have a till jammed". The phone box I was using was outside the pub. I walked in and told them I had come to repair their till. "How did you know? I've only just put the phone down," said the Manager, It was a 106 class bracket 3.

The No Sale key was half way down. On lifting the case off, I was surprised to see a live mouse jammed in the indication gears. Being a friend to animals I put it out of its misery, by stabbing it with a screwdriver! "Sorry sir" I said, "this is an estimate job, it will have to go into the factory, and they will let you know what the cost will be."

Because it was Christmas week they wanted a loan till. So I took their till back to the Depot, and also picked up a loaner.

The jammed till was inspected not once but 8 times by various chaps who came into the depot. Three months after 'D' DAY Feb.71, I was told to return the till back un-repaired. On arriving at the pub our loaner was not on the premises.

The Pub had changed hands about three weeks before, and all the tills had gone to "The Spurs" public house on The Roundway, Great Cambridge Road. When I told the manager of The Spurs, that I would like to have our loaner back, he said, "You are unlucky mate! Gross came last week and picked up all the N.C.R. tills!" This meant I had to return the till with the dead mouse back to the depot. I removed the case to check it, but soon put it back because of the smell. I often wonder what became of it?

On retiring at 65 nearly, ten years ago, my life has been very hectic, I became A Freeman of the City of London, a member of The Guild of Freeman, A member of The Worshipful Company of Basket makers for whom I am film maker. I make historical films, old shops closing down, The Wren Churches in the City of London. The Pilgrim Fathers Story (covered 7,000 miles filming this) and lots more. I now have 7 grandchildren a five a side football team and a 2-girl Netball team.

David Evans

Another little bit of Nostalgia if you need to fill a corner. Wallace Hay

During the Seventies when the Class 395 and Class 400 Systems were in vogue, we in Glasgow had four engineers responsible for some fifty-two systems in the City and the West of Scotland.

They were **John Woodburn, John Falconer** the late **John McMahon** and yours truly. One evening I got a phone call from **Scott Caldwell** to say would I meet **John McMahon** at the ferry terminal at Wemyss Bay to assist him with a Class 395 in the Council Offices in Rothsay on the Isle of Bute.

Next morning it was blowing a gale and as I drove north of Largs towards Inverkip and Wemyss Bay the waves were coming in so high they were going right over the roof of the car and I thought to myself the ferry is going to be cancelled surely. (Hope springs eternal) When John and I approached the ticket office the bloke on the other side of the window said "och aye the boat will sail today. It needs to be a bit rougher than this to cancel". It was all right for him I thought, he is staying on dry land.

Anyway the ferry was rocking so violently at the quayside they had to reverse a cattle float's rear wheels on to the ramp to hold it down till all the cars and vans were driven on.

After we were safely on, John and I headed for the tearoom for bacon rolls and a mug of hot tea. As we left Wemyss Bay we were in the lee of the mainland but as we hit open water we were struck by a big wave amidsthips as the helmsman tried to turn the bow of the ferry into the wind and the boat gave such a lurch before it stabilized all the cups of tea and buns were swept on to the floor and there was a deathly hush in the tearoom

An elderly Lady sitting in the corner looked petrified! The silence was broken by John stating in a loud voice "Did you see how quiet it became in here when that huge wave hit the ferry and nobody spoke except me, I just kept on singing, "ABIDE WITH ME". Johns timing was perfect, the tension was broken and even the old Lady managed a wry smile as she accepted a fresh mug of tea from the steward. Dora if you read this all I can say is what a guy.

Wallace Hay

FOR SALE

HEAD OFFICE

Once a very Desirable Residence

Offers?



Marylebone in Happier Days

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A LIFETIME WITH NCR

My wife has always insisted that I was a stick in the mud because I've spent my life rooted to one town and welded myself to one job, whereas, she has traveled over a great deal of southern England away from her birthplace in Canterbury, as well as moving to numerous jobs chasing a better wage. This accusation of being stuck in one place I'll try to blame on my great-great-grandparents, James and Frances, who kicked it all off by settling in this town when he established his business beside this town's old Castle walls. Apart from any other reasons I find Oxford a pleasant town, so I do have a ready made excuse for staying.

According to my father the family originated in the north, something that seems to make sense, since the name Holt appears to be commonplace in the north-east and practically unheard of in this area. My great-great-grandfather was a worker in cordwain; a high class leather that originally came from Cordoba in Spain and was used in the making of fancy shoes, riding boots and the like and, in consequence, he was known as a cordwainer, as opposed to boot-makers who made boots and cobblers and bodgers who did repairs. According to a local shoemaker, cordwainers were drawn here because students were mostly the sons of wealthy men and therefore a good source of income for those who knew their job. Of great-great-grandfathers' early life I know nothing except that, if one can believe his death certificate, he was born in 1757 and probably arrived in Oxford in about 1789 because, from this date, all his 11 children were born and christened in his local church of St. Peter le Bailey.

His eldest son, also called James, was made a freeman of this city but set up business in London as a tailor at his father's expense. William, his second son, carried on the family business. His fourth son, Charles, died young, but it's his third son, Henry (My great-grandad who seems to me to have been the poor end of the family, ran a pub and boarding house called The Plume of Feathers and also had a marine store. Most of James children seemed to have continued to live not far from their fathers place. James senior died in 1847 aged 90 as a relatively rich man but, I can safely say, none of this wealth trickled down to me.

I sometimes wonder how much different life was in the late 18th. - early 19th centuries. Did James' ancestors ever meet the great painter J.M.W Turner, who did more paintings of Oxford than anywhere else, and who frequently came to the city when visiting his aunt and uncle who lived just outside the city at Sunningwell? Did any of them go to a Haydn concert at the Sheldonian? - Perhaps not.

After Cromwell's victory most of Oxford castle was demolished. From that date the castle ditch was filled with the city rubbish, thus providing a convenient short cut over the castle bailey for people going west.

When the canal arrived, that section of the castle to the north of the track was made its basin (Now Nuffield College). During the Victorian period this track across the castle grounds was made into a new road (New Road) with a bridge over the Thames to join up with the west bound causeway.

To give better access to this road the church of St. Peter le Bailey was demolished. This demolition seems to have been an act of vandalism since, it appears, this was one of the 4 gate churches that were put there when the city was first laid out at the start of the 10th century. The other churches being St. Michael at the North Gate (Still there), St. Michael at the South Gate (Now under Christchurch) and St. Peter at the East Gate (Now possibly under St. Mary's' church). A new St. Peter in the East was built after the town expanded to the east (Now the library of St. Edmund Hall).

The NCR offices were located just over the bridge at the end of the new road beside the original course of the Thames and with a view of the old Norman castle motte. Queen Matilda fled from the castle, across the frozen river, to escape the siege of Stephen.

I always thought, as did everyone else, that I would finish up doing something in art, since it was the thing that I always excelled in, even to the extent of illustrating a book for one of the school masters. Before leaving school I was in art classes and, on leaving, took a job as an assistant window dresser. Then, came the war and, bingo, no windows to dress so, redundancy followed.

This is when I went to work with NCR at 5, Park End Street under the then depot manager **Charlie Grout**. It always seemed a strange coincidence to me that, when my maternal grandmother moved her business from Woodstock at the start of the 20th century, it was to 6 Park End St., next door to Rod-nights' café at number 5. During the NCR era Rodnights' café was at No. 6.

As a side line to my art school training I painted a few signs and posters and came to the notice of the local scout group who wanted posters to advertise some forthcoming dances in their hall. The posters were done free, so they invited me to one of their committee meetings, ostensibly to thank me for doing the posters, but, there was a sting in the tail, and, despite my protests, they voted me in as their secretary.

What was worse, they didn't have a dance band and, as you might guess, I was volunteered as the person to book one. Having no luck in finding a band I recruited some musicians that I knew to assemble something but, because of the short time to the first dance, I finished up transcribing song copies into something that the various instruments could play.

During this time a frightening thing happened. The new band leader and I were walking beside the River Cherwell holding a discussion on the bands' problems and, at the same time, watching one of the Whitley training bombers from Abingdon circle the area. When the aircraft came low from the west and was almost overhead puffs of smoke came from the engines followed by the plane diving straight at us. Fortunately the aircraft started to flatten out and hit the far river bank, exploded and slid up the opposite road killing a lady in one of the houses and disfiguring her son. (This area is now Wolfson College).

Many years later the friend that I'd been with that day phoned to ask if I'd seen 'a write up' about the incident in the local papers. It made me comment on the fact that he remembered the event after so long "Remember it" he said "two seconds earlier and we'd have been under it"

Being in the business machine repair service meant that some NCR personnel were excused military service, myself included, but they caught up with me in 1944. This provided the best possible excuse to give up my duties with the scouts. For my efforts I was presented with the 'Scouts Thanks Badge'.

In the Army I trained as a radio operator (OWL) in Royal Signals but, because the course was so long, the war in Europe was over before I arrived at my overseas posting - in fact I spent VE night on Guard duty.

My posting was to The Gold Coast (Ghana) which, to me, seemed more like a holiday than work, with the luxury of clean sheets, pyjamas and American blankets to replace straw biscuits and the familiar dirty army blankets. In addition, there were personal servants and waiters at table and the golden beaches of Accra where one could go surfing day after day.

Our army job was to operate command links that connected with the British, French and Belgium colonies, the War Office and New Delhi. Not that we had much to do besides supervising since all the operating was carried out by local African operators, who were brilliant.

All good things come to end and, since the full term of service in this area (The white mans grave) was only 18 months we were shipped back in the dreadful autumn and winter of 1946/7 and suffered without coal in freezing offices and in wet clothes.

Demob came at the start of 1948 and, with it, a return to NCR and art school. More personnel had been taken on in my absence but **Charlie Grout** was still the boss and, if I remember correctly, the retail salesman was **Humphrey Turner**.

Later that year, my father was killed in a road accident, which did seem a great pity since, as a professional soldier in the Life-guards, he'd gone through the first world war without a scratch.

As for me I became, as I saw it, lumbered with 20 pole of allotment and a home garden to look after.

In 1951 Betty and I were married and, at the start of 1953, moved into a new house. It was now that my new found gardening experience paid off, since the plot had a quarter acre of land which was going to take 5 years to completely lay-out. Of our 5 children, the eldest boy died shortly after a premature birth, our only daughter from cot death and our youngest son in a road accident. However, the remaining 2 boys have done very well for themselves.

During my stay with NCR I worked on quite a large percentage of the product range, but not ATMs. Some of the highlights were the classes 2000, 29 and 446 with, perhaps, the most important job being the maintenance of the 14 wired 2000 214 printers in use at the Southern Electricity Boards' billing section at Newbury.

Over those years there were many engineers who passed through the workshop. A few of them, that come to mind, include **Jim Garley** (originally from Blackpool. Later Depot Manager) **John Trinder** and **Bill Walbourne**, (Later, both supervisors, Brent) **Tony Clerk** (Who joined up with the salesman **George Golding** to sell cash registers independently), **Max Sime** who left and took a degree at Balliol (As far as I know he went as a tutor to Sheffield), **Eddie Coker** also took a degree and taught history. There are many that I can put a face to but would need a jog to remember their names. Among the salesmen that I haven't mentioned were Messrs. **English, Hayes, Wiseman, S.A.(Sam) Marshall** and many more.

Realising that I had to do something when I retired, Betty talked me into doing the job of seed manager for the Hardy Plant Society. This must have been one of the most difficult operations that I have ever encountered, taking on average 3000 hours of work a year, between us, to complete, often by working into the early hours. Large numbers of sacks of seed arrived by post from all over the world. This seed had then to be sorted, checked for naming and viability and then, in some cases, cleaned before bulk packaging and the preparation and printing of the catalogue for distribution to the thousands of members. I quite enjoyed the job but it did interfere with the maintenance of my own garden.

For many years I've been a member of local art groups, at one of which I was treasurer and, at the same time, organised weekly out-door exhibitions during the summer months. I also spent a short while, teaching at an art school.

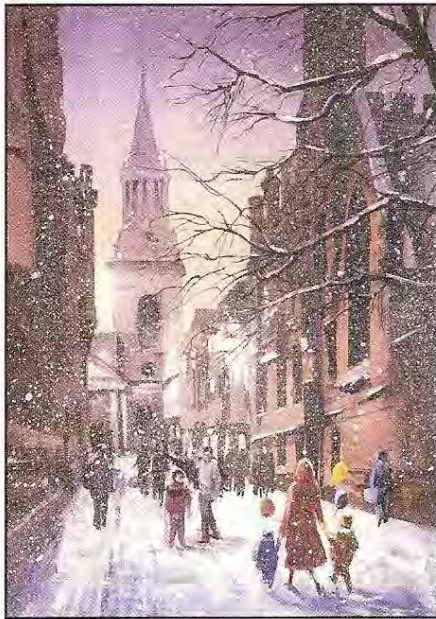
All these activities are now in the past and I now concentrate my efforts on getting the garden in tip top condition ready, with several other gardeners in the Headington area, for the 3 openings each year in aid of the NGS.

Painting has always been my main pastime and I must think myself lucky to have been able to sell hundreds of paintings worldwide. As far as I know, the places of interest signs in Slough are still mine. One of the things I do enjoy is, joining with another local artist, to donate paintings of local scenes to be used as Christmas cards in aid of a local hospice. As, in past years, I'm again giving my annual exhibition at the Green College Stable Gallery during the last week of November.

I may never be one of the worlds' great artists. To be able to achieve that, I think you have to start by being either famous, infamous or, perhaps, dead. I suspect that, for me, the last one will arrive first.

To make the most of life it seems very important to have more than one string to ones bow, and this appears to be born out by reports of the various hobbies that many of the Postscript readers have written about.

Derrick Holt



A Seasonal example of Derrick Holt's work

The School Bible Test

This comes from a Catholic Elementary School test. Children were asked questions about the Old and New Testaments. The following statements about the Bible were written by children, they have not been retouched or corrected, even the spelling!

1. In the first book of the bible, Guinnessis, God got tired of creating the world, so he took the Sabbath off.
2. Adam and Eve were created from an apple tree. Noah's wife was called Joan of Ark. Noah built an ark, which the animals came in to in pears.
3. The Jews were a proud people and throughout history they had trouble with the unsympathetic Genitals.
4. Samson was a strongman who let himself be led astray by a Jezebel like Delilah.
5. Samson slayed the Philistines with the axe of the Apostles.
6. Moses led the Hebrews to the Red Sea, where they made unleavened bread without any ingredients.
7. The Egyptians were all drowned in the desert. Afterwards, Moses went up on Mount Cyanide to get the ten amendments.
8. The first commandment was when Eve told Adam to eat the apple.
9. The seventh commandment is thou shalt not admit adultery.
10. The greatest miracle in the Bible is when Joshua told his son to stand still and he obeyed him.
11. David was a Hebrew king skilled at playing the liar. He fought the Finklesteins, a race of people who lived in Biblical times.
12. Solomon, one of David's sons, had 300 wives and 700 porcupines.
13. When Mary heard that she was the mother of Jesus, she sang the Magna Carta.
14. Jesus was born because Mary had an immaculate contraception.
15. St John the blacksmith dumped water on his head.
16. Jesus enunciated the Golden Rule, which says to do one to another before they do one to you. He also explained, a man doth not live by sweat alone.
17. The people who followed the lord were called the 12 decibels.
18. The epistles were the wives of the apostles.
19. One of the opossums was St Matthew who was also a taxman.
20. St Paul cavorted to Christianity. He preached holy acrimony, which is another name for marriage.
21. Christians have only one spouse. This is called monotony.

PENSION UPDATE FROM THE CHAIRMAN OF TRUSTEES

The year 2004 has been a momentous one so far for all of NCR's Pension schemes.

Firstly, the Fellowship was faced with the sudden and unexpected withdrawal of the UK Company's subsidy towards both PostScript and the regular Fellowship luncheons, which subsequently threatened the valuable sense of fraternity that they both serve. Then, although not affecting existing pensioners, the Corporation announced that it was reviewing its pension plans around the world with a view to making them affordable. In reality this means that the Company can no longer afford to provide 'Final Salary' related pensions (known as Defined Benefit plans) to its future employees.

In April 2004 the UK Company formally announced the closure 'to new employees' of the current pension scheme. From 1st May new employees will join a Defined Contribution pension plan that is much less generous and makes the employee responsible for not only saving the right amount but for also deciding where and how their money is invested. To give you some idea of the difference in the level of support – whereas you and I have probably enjoyed a Company contribution rate averaging over 15% per annum throughout our working lives, future employees will only receive around a 5% contribution of their annual salary toward their future pensions.

The current priority of a Trustee is to ensure that the funds under our stewardship are invested without unnecessary 'investment risk' being taken, whilst at the same time ensuring that the fund continues to grow sufficiently to meet all of its future pension obligations.

The fund is currently invested 70% in Equities and 30% in Bonds. For a 'closed' scheme this is quite aggressive and the Trustees are currently taking advice on adjusting these ratios to possibly 50/50 or lower. The Trustees are also seeking a formal assurance from the Corporation of its intent to continue to fully support the plan.

This year has also seen four new Trustees join the Board. Two new Company appointments have been made – Donald MacQueen and Stephan Delval (replacing Beverly Given – Corporate tax and Treasury).

Both our current Member Nominated Trustees – Pat Keogh and Dennis Pearce – terms of Office expired in June. Ron Gammie and Walter Bullen of Customer Services (FED) were voted in. Teresa MacLagan and I are the remaining stalwarts and as Trusteeship is a pretty awesome responsibility these days, both Pat and Dennis have kindly agreed to stay on and continue to give us the benefit of their experience while the newer Trustees come up to speed.

In closing, the Trustees would like to say how much we also appreciate the efforts of John Burchfield and his team in establishing a successful 'independent' Fellowship.

Stephen Swinbank
Chairman of Trustees

Addendum.

Any increase in the existing pension is a Company matter and not the responsibility of the Trustees. The Trustees 'fund' for pension increases but only the Company can grant them. I have therefore contacted Keith Pyle, Pension Consultant, H.O. who advises that a proposal for a pension increase is currently being prepared and will be submitted to the Corporation in the near future. We will advise you accordingly when any further information becomes available.

John Burchfield
Chairman

The NCR Retirement Fellowship

PRESIDENT: Harry Redington

ORGANISING COMMITTEE

CHAIRMAN: John Burchfield

TREASURER: Lin Sandell

SECRETARY: John Nash

"POSTSCRIPT" EDITOR: Geoff Jackson

REGIONAL ORGANISERS



Region 1: Wallace Hay

Region 6: Alan Hutchins

Region 2E: Maureen Burdis

Region 7: John Jones

Region 2N: OPEN

Region 2W: Charles Southall

Region 8: Des Woodall

Region 3: Eric Grace

Region 9: George Wallace

Region 4 A & B: John Burchfield

Region 10: Ronnie McGowan

Region 5: Ted Young

NCR RETIREMENT FELLOWSHIP CONSTITUTION

TITLE:

The NCR Retirement Fellowship (Hereinafter referred to as 'the Fellowship')

OBJECT:

To promote fellowship among NCR Pensioners by way of occasional lunches and other social activities, if required, plus a periodic magazine named 'Postscript'. The UK and Ireland will be divided into regions, and the lunches will be arranged by Regional Organisers.

MEMBERSHIP:

Membership shall be open to all NCR Pensioners who join the Fellowship and who pay the annual subscription (currently £10.00).

COMMITTEE:

The Committee shall consist of the Honorary President, Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer, Magazine Editor and all Regional Organisers, who shall be elected at the AGM each year. The Committee shall have the power to appoint sub-committees. Six members shall form a quorum.

VOTING:

Voting shall be by a show of hands or by ballot, if required. In the event of an equal division of votes, the Chairman shall have the casting vote.

MEETINGS:

The Fellowship year shall run from 1st May until 30th April. The AGM will be held in May. A Chairman's report, together with the Accounts of Income and Expenditure for the previous year, shall be presented. The Secretary may call a special meeting at the request of the Chairman or the written request of 10 members, and four weeks notice of such a meeting shall be given to Committee members. If the subject matter has been circulated to members, then the Organisers will vote in accordance with the wishes of their own members. The Constitution may be amended at each AGM at the discretion of the Committee.

GUESTS:

Each member may, at the discretion of his/her Regional Organiser, invite a guest, and shall be responsible for the payment of his/her own lunch and that of the guest.

NOTIFICATION OF ATTENDANCE:

Each member must inform his/her Regional Organiser of his/her intention to attend the next lunch meeting and pay in advance for the cost involved.

SUBSCRIPTION:

The Annual Subscription shall be determined by the Committee at the AGM and shall be payable on election as a member and thereafter within 30 days of the date of the reminder notice. Non payment of the subscription by a member shall be deemed to be a resignation from the Fellowship.

NCR Retirement Fellowship

Membership Application Form

I would like to join the NCR Retirement Fellowship please:

Name

Address

.....

.....

Send details to:

Lin Sandell

9 Fangrove Park, Lyne Lane, Lyne, Surrey