

THE EDITORS BIT

I have treated myself to a bit of PostScript space this time and would like to start with a poem contributed by Brian Pleasants formerly of Systemedia, Sheldon entitled:-

EXCITEMENT

I rushed to my post, the envelope ripped
"Hooray", at last, a new "PostScript".
It arrived in time, for the best of Spring
the sun shone bright, I wanted to sing.
I gently pulled the pages apart
fingers trembling and thumping heart.
But, then I looked, have they lost their reason?
This issue is for the Winter Season.
Are you lot starting to feel the cold?
Or is it a sign that you are getting old?
Maybe, it's me, have I fallen asleep?
If I did, I must have slept real deep!
Half the year has passed me by,
I'm not sure whether to laugh or cry.
I'll need your help, to show me the way
to claim my missing holiday.
Finally, my best to you and yours
but please leave "time-warps" to "Star Wars".
and thanks for the best news so far
AT & T has gone, long live NCR!

Thanks Brian for that, you may never rival Shakespeare but at least it rhymes! Which brings me on to the reason for giving Brian's effort such prominence. Whilst expressed comically it sums up the feelings you must all have had when you received the last issue and an explanation is due to you.

Early last year the company reorganised its payment system to suppliers both logically and geographically. As so often happens in such situations, see British Gas(!), my printers bill for the issue before last went missing. In the ensuing sorting out, which took six months, my Winter Issue was printed and sitting on the printers shelves, this being early February. The printers, not unreasonably, refused to release it until they had been paid for the previous issue! It was sent as soon as it was all sorted out - hence the delay.

My apologies on everyone's behalf for the delay, it was one of those unfortunate things that happen from time to time.

Whilst on the subject of delayed issues, PostScript is only produced when there is enough copy to fill it so can I appeal again for anything that you might think would appeal to other readers. Anecdotes from the past, pensioner profiles, hobbies, news of other members, details of offers to pensioners, your holidays and places to visit...the list is endless. Don't worry about your journalistic skills or spelling, I am very happy to edit contributions.

All the best - Geoff Jackson.



After 16 years with the company, Malcolm Roberts is Managing Director of NCR in the UK. At home he enjoys painting and gardening. How will he cultivate the company's fortunes? Why did he take the job? And what makes him tick? In this personal profile interview, conducted by Paul Hartigan and appearing first in an in-house publication, we aim to unveil another side of management.

First a metallurgist with British Steel then a chemist with ICI, Malcolm, with NCR for 16 years, views his current appointment with characteristic realism. "I didn't target the job", he says, "but I took it because it's a challenge and I won't get bored. I feel that I have what is needed and can get people to see the direction of the business as a whole."

The last remark bears some scrutiny. Putting his finger on what will make a business successful - and managing people to achieve it - are what Malcolm considers his best talents. He has a point, since beating targets has been a constant feature of his achievements with the company from the beginning.

Starting in Retail Marketing, moving to head up Retail Support and then to Head of System Services UK where he achieved 13 consecutive quarters of the highest revenue and margin growth in that area of the business. "I suppose I was the surprise candidate for that job, because I had a platform of radical change but I have always met my targets."

Becoming AVP of European Systems Services he was in Dayton when AT&T appeared. The general view at the time was one of euphoria, he recalls. "Some senior management privately believed that it would never work. Customers, on the other hand, were hugely excited at the thought of us combining computing and communications - it matched exactly what they were doing in their businesses. The market liked the idea of the merger and share prices rose.....in the end, though, the two cultures proved incompatible."

Within a couple of years Malcolm was back in the UK, having asked to be put in charge of a selling operation. 1994 saw him leading Commercial & Government to hit its order target for the first time since 1986. Also in 1994 he put into place the Customer Focussed Business Model. Such experiences taught him much about change. "I feel totally confident that turnarounds can be done quickly provided that you are prepared to put some of your best people on critical internal projects," he says - and speaks with real enthusiasm about the technologies and resources available to work with.

REGION 1 from Scott Caldwell

Probably like the other regions the attendance at our Fellowship lunches were up this year. The increased numbers were due in part to our new members.

We followed the same pattern as in previous years. Our first lunch in May was in Glasgow followed by Edinburgh in June and finally we were in Dundee in September.

The Glasgow lunch was held in L'Ariosto Restaurant with 22 members present.



Glasgow lunch.
At L'Ariosto Restaurant in May

We were pleased to welcome Wallace Hay as a new member.

Wallace started as an engineer in Ayr Branch in 1955 and took early retirement in 1995. Brian Strathdee, David Graham and Ginger Gray came through from Edinburgh and Len Whittet came from Dundee. They helped to swell the numbers. We were pleased to see Andy Aitken at the lunch. Andy retired and moved to Lochmaben in the Borders and it was good to see him again. Andy has been unable to attend the last few lunches.



Left:
Edinburgh
Lunch.
At
Murrayfield
Hotel in
June

The lunch in The Murrayfield Hotel in Edinburgh was also well attended. Jean Allan came through from Glasgow to meet up with her old friends in Edinburgh as did Bob McCarthy. John Seater and Hugh Mason joined us for the first time as new members. I am sure everyone enjoyed meeting up and getting updated with all the news. In Dundee we were pleased to welcome Peter Kemp and Ron Fraser who joined the fellowship this year. Ron had a pleasant surprise when he met an old colleague, Bob McCarthy from Glasgow. They had known each other in the 1960's.



Ron Fraser and Peter Kemp

What was remarkable about this was they had worked together in Cape Province in South Africa where Ron was Branch Manager and Bob one of the Field Engineers. Mr and Mrs Jack Fowler attended the lunch for the first time in a number of years, Jack, you may remember, was Manager of European Education when Technical Education was centred in Dundee. The Dundee lunches are always very successful probably due to the presence of the wives of some of the members who came along at their own expense to help increase the numbers and keep us all in order. That's it for 1996. Best wishes to all.

REGION 2E from Maureen Burdis

We had a most enjoyable luncheon at The Buckles on 22nd May with 37 members present. We were bitterly disappointed that Ernie couldn't make it - better luck next time! Also, Neville Smith had to cancel at the last moment because of a hospital appointment - make it in November, Neville!

Our first timers were Mike Dalby, John Back (having moved to Yorkshire from Birmingham, wise man John!), and Peter Squires from Boston who has

decided to join us in Region 2E. I was also delighted that Bud Abbott and Alan Sutcliffe were able to be with us (don't leave it for so long next time, Alan.) Jim Batchelor was in fine fettle and we were regaled with more monologues by Reg Cullen - many thanks Reg. Ernie previously mentioned [PS No. 17] that Len Watts was staying for a while with his son in France; he has now decided to stay permanently - hands up those who would like the next Region 2e meeting in Paris! And don't forget where we are Len if you come home on leave!



Left to right above: Margaret Ellis, June Rudge-Priestley, Geoff Beaumont and Peter Schwartz

REGION 2N from Jo Leighton

We had a lovely luncheon at Carlisle in May, with a full complement, except for poor Enid McManus who had picked up a bug whilst on holiday and was prostrate, but Enid is better now and will join us for our Christmas Luncheon meeting, usual venue, on Tuesday 3rd December. Ernie Giles, who will always be welcome at Carlisle, made the train trip up from Manchester. Looking at the snaps a question arises in the mind. Are we growing old gracefully? I think we are and, listening to the talk around the Luncheon table, it is obvious that everyone is

occupied and busy in some way and happily living full lives. Some, for whatever reason, are into role reversal and enjoying the experience. Dot Turnbull plays golf. Walter Staples is enthusiastic about The University of The Third Age, Andy Ewart, fully recovered after a minor health hiccup, helps in local charities. Mary Hunter is a sequence dancer, Enid McManus is very busy with the Methodist Church, Anne Gate enjoys magnificent views of the Lakeland hills from her home in the Cumbria village of Kirkbride and I am busy with the Ramblers Association in trying to maintain and improve the

footpath network. And it helps that in our early days we chose a company with a reasonable pension scheme!



Anne Gate

If there is a message here it surely is "Don't be a cabbage or a couch potato, get active and live forever!"



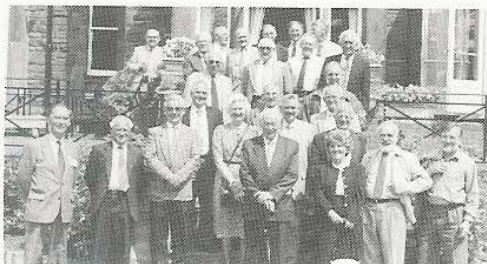
Dot Turnbull

REGION 2W

from Charles Southall

The Northwest (2W) summer meeting was held at the Grange Country Club, Heswall, which is on the Wirral, now part of Merseyside. The M63 passes quite close on its way to Liverpool, so that it is a very convenient venue for those of our number from Preston and Manchester who have the longest journeys.

What a lovely day we had (as can be seen from the photograph). There were 39 members to welcome our Chairman Tony Poil, who was paying his first visit to the Northwest and of course he was our special guest. He addressed the company after lunch and was able to bring everyone up to date with the many changes at Head Office over the last few months. He assured everyone of the commitment of N.C.R. to their need to be regularly informed of the Pension Plan Budget. Three new members attended for the first time.



2W at the Grange last summer

Ron Collins from Liverpool, and Barry Poole, who I am sure is remembered with affection in Leeds as well as Chester where we were together for many years. Bob Thompson, a very well known figure in London is also now one of our members. He now lives in Chorley, Lancs and was made welcome by many of his former colleagues in the North. We missed Rita Home who I know was hoping to attend. She has not however been too well recently. "I hope you are keeping well now Rita and enjoying this late summer weather. See you in the Autumn."

We spent a very pleasant half hour or more chatting in the garden after our meal and taking photographs. There are quite a few faces here that will be remembered. A most successful meeting and luncheon, I am sure all will agree. We look forward to seeing everyone again in November.

REGION 5

from Ted Young

Region 5 is the smallest of the South East groups but probably covers the largest area. Nevertheless, our meetings, held twice a year, are well attended and enjoyable.

I am always amazed at the persistence shown by members of the fellowship in that they turn up despite the most atrocious weather conditions.

Renewal of the IRA attentions may cause some fall off of attendance, but I

doubt it, for it was never noticeable before the "ceasefire".

Like so many in our age group, I am suffering my fair share of aches and pains - an arthritic knee in my case - any tips fellow sufferers?

Thank goodness I can still drive and my amateur dramatics continue, participation in "Salad Days" and "The King and I" most recently.

Sincere best wishes from all in Region 5.



ABOVE: THE LONDON MEETINGS 1996



Above Left: Roy Post in Festive Mood. Above Right: We know where you've been, Dennis and Ron!

REGION 7

from Jim Kembery

As has been traditional over the past years our Fellowship lunch was again held in September. Wednesday being a good day to travel, the 27th was chosen for the event and we met again at the Aztec Hotel, Bristol.

This time we booked a private room with a buffet, 22 members attending and the food was excellent. Our guest was Betty Campbell who enjoyed her day with us. Unfortunately some of our members did not receive notification of the event and so, consequently were not present. My apologies for those who missed out.

Earlier in the year I had the pleasure of meeting up with ex-Bristolian, now Australian, Peter Fowler. Some of you will remember that Peter, through PostScript, invited contact with him. We exchanged letters and then Peter and Jackie visited Bristol after his retirement.

This enabled Bill Park, Eric Thrush and me to meet up with him and relive some of our experiences in the basement workshop, 54 Baldwin Street, all those years ago. They were here for four months and were able to meet up with many old friends. Peter told me that he holds the record for the longest serving employee in Australia; collective service UK and Australia over 50 years! Pleasingly, the Company marked this by sending them off on a 15 day Pacific cruise.

Readers may also be amused by one of Peter's anecdotes. Apparently his work out there was concerned with large department stores and several years ago many of the C1 280 terminals which had been in use in UK Hepworth Stores were shipped out to Australia. When Peter was installing one of these he opened the printer door to be confronted with the following: "For out of hours on call cover ring John Cheek"!

REGIONS 8 and 8A

from Des Woodall

1995 was another very enjoyable year so far as Regions 8 and 8a are concerned. Lunches at Head Office were enjoyed on 4th May and 12th October, and there was no shortage of conversation, in particular, remembering the happy times spent in our working past.

The East Anglian part of the Region, designated 8a, had a reunion lunch at the Bedford Lodge Hotel, in Newmarket, on Wednesday 5th July. Fellowship members and guests, from Suffolk, Cambridgeshire and Norfolk enjoyed an excellent meal and were delighted that our Chairman, Tony Poil was able to join us. We hope that Betty, our greatly appreciated

Secretary will be able to make it next time.

1996 saw us having another enjoyable lunch at Head Office, this time on the 2nd May. After pre-lunch drinks we moved to the main restaurant for an excellent meal prepared by Jim Hinshelwood and staff. New members were welcomed and a raffle was enjoyed, especially by the winners! By the time you read this we will have enjoyed a further HO lunch arranged for the early part of October.

Region 8a, comprising the northern part of the region, held a lunch at the Bedford Lodge Hotel again on 19th June. 17 attended, many from far away. It will be seen from the photo that many well

known faces were present, smiling broadly after their excellent lunch. Tony Poil was welcomed but Betty

Campbell was missed as she was undergoing an eye operation from which we hope she is fully recovered.



Region 8A at the Bedford Lodge Hotel, Newmarket, in June

REGION 9

from Tom Farmer

We had our summer get-together on 10th June, well attended and exceedingly enjoyable. Nobody was in a hurry to leave and, in the end, the owners had to push us out! The oldest member in Region 9 is Bert King who was 94 years of age on October 2nd. I phoned his wife Gladys and asked her if she could let me have one or two prints of Bert when he was a young lad in the Service Department. Reproduced below right is a shot of Bert taken in 1937 during a climbing holiday in the Lake District. He was a keen member of the NCR Sports and Social Club in the early 50's when Bill Hallums was Starter and Bert was Timekeeper, in fact Bert only gave up timekeeping for Somerset athletic meetings fairly recently.

Percy Davis, another member of Region 9, remembers first meeting Bert in 1930 at the Tottenham Court Road office, the forerunner of the new HO opened in 1937. And to bring the story up to date Bert is portrayed with his wife Gladys at a local event in 1994 together with their hometown Mayor and Mayoress.



Bert King climbing in the Lake District, 1937



Worth Curry May Fair 1994.
Bert and Gladys with Mayor David Applegate, and wife Mary

REGION 10

*from Jack Sale
(co-ordinator - Ireland)*

Jack's new address is:
44, Melrose Avenue
Pedmore, Stoubridge
West Midlands
DY8 2LE
(01384) 376488

DUBLIN

from Allison Perry

Our Christmas lunch was held again at Tara Towers Hotel. A few of our members had flu at the time and so were absentees. We were delighted to welcome Jimmy Flood and John Short who were attending for the first time.

It was also great to see Maurice Bowe who had had to miss last year because of illness. He told me he was looking forward to son Paul's return from Australia during the year. Paul was the lucky recipient of an "Oelman Scholarship" from NCR which enabled him to attend Trinity College, Dublin and qualify in medicine. He is now a consultant in Australia - Quite a success story thanks to NCR.

Our first glamorous grandmother joined us in the form of Maire Boylan - unbelievable since many of us remember Maire joining the company!

A good time was had by all - plenty of food, fun and frolic. (I can well believe this - Jack Sale).



Dublin Christmas Lunch



Belfast Christmas Lunch

In closing I would like to thank Betty Campbell for being so helpful and last but not least our resident photographer - Joe O'Brien.

BELFAST

from Jack Martin

As usual we all had a great time at our Christmas lunch held at Robinsons - opposite the Europa where Clinton stayed recently.

We were so pleased to see Muriel Mahon but were sorry that Sally English was not well enough to attend. However, true to form, she had her husband, Maurice, deliver a Christmas card to the lunch. We all signed one and sent it back with him.

Victor Frizzell had two heart attacks earlier in the year but is now back with us and, by now, should be playing golf again.

Ronnie McGowan is still working as a stationery salesman and couldn't take time off to attend and Alf Lucas was on holiday with his brother-in-law in Southampton.

We all agreed to contact our Dublin colleagues to see if we could arrange a joint meeting later in the year. **Jack Sale adds:** *I have spoken to Allison in Dublin and she also gave me much encouragement for a joint meeting. this would indeed be a great event should it be possible.*

BACK TO REALITY

The Fellowship Organisers hold a meeting annually in March when we can review the previous year and plan for the new one. The proceedings this year were purely administrative and there was nothing to report to the Fellowship at large.

We were however honoured by a visit from our Managing Director, Malcolm Roberts, who gave us an update on the direction in which he now sees the company going. It all sounded like sound common sense to us and I think is encapsulated in a piece he wrote for the UK staff. See what you think:-

"It is time to draw a line under 1995 and to recognise that there is a new phase beginning in our company's long history. That means keeping the good things that we can and have learned to do. It also means being bold enough to put aside everything that obstructs what we are trying to achieve.

My belief is that, in the coming months, the way to make this happen is to let every individual be accountable for the things they know about and can control. This means we are going to stop looking at things and start doing things.

By and large, we all have a very good instinct for what's right. The need now is to act.

Expect mistakes - none of us is perfect. But by starting to challenge poor decisions, inefficiency and ineffectiveness, we can respond quickly to put things right. It means everyone having the courage and decisiveness to accept the risk and try something new.

Our customers have a right to expect this. In increasingly competitive markets, our efforts as individuals will add up to better business for them.

By doing things right by customers we will reap the benefits in our own stability and profitability.

The sooner we face this reality, the quicker we'll get the returns we want".

May we all in the Fellowship wish you every success in the task ahead, Malcolm.



Malcolm Roberts addressing the Fellowship Organisers in March



Ernie Giles receiving his just deserts upon retirement as Northern organiser. (It took 3 to replace him!)

OBITUARY

ALL OF THOSE WHO KNEW THEM WILL BE SAD TO LEARN OF THE PASSING OF THE FOLLOWING:

Name	Year of Retirement	Service	Age	Date of Death	Position/location
Mrs K Smith	1973	20 years 6 months	79	21/02/1996	Catering, Head Office
G R Watson	1980	9 years	80	28/02/1996	unknown
J D Light	1972	14 years 2 months	89	06/03/1996	unknown
R W Roe	1983	48 years 6 months	76	14/03/1996	Field Engineer, Norwich
E Gimson	1980	41 years 10 months	75	22/03/1996	Assistant Co. Secretary, Head Office
T Spence	1984	45 years 4 months	72	07/05/1996	Field Engineer - Manchester
Mrs R Jenkinson	1976	10 years 10 months	80	01/06/1996	Telephonist, Greenford
J P Brooks	1984	19 years 8 months	76	02/06/1996	Receptionist, Data centres - CDSD
Mrs D M Hynes	1977	10 years 2 months	79	17/06/1996	Control clerk, credit accounts
W A Cawfield	1975	21 years 10 months	86	18/06/1996	Storekeeper, FED
Mrs M Hawkins	1972	7 years 3 months	84	30/07/1996	unknown
Mrs A Riches	1979	17 years 8 months	77	01/08/1996	Clerk, FED - Brent
D Brimacombe	1981	28 years 5 months	70	04/08/1996	Salesman, Marketing - Greenford
D B Mortimer	1981	24 years 8 months	66	07/08/1996	Instructor, Education - Sheldon

From Mary Simmonds

The anniversary of Bob's death was on Sunday 28th April. His name was read out in church and I spoke to our fairly new assistant priest after the service. He said he would like to visit me and the only date we could manage was the day after the NCR Retirement Lunch at Head Office. Imagine my surprise when my visitor said "Show me a picture of Bob". I produced the photograph supplied by NCR after his death. "I knew him" said the Rev'd Brian Blackshaw. "I used to be in the Training Centre at Greenford!"

Norman Bowen writes:-

A TRIBUTE TO REG SHERWOOD

May I presume on your time to pay tribute to Reg who sadly passed away on 9th August 1996, aged 88.

All of us in Service Division at some time have reason to remember him for his superb expertise and wisdom of past equipment.

Reg always had time for all of us and I personally owe him a great debt of gratitude. As a new boy in 1950 he inspired confidence and helped me no end. Do you remember those days in the "Sunshine Room", Head Office, 6th floor with the Epidiascope?

Those were the days of supreme loyalties and comradeship, fostered by the likes of dear old Reg. All the years I knew him he never spoke ill of anybody and if you spoke ill of either NCR or an individual, Reg would be the first to pull you up.

Sadly, Reg leaves his dear wife Trudy, who, thankfully, is surrounded by a lovely and caring family. There must be many who recall a little girl named Susan being born to his daughter Marion. Sadly she was born blind and naturally it worried Reg and Trudy initially but all was well and may I tell you that Suzy now has two of the loveliest little girls of her own who, together with their handsome brother Peter, will all give much consolation to Trudy.

Trudy's son-in-law, Michael is a tower of strength to the family and to have seen them all together at the funeral gave one great heart for the future.

Ron Tarling and I attended the funeral on your behalf and Lyn Cross arranged flowers. GOD BLESS YOU REG.

Finally, there are many of you out there who would like to pay their last respects; what better way than to drop a card to his dear wife?

The address is:-

Mrs T Sherwood
Flat 2 Moorhaven
Princes Road
Ferndown
Dorset BH22 9JG
(01202) 896736

FEEDBACK

From Derek Holt

Most of us spend the best part of our lives doing what we can for some firm or other and after nearly half a century working for NCR it's not unusual that I, and presumably many others, like to keep up with what's been going on at the old firm since leaving. The NCR post used to give some information about change but, after NCR disappeared in the AT&T black hole there was nothing - then, at last, there was hope when PostScript promised to fill the gap. The winter edition of PostScript arrives and I see an article headed 'Company News' but - Oh dear - what a lot of computer gobbledeygook. Is it not possible to get someone in NCR to translate this lot into English and let us know in a little more detail what the Company's present product lines are, the sort of places where this kit is in use and possibly how this compares with other makers products. I see in the Sunday Times that large computers are in the past and that the desk top is the present and future of this industry. If the PC is the future why do I never see mention of NCR ??

I look forward, hopefully, to reading a little more about the present as well as of the past in forthcoming PostScripts.

So sorry that the "Company News" section in the last issue was not useful Derek. It was vetted and supplied by your Chairman, who, I am sure, will note your remarks. I might add the final proof reading corrections were not included last time which couldn't have helped comprehension. Knowing you to be a technical man, how about taking on the job of liaising with NCR, and writing a piece for us? ED.

From Alf Collingham:

I was interested to read in issue No. 17 the account of the Groom family from Region No. 2. In the 30's a G.W. Groom was Depot Manager of Worthing Office, with J. McCarthy as sales agent, George used to come over to Brighton to service our 2000 6V machines, our staff at Brighton at this time being a 3000 and C.R.D. mechanic, plus myself 23½ hours working for the Agent and 23½ hours for T.S.D. I remember George used to roll his own cigarettes with some evil smelling shag.

I feel sure that this must be the same Groom; perhaps I could be informed the connection between Evelyn, George and William.

Help from old-timers please! ED.

From Peter Fowler (see also page 4)

Dear Jim

Here at last is the letter I promised to write. It may take some time to write as I get sore fingers these days!

Firstly, Jackie and I would like to thank you for setting up the meeting with Bill Park and Eric Thrush and for inviting us to the Region 7 lunch.

We were able to spend a few days in Exeter, where we met up with Harry Crown, Gordon Newberry and Wally Crump, so were able to recall a few lost years and lament the loss of NCR as we knew it. The Glorious Fifties as someone put it.

When we got back to Australia I decided to have another browse through my earlier copies of PostScript - yes I do get a copy sent out to me by Pensions for which I am grateful.

I started getting them in 1991 when, as I was coming up for my 50 years I wondered if any of the other apprentices out of La

Vache were still working for NCR, so I wrote to Pensions, HO to inquire. As a result Geoff Jackson put a note in PostScript and I had a reply from Ted Brake and Gordon Carter; at this point I realised that the 50 Year Club doesn't have too many members!

Which brings me to a question asked by Dennis Cash in Issue No 12; he asks if he holds the record for length of service? I am sorry to say no, a few years ago I read in the Pacific News that a salesman in Chicago was retiring after 57 years - he was in his seventies. However, no-one can match Dennis outside that one.

1989	Dennis Cash	UK
1991	Jack Abbott	UK
1991	Pat Kirwin	UK
1991	Hilario Sanchez	Spain
1993	Peter Fowler	UK & Australia

I seem to recall that in the dim distant past that there was a CPC contest to honour Colonel Deeds' fiftieth, but I may be wrong.

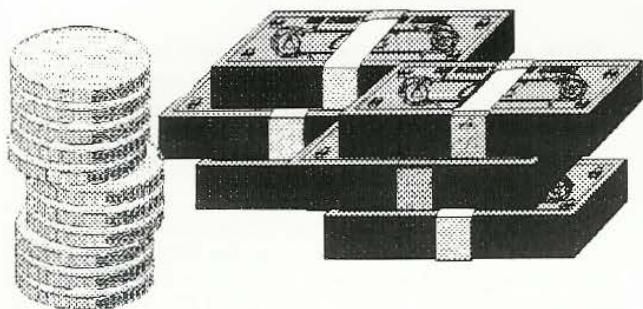
The other point I picked out of PS, this time No 11, was Derek Holt commenting on the Vespa scooter and sidecars that were issued. I spent many lonely hours on one in the Bristol area. It was a wonderful means of transport until either the wind blew or it rained and then it was hell! With the typical, average West Country climate it was not the most pleasant way of arriving at a bank to carry out an essential repair. Can you imagine in today's business world turning up at a bank wearing an ankle-length Belstaff coat, a helmet and carrying a big black toolcase, just the outfit for a holdup! But we did it and the logo on the sidecar was "EXPRESS SERVICE" and that at 20mph flat out.

The sidecar had its other uses though. I remember going to Badminton village club to repair their cash register. It was a 700.G.T.ST and while I was working the manager kept plying me with scrumpy with a dash of orange. The repair seemed to take an awfully long time - I don't remember how or when I finished it, but I do remember waking up from a refreshing sleep in the sidecar, on the village green, late in the afternoon - Ah! happy days.

Regards Peter.



Tony Poil addressing Region 7 members



DECIMALISATION

From Jim Kembury

It is twenty five years ago that we as engineers (sorry! we were called technicians in those days) were involved in the fun and frustration of UKD. Remember it? United Kingdom Decimalisation.

We had, of course, been leading up to 15th February 1971 since 1967. Depot Managers had spent several days in London being briefed by Fred Fowler and Charlie Green on the Company's UKD plans in early 1967.

On returning to our depots various tools and conversion kits had arrived - we were to convert certain models to a "blue point level" and leave a kit in the machine for the final change. Some customers who used Class 21 and 51 models opted for a full conversion and operated in a "shillings mode" until the day of the 15th.

Personally, my highlight was the conversion to decimal operation of the only C1

Postronic to be changed. Based in Bristol was Carsons, chocolate manufacturers - they specialized in liqueur chocolates and John Harvey Milk Chocolates.

A C1 29 with Ledger Feeder Reader was used for all their sales ledger work. Although conversions were not offered to users of this equipment, Carsons insisted that we convert theirs. Arrangements were duly completed and the work carried out, as my photo shows by yours truly spending a quiet Sunday afternoon at the bench in Bristol. Happy Days!

[Deserving, and I hope receiving, a very large box of chocolates Jim!]

At depots, lights were burning late each evening and work continued over weekends. During the day clerical staff dealt with not only an increase in paperwork but an increase in telephone traffic, building up to an all time record on February 15th.



A young Jim burning the Midnight oil



HAIR-RAISING:

Andy Gomarsall of WASPS' match-winning try. The keener eyed of our readers will spot the reason for including this photograph!

HAVE A BREAK

From Reg Cullen (Ex-Doncaster FED)

Auntie had gone into town to do a little shopping, and when she had finished she dropped in to the small cafe which was on her way home. Today the cafe was very crowded, auntie edged her way up to the counter and ordered her cup of tea and a Kit-Kat.

When she had paid for them she turned round and, balancing her tea in one hand and her bags in the other she made her way to the only empty chair in the cafe and flopped down. On the opposite side of the table sat an old woman, huddled over her cup of tea, the hard features just visible beneath the mop of unruly hair.

Auntie took a long slow sip of her tea then picked up the KitKat bar, broke a piece off and started to eat it. As she did so she noticed that the old lady had now lifted her head and was staring at her. Auntie smiled politely, at which point the old lady calmly took the chocolate bar, broke off a strip, and proceeded to eat it. Auntie was flabbergasted

- she had never come across this kind of behaviour before, but decided that she must remain calm. After all, the cafe was full and she didn't want to make a scene. She looked the old woman straight in the eye, reached for the KitKat, broke off another piece and ate it.

The old woman just stared and then, snatching up the remaining piece, gobbled it down as if there were no tomorrow. This was more than Auntie could stand, she knew that if she didn't get away from that old woman, she would lose her temper. Without more ado she picked up her shopping and swept out of the cafe leaving the remainder of her tea undrunk.

All the way home she kept asking herself why the old girl had behaved like that, perhaps the cup of tea was all that she could afford. If she had only asked, Auntie would have been pleased to share her KitKat with her. By now she had arrived at her own front door, she put her bags down and started to rummage in her handbag for her house keys. She suddenly stopped and slowly withdrew her hand clutching both her house keys and an uneaten bar of KitKat!





FRENCH LOGIC

From Mike Regester.

I am sometimes asked, when people learn that I have a place in France and that my mother was French, what is this legendary facility for logical thought that is supposedly unique to the French?

This is difficult to answer. Their educational system includes such subjects as philosophy and logic at pre-university level, which may account for the supposition that all French are philosophers. Mind you, the Académie Française, that guardian of the French language and the enemy of Franglais, attempts to nurture this mistaken premise.

The best example I have come across involved an incident at Marseilles Airport when waiting for an incoming flight, hopefully carrying my wife. The arrivals board said that the flight was delayed for one hour. Marseilles Airport is a constantly fascinating microcosm; nationalities and destinations abound - Ouagadougou, Maroc, Chad - even, yes Timbuktu - the former subjects of the French Equatorial Empire still fly from Marseilles. The whole place is a kaleidoscope of colour and costume.

I came to the Air France desk. There was an immaculately dressed male Air France employee who looked like Sasha Distel. Mind you, all male Air France employees look like Sasha Distel. I asked him why the Air France flight from London was delayed. "I do not know

monsieur" he said. "But", I said, "there must be a reason, British Airways would announce a reason". As soon as the words were out of my mouth I knew I had made a mistake. "Ah monsieur", he said, "they will give you a reason but it will not always be the truth; I am telling you the truth; I do not know". There really isn't any answer to that!

HOW I JOINED NCR

From Ralph Duncombe

Mike Regester's article "Gallic Reunion" in the recent PostScript in which he describes how he and I met up in Provence, made me think of how I came to join the company, in - what he rightly refers to as - the dark ages when the EDP Department was regarded with suspicion by the barons of the Accounting Machine and Cash Register Divisions.

Someone realised that ex-service people had qualities to offer and thus I, together with Mike and others, was recruited. My interview with Bob Wadsworth went something like this: "I see from your record that you have held a number of training appointments; well we need people like you in the Computer Education Department". I pointed out that I would not recognize a computer if it walked in the door and that I was a duffer at figures. Says Bob: "It's just what we want; we have a full house of brilliant technocrats who can fill a blackboard with incomprehensible scribble, but are incapable of explaining to Managing Directors how the piece of equipment on which they are about to spend hundreds of pounds actually works. You, Mr Duncombe, are so dumb yourself you will be able to put it in simple language". Needing a job I said "Yes Sir, three bags full Sir". And he

hired me!

I shall leave out the agonies I went through trying to master the intricacies of the hardware let alone the software (such as it was) put in front of me by a very patient chief instructor.

Bob was right, I did manage to explain the beast to senior executives. I would say: "Gentlemen, it is only a machine which is switched on and off, these are called bits; we string them together and call them a word. We store words in compartments and lots of those are pigeon-holes just like a post office sorting letter rack; we can put them in and take them out at will". Having explained that to the business tycoons I then took them out to lunch!

Edward's out to beat Dancers' Curse

Twinkle-toed Edward Cluff has glided around the ballrooms of the world with an elegant lady on his arm. Over the years he's danced from London to New Zealand and back again - he has even beaten a crippling foot disorder for his love of dancing.

There is one problem - he is currently without a partner and would love to meet a lady who is Strictly Ballroom. Edward, who describes himself as "74 years young" and lives in Warlingham, Surrey, is only able to continue with his first love if his dancing teacher, Shirley Cox, steps into the breach - but he would love to meet a full-time dancer so that he can step out more often.

Edward started dancing in 1938 but gave up some twenty four years ago when he fell out with his second wife over dancing. Most couples, even professionals, fall out over dancing he laments. He does hope, however, that this does not

happen with any future partner.

Originally, he decided to take lessons to improve his balance and help him climb the 28 steps leading up to his house. He also credits dancing with helping him lose some 14lbs - but he does admit an ulterior motive. "Being divorced I find dancing is a way to meet people. Dancing is like poetry, the body movements are so beautiful. It is so very similar to ballet in its movements and gives me great pleasure".

He claims even youngsters are taking up ballroom dancing instead of "standing still and waving their arms about" and has read that it is even being considered for the Olympics.

He has nothing but praise for Shirley with whom he has twice weekly lessons at Biggin Hill. "I have had five teachers over the years and Shirley is outstanding. She is marvellous and so professional". He puts it down to her skills and dedication that pulled him through to achieve both Bronze and Silver medals last year. He won his Gold last month with scores of 91 & 92 out of 100.

As a thank you to his teacher he has taken out an advert in his local paper, the Surrey Mirror, advertising her school. Shirley responded by saying "It's a lovely gesture, he wanted to do something to thank me and this is what he has done."

"He has progressed so well and lost weight as well - this has made his life worth living again".

Ted can be contacted through our Secretary, Betty. ED.



Richard Ingram [Banks Department 1953-73] asks:

Why would Bert Newman ensure that a very tactful technician was sent to a branch of a West African Bank to answer a reply call when a Class 32-10 kept printing out split totals which read:-

123,430,123.13.1 just as the operator reached forward to get the ledger card out of the front feed?

Answers on the back of a photograph of any of the following:-

Betty Cowdrey, Jenny Menzies, Rita Mulrooney, Daphne Langham, Judy Biggs, Barbara Walker, Kay Bernard, Audrey Turnham, Hazel Lamb, Mavis Watling, Barbara Davis, Barbara Palmer, Audrey Hepburn or Hedy Lamarr

to R.I.I. at: Mardon
Kings Nympton
Umberleigh
EX37 9SS.

He adds; by the way, I think the girl on the right of your photo, page 8 last issue in the peep-toe slingbacks is Diane Maskell and the year 1961 at the Welsh Harp. The elegant girl with the gloves and white revers I well remember but her name escapes.

Thank you for the blue vase job!

Incidentally, our Fellowship Chairman and Secretary will be interested in the enclosed :-



BUSINESS EFFICIENCY EXHIBITION OLYMPIA 1966

NCR release their latest 395-300 Series on their stand entirely designed and built at Exhibition Section Park Royal. Here multi-CPC Member Maurice Hammon grips unprepossessing prospects with his 'Button-home-the Benefits' feature list, while Queen Bee Betty Campbell checks out her left earring before the next Dem'; she knows the slogan Operate to Demonstrate matters more, and is confident of the Order as she is wearing this year's individually tailored turquoise shot knee-length uniform dress chosen by her and the London senior ladies. District Manager A.G. Poil at right checks he has change for a coffee; note he is wearing W.R. Hart obligatory white at collar and cuffs, with trouser turn-ups and single vent button-one-show-two worsted two-piece from the tailor next door to Capotelli's.

THE PENSIONS ACT - 1995.

From Geoff Jackson - Editor

Next April sees the start of many new measures brought in under the 1995 Pensions Act, the biggest change in pensions law for a generation. This Pensions Act was introduced against the backdrop of the Maxwell affair, when the security of their pension fund was becoming a big concern for many people.

This shake-up in pensions law means greater security, equality and choice for pension scheme members. And, whilst I have had every confidence in our own pension fund, I thought that Fellowship members may be interested in aspects of the new Act which I have extracted from leaflets available from the Department of Social Security. I would emphasise that the following input is mine, not our Pension Department's.

RESPONSIBILITY OF TRUSTEES

The Act says that trustees have the basic right and duty to run a pension scheme. They must make sure that such schemes are well run and comply with the law.

Members of the scheme will be able to choose at least one third of the scheme's trustees unless they approve alternative arrangements. At least two people (called member-nominated trustees) will have to be chosen in this way.

Employers have to give employee trustees time off with pay for training and to carry out their duties.

INFORMATION FOR PENSION SCHEME MEMBERS

Trustees will have to give information to members about the scheme and their individual benefits and rights. There will be time limits for giving this information. Detailed financial information will have to be given out on request.

SORTING OUT MEMBERS' DISPUTES

The trustees of occupational schemes will have to set up ways of sorting out disputes - called internal dispute resolution procedures. They will nominate someone for scheme members to contact if they have a disagreement with the scheme. The nominated person must decide the matter; the complainant can ask the trustees to confirm or revise this decision if he or she is still unhappy.

Members will still have the right to ask for help from OPAS (the Pensions Advisory Service) and to refer a complaint or dispute to the Pensions Ombudsman. The Ombudsman will not normally accept a case until internal dispute resolution procedures have been completed.

MINIMUM LEVEL OF FUNDS

A new legal minimum level of funding will be brought in. Salary related schemes, which offer a pension based on salary and years worked, will have to ensure that the value of their fund is at or above a minimum level and that the actuary carries out a valuation every three years. Contributions are set at a level that makes sure the minimum level is kept up.

A NEW REGULATORY BODY

The regulation of pension schemes will be improved with the creation of a new body. The Occupational Pensions Regulatory Authority [OPRA] will have a wide range of powers which will reinforce the new measures to make occupational pensions more secure.

OPRA will be able to respond to complaints and act quickly to protect members' interests if things go wrong. It will have the power to prohibit or disqualify trustees and impose fines on those who do not meet obligations imposed by the Act.

Scheme auditors and actuaries will be under a duty to inform OPRA of breaches of the law, but anyone else, including trustees, employers and scheme members, will be able to report their concerns to OPRA. Its investigators will be able to carry out on-site checks, even if no complaint has been received.

COMPENSATION FOR PENSION SCHEME MEMBERS

A new compensation scheme for occupational pensions is to be set up. This will be administered by the Pensions Compensation Board. The scheme will be able to provide compensation when an employer becomes insolvent and scheme assets have been dishonestly removed. It will be funded by a levy on all schemes.

EQUALITY

The state pension age for men and women will be made the same at 65. This will be phased in over a period of 10 years beginning in 2010.

THE ABOVE ARE ONLY EXTRACTS FROM THE NEW BILL WHICH I THOUGHT WOULD INTEREST MEMBERS - A LEAFLET "THE 1995 PENSIONS ACT" CONTAINING MORE DETAILS OF THE CHANGES CAN BE OBTAINED FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES.

GEOFF JACKSON



"The trouble with being prominent in an organisation is that someone is always dredging up unflattering pictures! No, he isn't joking with Ernie Wise but he was at Beaconsfield in 1980!"

COMPANY NEWS

Continued from front page

"ATM & POS products have great potential for the future and organisation competencies mean we can build these areas of business. We are going to be unfair to our competitors and only compete where we know we can win!" Concentration of effort where customers can see NCR's strength is the key. WorldMark within the Decision Support market is a first class example of where NCR can grow. "We must realise how far ahead of the opposition we are and seize the opportunity we now have."

"We need to take the approach that consolidation of data tells our customers more about their customers. We also need to pay lots of attention to applying our technology to things like Relationship Banking, Risk Management and High Performance Merchandising." He considers that such tactics will reinforce the market's view of NCR as a company committed to following through, making sure that customers get the benefits promised.

But what will be the effect of yet more change on the employees?

Malcolm tackles this one with disarming frankness; "You can't fool the workforce. Some people don't take pressure too well, it affects their morale and performance, which leads to more insecurity," he acknowledges, "I want everyone to focus on doing the very best they can. That means managers taking the pressure off, and showing direction, so that their people can perform."

He places great emphasis on people - especially managers - being accountable for what they do. "I want to see pressure from the ground up, challenging managerial decisions to make sure that they are right," he says, and adds a note of personal conviction, "I think we can get people together to demonstrate their belief in the company in this way. I expect to make it happen. And I expect to be accountable if I don't pull it off!"

Late News

DIARIES

1997 Diaries have been ordered, and will be on the way to you in due course. Thanks again NCR for this much appreciated item.

REGION 6

I have just learned that Frank Robinson, due to commitments in other directions, has, regretfully had to give up organising Region 6. May I, on behalf of the members of that Region, and indeed, for the fellowship as a whole, thank you, Frank for all your work since the forming of the Fellowship.

I had the honour and privilege of attending one of our get-togethers, a while ago, and can confirm the bonhomie, and comradeship you managed to engender, with that dry wit of yours!

Thanks again for your efforts over the years for the Fellowship,
Geoff Jackson

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THE NCR Retirement Fellowship



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