

Post Script

A message from the Chairman

In this, my first message as Chairman, I send greetings not just to the members of the Fellowship but to **ALL** NCR pensioners who, starting with this issue, will receive PostScript. The Pension Fund Trustees have recognized that PostScript provides an ideal channel for them to send information and comment to all pensioners, and I am sure that we all welcome their decision.

It is a great privilege and challenge to take over the chairmanship from Harry Redington. Harry, as was explained in the last issue of PS, was not only the first Chairman of the Fellowship but also its founder. Without him we would not now be enjoying the opportunities for keeping in touch with our old friends and colleagues, opportunities which, I know, mean a very great deal to all members.

Over the years Harry has visited Regions all over the country and I hope to be invited to continue this. I have already had the pleasure of attending meetings in York and Exeter and look forward to seeing more of you in 1995.

Pensions Manager, Malcolm Revell, has left AT&T for pastures new and his position will be filled by Lyn Cross, who has been working with Malcolm for some time. Lyn reports to Sandra Claypool who is responsible for remuneration, benefits and pensions planning. Sandra reports in turn to Martin Burgess, Director of Human Resources. You can be sure that I will be keeping in close touch with Lyn, Sandra and Martin to ensure that the Fellowship's views are understood. However, please

remember that the Fellowship was set up, not as a political pressure group but (as the name implies) to make it possible for retired NCR people to continue the fellowships established during their years



of service. We enjoy an excellent relationship with the present management of the company (who, of course, finance all our activities) and you can be sure that I will be doing my best to see that this

continues. We have been given an undertaking that, in future, pensions will be reviewed annually and, although this is not a promise of an annual increase, it is a significant improvement on the past, rather erratic, procedure.

Looking at the current list of Trustees of the Pension Fund, I am confident that our affairs are in good hands. I am particularly glad to see that Brian Boughton, now retired and a member of the Fellowship is continuing as a Trustee. The responsibilities of the Trustees are to all members of the Pensions Plan, both current and retired, but it is good to know that our interests are fully represented.*

I wish you all a very happy and healthy 1995 and look forward to seeing many of you during the year.

TONY

* I would like to emphasize Tony's remarks with regard to Brian's Trustee status. On meeting him fairly recently, he took great pains to emphasize to me that he is a Trustee who happens to have retired, NOT a pensioners representative, his vehemence in this matter suggesting to me that, perhaps, his continuance has been misinterpreted. ED.

NEWSLETTER OF THE NCR RETIREMENT FELLOWSHIP

Visitors - Regional Functions

Several enquiries have been made about the possibility of members attending the functions of other regions. This is of course very understandable since the allocation of new members to specific regions is based on their home address; many of us having friends who live in other regions. *It is therefore proposed that this matter should be handled as follows:*

Members wishing to attend another region's function must first contact that region's Regional Organiser, to ascertain the date and venue of the function, and whether or not there is room for a guest. The Organiser will also advise the cost, which must be paid by the guest, whether or not he or she attends his or her own region's function.

It is also suggested that, where the region desires it, attendance of member's spouses should be handled in a similar way.

(Those regions using HO for their functions may well find that, because of the limited accommodation available and accounting difficulties presented in making a charge, this facility is likely to be unavailable).

How times have changed! The photograph below is reproduced from the 1949 publication "Our Company", written by Theodore Armstrong, captioned: Interior view of Assembly D in Dayton where machines move quickly for shipment to all points of the world.



AT&T
Global Information Solutions

No: 15

WINTER 1994

Two issues in twelve months!

Not a record but certainly better than we have achieved of late. Mainly down to you, the readers. You were asked for contributions and your response is here to see. Don't rest on your laurels though, we need a continuous flow of interesting material; they say that we all have at least one book in us, well, at least one article for PostScript!

You will find in this issue not only the usual reports but also, a selection of letters, articles and jokey bits. We have also started what I hope will be a regular feature, an introduction to what could fill your leisure hours in an absorbing and thought provoking way.

Derrick Holt has kindly provided the first contribution; an introduction to painting **which will feature in our next bumper issue out very soon!**

If any one of you has a hobby or pastime which you would be prepared to share with the rest of us please let me know. Don't worry if you do not feel able to write it up yourself, a rough draft or a meeting with me and we can knock it into shape for publication. **Don't be shy!**

Enjoy this issue and don't forget to let me know if there is anything special that you would like including in future issues.

Geoff Jackson.

REGION 1

Scott Caldwell

Having now completed a fairly active year I am pleased to report that all our lunches were well attended. Probably more so than usual as we spread them, not only over the year, but also round the country.

Our first meeting of the year was in **Glasgow in May**. Some of our members travelled from Dundee and Edinburgh to join us and, with several fellowship members attending for the first time, it was a really good turn out. Barry Harrison, Director, Worldwide Services Marketing, came along to give us a business update and to tell us how the company is doing.

Edinburgh in June was our next outing and again our members from Glasgow and Dundee joined us. George Brown, Marketing Division, gave a short presentation which was much appreciated.

Dundee in September was slightly different in that the wives of members joined us for the first time and helped make the day very special. There is no doubt that we will do it again next year.

Our last meeting was in **Aberdeen in October**, and although the meal was good and the company congenial, the numbers were down a bit because of both illness and the greater distances members had to travel.

Well, that is it for another year, let us hope it will be as successful next year



REGION 2 PHOTO ROUND-UP

1: Barry Harrison and pet!

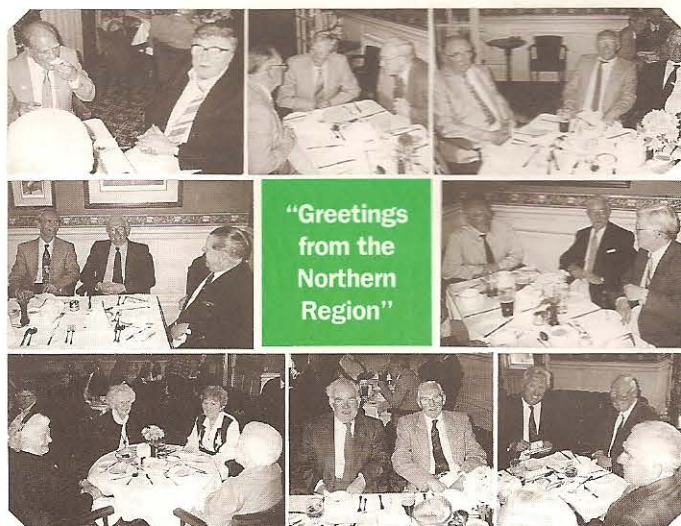
2: Glasgow meeting in May. Louise McGovern, Mike Clancy and Dorothy Brandon

3: Edinburgh Meeting - June, Margaret Crooks

4: Edinburgh Meeting - June

5: Dundee Meeting - September, Willie Morrison and Mr & Mrs Bob Simpson.

6: Bob McCarthy from Glasgow admires Scotts ship "Endeavour" in Dundee



REGION 2

From Ernie Giles

We held a most successful meeting of the North West Retirement Fellowship on Thursday 12 May 1994 on the Wirral.

In all there were thirty of us present, and, although the occasion was tinged with sadness with the news of the passing of George Hull, his ex-boss Charles Southall paid such a glowing tribute to him and his past excellent work that everyone present was almost elated. *The lunch was excellent and enjoyed by all.*

On the 25 May we held a lunch for North Eastern members at the Buckles Inn, Askum Richard. We were pleased to welcome our Chairman, Tony Poil, who thoroughly enjoyed seeing, talking and eating with the wild North Country folk - especially since he was employed (unofficially) by the Service Department, Leeds prior to becoming an army lad, so it was good to reminisce.

We were sorry to learn that Joan Kennedy had suffered a stroke and was currently in a nursing home in Humberston. It would appear that the health (but not wealth) of the rest of the gathering is good, especially those in the older

bracket - us youngsters still complain with our aches and pains but it doesn't get us anywhere!

The Carlisle meeting on 1st June was attended by our Carlisle/Newcastle members, Brian Lewis being welcomed for the first time. More successful than my journey home; collapsed passenger at Bolton, entire train turned off and loaded onto another totally full train! Reminded me of the war when we even sat on the luggage racks. Three and a half hours later home, totally exhausted!

On the 11th October we were back to the Wirral for our second lunch; 29 members and an excellent lunch as always. Notable absentees were: Dougie Ashworth and Evelyn Groom and we also missed George Lawrence (Holiday-USA) and the golfing twins Joan Readman and Bill Hampson. We hope that Chairman Tony will be able to join us in December for the Carlisle meeting.

The Regional Organisers Meeting

The next meeting of the Regional Organisers will be held in February/March.

If you have any suggestions or points to make with regard to the Fellowship please let our Chairman, Tony Poil have them in good time.

The 26th October saw us at the Buckle Inn for the North East luncheon, thirty two members in good spirits despite the news that Post is about to cease publication - let's make full use of PostScript as OUR magazine/newsletter!

New member Bas Pickard and guest Sandy McMillan were welcomed and we had an apology from Jack Sale and

also from Harry Bramhall (cruising in the West Indies) and June and Margaret Ellis.

They flocked from far and wide; Newcastle, Sheffield, Hull, Bradford, Dewsbury and lots more. *All with true YORKSHIRE grit!*

And finally a thank you to Henry Faber who meets me at York and takes me on.

Below: Region 2 at York in May



REGION 4

From Tony Poil

In my last report I mentioned that our Tea Party in April 1993 had a record attendance of 70 members. **This year's party, on 20th April 1994 surpassed this with nearly 90 members attending...**

Obviously word has spread about the magnificent food that Jim Hinshelwood and his staff provide for us! As well as welcoming several new members, we were delighted to see some old friends who had been unable to attend in 1993.

Thanks to Jim, and to current employees who took early lunches, we held our lunch on 20th October in the main staff restaurant at Marylebone Road and so the whole region were able to meet together instead in two halves. The attendance of nearly 100 was the best ever, and we were rewarded with a wonderful

lunch of roast beef, Yorkshire pudding and all the trimmings. In addition to new members we welcomed Harry Redington, Vice Chairman, Basil Garsedd and my fellow Regional Organisers for London, Des Woodall and Ted Young.

We are very fortunate to be able to meet at Marylebone Road, and now it seems likely that we can continue to do so as the threatened move of Head Office out of London is not now going to take place. So in 1995 I look forward to seeing even more members of the Region at our meetings.

REGION 5

Tedastilllostiz Biro

There must be something weird happening in Region 5! The deafening silence from our correspondent is causing real concern at the news desk. His promised copy has not arrived as yet!

Despite numerous reminders the redoubtable Mr Biro has once again misplaced his pen, *or perhaps there is a more sinister reason?* Rumour has it that Region 5's Nacarecans, *en masse*, were kidnapped

onto an alien space-craft and are at this present time being converted into Region 2 versions where their exploits and opinions are guaranteed to be recorded in the next issue of PostScript!

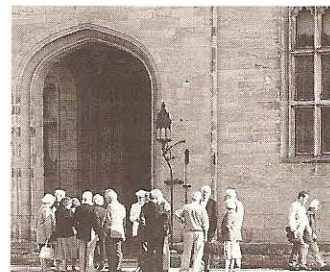
REGION 3

From Harry Hardacre

The Region's first get-together was held again at the Sheldon office on **21 April**. Hospitality provided by them was up to its usual high standard and for which we were very appreciative. We were able to greet some new members and catch up with the news from the regulars.

On **21 September** we had a good turn-out for our visit to Warwick Castle, probably the best preserved medieval castle in the country. Diversions provided were many and an excellent lunch was provided.

It was a lovely sunny day and no-one wanted to go home, many of us wandering around the grounds until early evening.



Above: Harry Hardacre asked Region 3 back to his place for lunch!

REGION 3 PHOTO ROUND-UP

Below: Region 3 at Warwick Castle, 21st September.



REGION 6

From Frank Robinson

This year, having gained more members, mostly from the West Country, we decided to move the venue to Southampton.

Being a long narrow region it seems logical to move locations up and down "the strip" each year so as to spread out the travelling among members.

Forty one members attended and every one indicated that the lunch was

excellent, including both Roast Leg of Lamb and Apple and Peach Strudel. *(not on the same plate I trust! - Ed).*

May I take this opportunity of wishing all members of all Regions best wishes for both Christmas and the New Year.

REGION 7

From Jim Kembury

Wednesday the 28th of September and 23 members of our Region met for lunch at the Aztec Hotel, Bristol.

The response was good for the Region; only two of our regulars were unable to attend because of holiday arrangements and two were, unfortunately unwell. One of these, Eric Thrush, was taken ill some weeks earlier in Venice and was flown home by air ambulance. I have recently visited him and am pleased to report good progress following a stroke.

Receiving an affirmative following an invitation for the first time is always rewarding. I tend to send out invitations well in advance and then sit back and wait for replies, sometimes with apprehension as often replies only come back days before the event but it is always alright in the end with good attendances. *(I think he is trying to say don't leave him on tenterhooks for quite as long in future! - ED)*

Visitors for the first time included: Bill Garbutt, Eric Laurenti and Bert Newman. Bert is now living at Whitney and does not see too well these days, he did however have a good day with us and regaled us with stories of the students he used to have in his instructor days. Betty Cambell came and enjoyed herself although she missed Lilian Whelan who was on holiday.

Company Historian, Ian Ormerod was our guest, he brought along both an old brass cash register for display and an NCR history video which we watched after lunch accompanied by a few words by Ian himself. A real memory jogger as far as those early days with NCR were concerned!

Time to travel home came all too quickly as friends said goodbye until the next time.



Above: Members of Region 7 watching the video screening of the NCR History.

REGION 8 & 8a

From Des Woodall

The procedure for get-togethers in 1994 followed the successful pattern previously adopted - a tea shared with Region 5 in April and a lunch for Regions 8 and 8a in October.

Both events were well supported, so much so that the lunch, as well as the tea had to take place in the main staff restaurant in Head Office. It is encouraging that so many members attend these functions, not only for we organisers but also for Jim Hinshelwood and his staff who produce such a magnificent spread. And none of this would be possible without all the work that Betty puts in producing invitations, dispatching them and organising attendance lists and name labels.

Don't forget to support Geoff Jackson, our worthy editor with contributions to PostScript - he tells me that that your recent efforts have resulted in enough for a bumper issue but don't stop now! I'll throw in my two-pennyworth with a story

about an NCR Pensioner. It goes like this:

The Pensioner, aged 75, needed a haircut, but his normal barber had retired. His wife said that he should try one of those new unisex saloons. "I'm not going to one of those sissy places" he said, but his wife convinced him that it would be OK.

He duly went to the establishment in question and was attended to by an apprentice girl hairdresser. When clipping his hair she nicked his right ear. Later on she nicked his left ear. Then, when clipping his moustache, she nicked his lip.

Making conversation she asked him "Have you been here before?" "No" he replied "I lost my arm in the war!"

REGION 9

From Tom Farmer

Region 9 of the Fellowship has had only one group activity since the last issue of PostScript.

This was a lunch in Exeter at the Great Western Hotel, our usual watering hole, on **Monday 20th June.**

Our members gave a warm welcome to Tony Poil, making his first visit to the Region

since taking over the Chair from Harry Redington.

Our next get-together is scheduled for Monday 12th December so a report on this one will have to wait for the next issue of PostScript.

REGION 10

From Jack Sale

Belfast and Dublin Groups have not met since their last Christmas lunches which meetings were reported in the last issue of PostScript. (They only meet currently at Christmas)

The 1994 get-together's are organised and will be reported in the next issue of PS.

Arrangements are in hand for a joint function midway between Dublin and Belfast and news of this will be made in due course.

Finally, the current membership of the region is encouraging totalling Republic:- 23 and NI:- 11; the on-the-spot organisers being Alison Perry and Jack Martin respectively

HOPE

*Hope is the thing with
feathers
That perches in the soul,
And sings the tune
without the words,
And never stops at all.*

*And sweetest in the gale
is heard,
And sore must be
the storm
That could abash the
little bird
That kept so many warm.*

*I've heard it in the
chilliest land,
And on the strangest sea;
Yet, never, in extremity,
It asked a crumb of me.*

A Holiday Idea

From Gillian Stone

My husband has only recently become eligible for PostScript and I notice that appeals are made for contributions from members. It occurs to me that maybe the spouses of Fellowship members could contribute to the magazine to help things along, so come on all you wives (and husbands) of members! You must have some interesting and humorous tales about your spouse's new-found leisure time hobbies, sports and activities. Let's share our experiences to enable us all to have a richer, fuller and happier retirement.

To kick things off I thought that some of your readers might be interested to hear about some early and late walking holidays organised by South Pembroke District Council which represent great value for money.

In early May and late September, based in and around Tenby, the package includes half board hotel accommodation and a packed lunch, a choice of a six or twelve mile walk each day (even on the day off if you like) and free coach transport to and from the walks. The walking is largely along the beautiful Pembrokeshire Coastal Path which is very varied as it twists and turns around the headlands between Tenby and St. David's Head. But there are inland walks as well around the creeks and inlets of the huge Milford Haven Waterway, past the many castles in the area and across the Presili Hills. If you haven't tried the area it is strongly recommended.

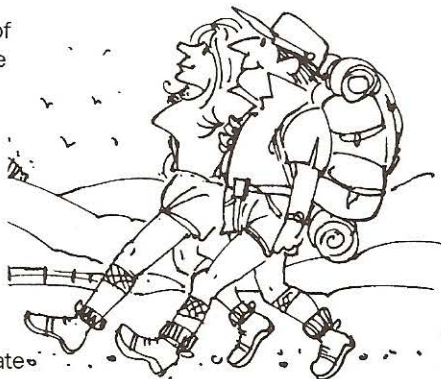
There are also evening activities, usually in Tenby, including a welcome reception, talks and slide shows, male voice choir, dances and much more.

Inclusive prices for seven nights range from £120 in a small hotel/guest house to

£205 in an 'A' band hotel, based on a double room - a real bargain. You choose from a list of over 40 participating hotels. Caravans are even cheaper!

In 1994 the holidays were available from 7th to 14th May and 24th September to 1st October. For details for 1995 ring the Tourist and Marketing Officer on 01646 684914.

Are there any snags - yes, but small ones! Collecting all the walkers from the different hotels can take a little time. The evening meals can be very good and hence time-consuming, leading to a rush to get to the entertainment. There



is a lot of military training in the area so don't be surprised if you are directed around the ranges by an armed sentry if firing is in progress - and the tank guns at Castlemartin do make rather loud bangs but don't be put off by that!

Because of the way the holiday is organised, and because of the communal entertainment in the evening, this holiday is ideal for anyone living alone.

Walking is an excellent way to keep fit and healthy in retirement, especially during those dreary long winter months when the garden isn't needing much attention.

So come on you gentlemen (and ladies) of leisure **Walk Your Way To Fitness**. I hope to bump into you on the moors!

Cyprus Revisited

Charlie Morgan writes:

My wife and I returned from a two week holiday in Cyprus last June. As you wrote in a recent issue of PostScript about a similar holiday I thought that you would like an update.

We stayed in a large villa complete with pool and car together with friends and located in Coral Bay. Having visited many places we still did not see all that we would have liked and will certainly go again.

While we were there our holiday overlapped with Jack Ree; although we eventually found his apartment we never did catch up with Jack himself! (a phone call to Jack after we returned home confirmed that he also had a good holiday and that they also hope to return next year)

When we visited Paphos we found the Mayfair Hotel which you described in your article, Geoff. The General Manager, Christos Panaytotou (Chris)

made us very welcome and spoke well of you (?). He showed us around the hotel and spoke at length of improvements to come, including a heated indoor swimming pool by October.

He said that he would do a good deal on winter holidays for any NCR folk who contacted him and would be pleased to quote if anyone phoned or wrote to him.

Sounded good Charlie - Chris' address and telephone number are as follows if anyone is interested:

Christos Panaytotou,
Mayfair Hotels, PO Box 2459,
Paphos, CYPRUS.
Tel: 357-6-248000
Fax: 357-6-245708

Help with your holiday costs

Some of you may remember that, when George Muggleton was MD of Express Boyd, he agreed to reduce commission for Fellowship members booking holidays through that company.

This arrangement was continued when Brian Boughton took over and I am pleased to tell you that I have received a letter from his

successor and I quote: "As in time past, Express Boyd is still willing to share the commission on ABTA Package Holidays - Tony Jones, Managing Director."

Thank you Tony.

Express Boyd's address is: Standard House, 15/16 Bonhill Street, London EC2A 4HQ. Tel: 0171-628 6060.

The New Company

Jim Bell writes:

The Company now is markedly different from the one which you and I worked for in its structure and organisation. I would be interested to learn its divisions, locations, and even the general descriptions of the products and services now provided. Does a leaflet or document exist which gives this information? It's the sort of thing which is probably given to new entrants on their

induction course.

Could we please have a piece in PostScript describing the above so that our readers can learn what changes have been made and what the new carriers of the "NCR Torch" are doing with their company. *Jim, I am approaching those who are able to provide this information and I hope that we can publish something in the next edition - ED.*

OBITUARY

All those who knew them will be sad to learn of the passing of the following:

Andrew Caskie died 11/5/94, Aged 74, Foreman FED Glasgow. Retired 1979 after 43 years service

Henry Coyne died 8/7/94 Aged 70, Foreman FED Brent Retired 1988 after 50 years service

Stanley Downer died 29/6/94, Aged 85, TSD Bristol, Retired 1972 after 35 years service

John Harris died 9/6/94 Aged 71, FED Supervisor Brent Retired after 37 years service

George Hull died 8/5/94 Aged 64, FED Supvr Liverpool Retired 1987 after 36 years service

Rowland Newman died 23/5/94 Aged 87, Retired 1974 after 35 years service

Douglas Robinson died 25/5/94 Aged 83, Retail Manager Newcastle Retired 1975 after 29 years service

"A funny thing happened on the way to the Arc de Triomphe"

Mike Regester

At one stage in my employment with NCR I was engaged in what was euphemistically called "Product Evaluation". This meant looking at and reading about other manufacturers products competing with our own, and writing reports to help the sales force counter the competition. This involved visiting all computer and allied product presentations and exhibitions and it was interesting that we all, I mean the main manufacturers, were quite open in discussing each other's software and hardware at that time.

The added bonus to this job was that it involved visits to both the Hanover Fair in Germany and to the big French technology show in Paris called SICOB. It is about the latter that I pitch my tale.

Having relations in Paris I was grateful to NCR for conveying me there. I would leave London on Thursday evening and spend Friday and Saturday at SICOB. On Sunday when the exhibition was closed I would visit my relations, return on Sunday evening and be in the office on Monday morning to write my reports. An arduous task, you must admit?

It was with some amusement that, when I left NCR in 1983, Graham Miller referred lightheartedly (I suspect prompted by our Chairman - Tony) to the fact that I spent three days in Paris when it could have quite easily have been accomplished in one. This was quite wrong; it was easily possible to cover SICOB in two hours; I will tell you how I discovered this.

One of our major competitors, both in the accounting machine days and latterly in the small business computer market, was Burroughs. In about 1981 I got a ticket for and attended, at SICOB Paris, a demonstration of a small business system, the B90. Now, knowing the limitations of its predecessor,

the B80, I was interested. It was a very competent sales demonstration, and afterwards I asked the organiser of the demonstration what I thought were a few pertinent questions - having said that I was from NCR. He answered my questions in a competent sales manner and then suggested that I should speak to their "Competition Analyst" and pointed me in the direction of the hospitality room. Now, in any very large exhibition this was a small area where the sales force could dispense largesse to interested prospects.

However, the person to whom I had been referred to turned out to be an Englishman with a rubicund nose with what looked to me to be a large brandy screwed into the palm of his hand. The resemblance to W C Fields, was inescapable. I explained my interest and from whence I came. He sighed - "Dear boy", he said, 'you should not be dashing about the place like a blue based baboon; this is what you do. You arrive, you buy the official catalogue, you go round all the major manufacturers picking up brochures - their products have been released in the States six months before, so they are nicely written up in Datapro and Auerbach (US technological publications), so provided that you can string a sentence together that your sales people can understand, that is all that is necessary; the rest of the time is your own" he said, sinking the rest of his brandy and indicating that the interview was at an end.

His name, if I remember correctly, was Bonington-Adams, but since I do not want a libel action, my memory is not exact. Burroughs no longer exists, nor I suspect, does Bonington-Adams, given the state of his breath at 11 am and the plethora

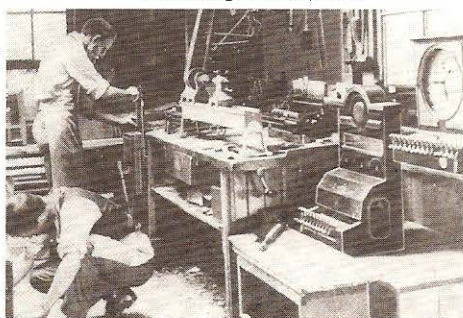
courtenance he presented.

These visits to Paris did, however, create problems with my expense account. My French parentage on my mother's side had instilled a frugality at odds with the "expenses paid" era and my evening meal (there hadn't been a midday one!) was usually taken in one of those unique French establishments called a brasserie which, by French definition, was an eating house forced by law to provide a 24 hour service. They provided then, and still do now, God bless them, good food and wine at a low price and in simple surroundings; bills are not proffered; the amount is scribbled on the paper tablecloth and, having been paid, is then thrown away together with the bread crumbs and any other detritus from the meal; thereby hangs, or hung, the problem.

Had I produced a bill from the Ritz for the equivalent of £20 it would not have been queried; my claims for £5 without backing, were. My explanation about the paper tablecloth was most grudgingly allowed. So the next time I returned from Paris I attached to my expense claim, two large paper tablecloths, with indecipherable scrawlings thereon; the message was received and understood.

Mike, who tells me that he has a small pad in the South of France, has offered to write us the occasional "Letter From Provence" Please do Mike, I am sure it will bring a little sunshine into all our lives! ED.

Below: the single room leased for manufacturing operations in 1884. The very first cash register ever made is on the right on the picture



Progress?

Henry Broomfield

Several years having elapsed since my last contribution to PostScript, I thought that the present time was right for some nostalgia, having recently attended a Pensioner's Luncheon at Marylebone Road.

Walking from Baker Street we now approach the familiar building (where I worked for so many years) devoid of the initials "NCR" which took over from "The National Cash Register Company". We are faced instead with "AT&T" and the magic has gone. At lunch we meet many old friends and talk over old times, but somehow there is an air of sadness as we realise that the end of an era has been reached, never to return.

Looking back I remember the move from Tottenham Court Road to Marylebone, the Owl Classes, the Morning Conventions with personalities attending, Sports Days with Miss NCR and Bonny Baby Competitions. The first Elliott/NCR computer occupying a large room all to itself! Also of course, the 25 Year Club.

I have a book published in 1949 entitled "Our Company" by Theodore Armstrong which makes very interesting reading. It covers the history of NCR from 1884, when founded by John H Patterson and includes a picture of the original small room where it all started so long ago. I wonder how many of my contemporaries have a copy of this book?

I spent 46 years with NCR and retired in 1973 and have many happy memories of my career and all the friends that I made.

Below: an enlarged view of the first cash register made by NCR.



A Link With The Past



Who is 'X'?

The Summer issue contained an article with the above title and I suggested that Jim Bell, who is party to information not available to the rest of us, might like to comment. His erudite observations on the subject are given below:

Dear Editor

I am truly grateful to you for granting me this opportunity to reveal the stories that lie behind the picture on page six of issue 14. That reminder of the brave trio whose actions hastened the Allied victory after D-day recalls the incidents so sadly neglected by all the newspapers when they filled their pages with glowing accounts of those never-to-be-forgotten events.

So let us correct this shameful oversight without further delay.

Our heroes, pictured in characteristically relaxed mood, were members of the King's Own 4th Desserters, a justifiably famed regiment, who were specially selected for dangerous assignments by Intelligent Officers (*no, not Intelligent Officers - be serious, please*).

The man on the left of the picture, rightly referred to as "Y" to protect his true identity, was renowned for his dashing good looks and devil-may-care charm which made him irresistible to the ladies. In fact he had so many notches on his rifle that it fell apart under stress. This rare talent, so greatly admired by the less successful, was not to be wasted so he was plucked from the ranks, given a crash course in German, then dropped into Berlin to carry out a different kind of undercover role.

His task was to become very friendly with the secretaries of High Command Generals in order to learn details of troop movements and counter-invasion plans. He was then to arrange clandestine meetings with the secret agent on the right of the picture who was dropped with him specifically to transmit this vital information back to Blighty. His hard-earned dispatches proved invaluable to the top level War Office teams who were planning the Allied landings after their weekly tea-dances.

With his assignment successfully completed he was returned to the UK and his features were changed to those of a soldier of less striking appearance to protect him from matrimonial pursuit by the many ladies who had helped him and he now lives quietly with his memories of those times spent on very active service.

The man in the middle had a less glamorous but no less important role to play. He was a skilled army cook, known for his meat and two veg., who had worked in top hotels in Germany before the war and was eager to play any part to help in the war effort. He was infiltrated into the kitchens of the High Command Headquarters to perform a vital task at the precise moment when the invasion was imminent. He worked hard to prove his ability and his skills became so appreciated that he was fortunately chosen to prepare the special dinner to celebrate the Germans winning the Eurovision Song Contest with their hit number "Lili Marlene" during the truce specially negotiated for this vital event.

For this important and timely occasion he created a dessert to remember - his "Prune Surprise", which contained a variety of moving ingredients such as syrup of figs and others supplied by an underground herbalist. When the mouth-watering confection

was served it proved such a success that seconds were called for all round. The price for this gluttony was paid when the Normandy landings took place to find that the German generals were otherwise engaged and unable to concentrate on the battle to halt the victorious Allied advance.

After the war our hero became Catering Manager at the NCR Head Office Staff Canteen but kept quiet about his greatest culinary achievement in case he was blamed for the unusually high

numbers of staff urgently attending the Company Sick Bay whenever his "Managers Special Dessert" was served, in case any connection was made.

So take this opportunity to salute these intrepid lads to show that we appreciate their sterling work. Thanks to their outstanding efforts we can all sleep soundly in our beds - particularly Y, who still needs the rest!

But there again, I may be thinking of three other chaps!!!

Jim Bell

The Perfect Vicar

The perfect Vicar preaches for exactly ten minutes. He condemns sin, but never hurts anyone's feelings. He is at work from 7am until midnight, and can be contacted at any time from midnight until 7am.

The perfect Vicar earns £40 per week, wears smart clothes, drives a good car, and gives £35 per week to his church. He is 29 years old, and has 40 years experience.

The perfect Vicar makes 15 house calls every day, but is always available in his study when people call him on the telephone.

If your Vicar does not measure up to this minimum standard, just send this letter to six other churches that are also dissatisfied with their Vicar. Then bundle up your own Vicar and send him to the church at the top of the list. In one week you will receive 1,643 Vicars.... and one of them should be perfect.

Have faith in this letter. One church broke the chain, and got its old Vicar back in three months!

Such chain letters are not uncommon, those of us who have husband rather than Vicar trouble, may find the following of interest:

This chain letter was started by a woman like yourself in the hope of bringing relief to tired, discontented wives.

Unlike most chain letters, this one does not cost you anything. Just send a copy to five of your female friends who are equally tired.

Then bundle up your husband and send him to the woman whose name appears at the head of the list. Add your name at the foot of the list and wait.

When your name gets to the top, you will receive 16,748 men. Some of them will be dandies.

Have faith and don't break the chain. One woman who did got her own husband back! At the time of writing, a friend of mine has received 183 men. They buried her yesterday, but it took three undertakers 36 hours to get the smile off her face!



PENSIONER PROFILE: Brian Boughton

As you will have read in our Christmas preamble, Brian Boughton has now joined our ranks and it was pleasant to see him at a recent Fellowship gathering. We also thought it appropriate that Brian should feature in this issue as our pensioner profile.

Brian joined NCR's International Research and Development operation in 1969 as an Insurance Systems specialist, having come from a city insurance company where he had spent 15 years.

He moved through a number of other International positions and joined NCR Limited in 1972 as Manager, Product Administration, responsibilities including company inventory, physical distribution and sales accounting. He then became Executive Assistant to the Chairman and Managing Director. This was followed by an appointment as Divisional Director of Datacentres and Micrographics (re-named *Com and Data services* and then *Imaging Services* to reflect the changing nature of the business).

His next move was to that of Managing Director, Express Boyd, the company's travel agency and distribution subsidiary.

During his service with the company he was also appointed a Trustee of the Pension Fund and, in due time, became Chairman of the Trustees, only standing down from this position in 1990, having suffered serious illness in 1989. He retired from the company in 1994 after almost 25 years with NCR but he has been asked to continue contributing his vast knowledge of pensions matters by

Final Word

One of the pleasures for many this autumn has been to walk through London's leafy squares, especially in the warmth of a sunny morning. In many of the squares too, the passer-by's eyes have been arrested by previously undiscovered statues and wall plaques. Two such plaques - so diverse in their ways - face each other in Dorset Square, which is close to Head Office. One so English - one so Sad.

"Thomas Lord laid out his original cricket ground on this site in 1787. The Marylebone Cricket Club was founded here in the same year. This plaque was unveiled by Colin Cowdrey, President, on 1st June 1987, to mark the bi-centenary of the first match played at Dorset Fields"

On June 15th 1957, the Queen Mother unveiled a plaque, in French with English translation, on the wall of number 1, Dorset Square:-

"This plaque is erected to commemorate the deeds of the Free French Forces and their British comrades who left from this house on special missions to enemy occupied France and to honour those who did not return."

Old Tunes Are The Best

When **Ian Westwater** heard Johnny Taws play the piano at his daughter's wedding he was impressed.

Johnny can recall hundreds of well-loved tunes and has *tinkled the ivories* at functions all over the country including London's Savoy. However, he had never recorded any of his work so Ian, a Tyneside Rotarian, offered to deal with the production if Johnny agreed to donate any funds raised to charity. Johnny chose Cancer Relief Macmillan Fund since Macmillan nurses had cared for his wife Rita before she died. So far over £8000 has been raised from 5 tapes containing six hours of our favourite tunes.

Volumes 1 - 5 of *Taws on Tyne* are available in return for donations of £6 or more per cassette, from the Macmillan Fund, PO Box 35, Newcastle on Tyne, NE3 5HH, mentioning PostScript.

The NCR Pensioners Fellowship

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