

BETTY CAMPBELL



Betty Campbell's retirement presentation: left to right: Alan Hutchins (Reg 6), Scott Caldow (Reg 1), Basil Garsed (Vice Chairman), Tom Farmer (Reg 9), Dennis Williams (Fellowship Finance), Harry Redington (President), Tony Poil (Chairman), Harry Hardacre (Reg 3), Betty, Charles Southall (Reg 2W), John Nash (Secretary), Jim Kembery (Reg 7), Des Woodall (Reg 8), Jo Leighton (Reg 2N), Geoff Jackson (Editor - PostScript), Ted Young (Reg 5).

On the 26th February last, Regional Organisers of the Fellowship met for their annual liaison meeting and we were delighted to welcome, as our special guest, Betty Campbell. Tony Poil took great pleasure in presenting Betty with mementoes in recognition of the years of service given to the Fellowship by her. Reproduced below is a letter from Betty which acknowledges your kind donations. Happy second retirement - Betty!

My Dear Friends,

This is to express my most grateful thanks to everyone who so kindly donated to my "Second Retirement". I was overwhelmed by your generosity and shall treasure forever the Cameo Brooch and Ships Clock/Barometer which our Chairman, Tony Poil, presented to me at a meeting in Head Office on 26th February, where I was delighted to once again meet and have lunch with all the Regional Organisers.

I truly enjoyed my many years as your Secretary and would like to extend special thanks to Lyn Cross, Jim Henshallwood, Amanda and all the staff in the canteen for all the help they so unstintingly gave me.

In closing I would wish you and the Company every success and many happy and peaceful years in the future. I look forward to seeing many of you at the 'Get-togethers' which my very able successor John Nash will be arranging, until then, take care and keep well.

God bless

Betty Campbell

REGION 1

from Scott Caldwell

Contrary to popular belief our Region is still part of the Fellowship and going strong north of the border!

Although we did not have a report in the last issue of PS we did have three lunches during 1997.

The Glasgow lunch was on the 2nd April, 19 members joined us in the Italian restaurant L'Ariosto. On the 3rd September in the Murrayfield Hotel in Edinburgh there were 17 of us including Tony Poil who came up from London for the day to join us for lunch.

The following month 16 members met at the Waterfront Hotel in Dundee - the weather was good and everyone enjoyed both the lunch and company.

I am sad to report that our old friend Len Whittet died during January this year. Len was a regular at the lunches, he started with NCR as an accounting machine salesman in Glasgow during the early fifties, transferring to the school in Dundee as an instructor in the seventies where he remained until 1985 when he retired. Len never forgot his friends in Glasgow and always came down to our lunches. I knew Len for almost fifty years and was proud to have his friendship.



Len Whittet & David Gray



The Edinburgh Lunch

REGION 2N

from Jo Leighton

Editor's note: Jo's report takes the form of a letter and is typically Jo so I have printed it in its entirety.

I had a "reet good read", as they say in Cumbria, with the winter issue of the Newsletter during the Christmas holiday, and how nice it was to see a picture of Marion alongside the Bearded Warrior! How long is it since she, you and I were having lunch at the top of Harter Fell drinking your continental beer and admiring the view down Haweswater? I was fitter then than I am now but I still have my boots.

I have to congratulate you on a super issue - 16 pages no less - Tony's piece and the company news was particularly revealing and welcome, thanks.

Mentioning Haweswater reminds me that Riggindale, at the head of the lake, is the home of England's only breeding pair of Golden Eagles. They are watched over all year round by volunteers from the RSPB, and other groups from surprising places. When Freda and I visited the lake last spring a party of Germans were installed! Of course the vigilance is increased at breeding time, a viewing site is provided which is easy to get to and the nest can be seen by using the telescopes provided. It is very exciting to see an eaglet stretching and strengthening its wings on the nest edge with the parents only just visible on the ground a few hundred metres away, watching. If anyone wants more information about the eagles and how to get to Haweswater or, indeed, about anything to do with the Lakes and Cumbria, please let me know.

We had two meetings during the year at our usual, excellent venue in Carlisle, in May and November, when we welcomed a new member - James Brown - James ended a successful NCR career as a Senior Instructor at UKTEC, Brent in '89. I am sure many of our Computer Engineers will remember him. James has moved to Grange over Sands overlooking Morecambe Bay and is busy putting the house to rights - we all know that feeling!

Andy Ewart hasn't been well and was unable to attend, as was Eddie Tuck. We send best wishes to both and hope to see them in May.

Gladys Foulner - wife of the late Alex, ex CRD Salesman at Lancaster and Carlisle and one time head of the Supplies Division - is still fit and prepared to make the 70 mile journey from Hest Bank - on the opposite side of Morecambe Bay from James to be with old friends. Her trip for the November luncheon was made possible with assistance from son Ian and family car. Carlisle is a very interesting city, a mixture of ancient and modern, living side by side. Castle, Cathedral and Museum a step away from pedestrian precinct and modern shopping mall; the prestigious "Lanes Development".

Members bring wives and families to enjoy Carlisle's pleasures while we entertain each other with wild tales of NCR doings of the past and ourselves with food and wine.

Since a large part of the group are located in the North East and have been making the 70/80 miles journey to Carlisle without complaint for some years now, we hope our next meeting, in May - Tuesday 19th - will be held in that area, depending on finding a suitable venue of course!

Ours is a large area with very little between conurbations and Carlisle is as central a location as we can find with members travelling from Morecambe, Grange, Kirkbride on the Solway Coast - where lives Sister Ann Gate ex HO Medical Department, (more about Ann elsewhere) - as well as from Carlisle; Andy Ewart, John Mounsey, Mary Hunter, Enid McManus, Dot Turnbull and myself and, of course, the North East contingent of Jack Scott, Eddie Tuck, Brian Armstrong, Brian Lewis, Arthur Atkinson, Eddie Rose and Bob Graham. They have all been very faithful and their presence is very much enjoyed.

We can't help but think of old friends who are no longer with us at

these times. Three lovely people; Wally Staples, Harry Pridham and John MacManus. We miss them.

I was fascinated to read part one of the Gerry Cole experience. He and I did spend some time together on a course, it was either at HO or Bravington Road, I can't remember the details but what I do remember is that Gerry in his young days was, maybe still is, an expert highboard diver. He persuaded me to accompany him to the Seymour baths to attend the swimming and diving championships of, I think, the NCR Sports and Social Club that year, which year I can't remember. He persuaded the organisers to accept his - late - entry to the diving competition and then astonished me and everyone else, particularly the other divers, by giving a brilliant display and winning the competition. Since that time I have become, although no longer active, an official of the Amateur Swimming Association myself and share the feeling of most of my swimming colleagues in the swimming section of the ASA in believing that divers, in order to do the things they do, must be all raving mad. Sorry Gerry!

Ann Gate tells me she had a card from George Haynes who is fit and would welcome hearing from old friends. George, a lot of old hands will remember, was Vice President Overseas, and, in that capacity, did a lot of travelling including passing through Carlisle on one occasion with his wife, he had been staying at the local grand hotel, the Crown and Mitre, and strolled down the street to see the NCR office and have a cup of tea and chat with our office clerk, Dot Turnbull. He was very interested in the array of "Donald Trophy" awards displayed on the office wall that Dot had accumulated over her years of service. DAF Donald, Chairman and MD had inaugurated these awards for presentation to the most efficient provincial office clerk. The presentations were made in London and Dot remembers the occasions very well, especially when, on the last occasion, Mr Donald asked her to respond to the presentation speech he had made. I wasn't there but I was told by Jake Sale, who of course had made the recommendation for the award, that Dot had surprised everyone by the quality of her unprepared response. Carlisle being located where it is, was a natural stopping off and meeting place for visiting "Firemen", usually to and from Dundee. DAF Donald was an occasional visitor and Jim Wallace a fairly frequent one. All were made welcome by Dot, and I myself had on occasion to visit the local butchers to purchase quantities of our local delicacy - if delicacy it could be called - thick, unlinked Cumberland Sausage, for the visitors to take home.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Jo Leighton

REGION 2E

from Maureen Burdis

Our early meeting for this year took place on the 20th May at the Buckles again being very well attended. Mind you, four of the ladies wouldn't have managed to come without the good services of our chauffeurs Dave Cowley, Frank Murray and Brian Ingham—many thanks to you all.

No Ernie again, or standby to dash down South to look after the grandchildren. Jack also was unable to attend as he is unwell. He was missed by all present and everyone at the luncheon sends him their best wishes.

Joy Brown wasn't able to be with us nor Edna Curry (Edna has

recently celebrated her 80th birthday. Many congratulations Edna).

The region has a 'new' boy Mervyn Clapham—very nice to see you and hope you've made a note of our next meeting scheduled for 21st October. Also, we've two new recruits from Region 3, Dave Lindley and Bob Peach. Hope you both enjoyed yourselves and again look forward to seeing you on the 21st.

Those of us who worked in FED and at NCR Leeds have especially fond memories of Neville Smith and latterly, speaking personally, it was always a delight when Neville found that he was able to attend the Fellowship Luncheons therefore an especially warm welcome was extended to Margaret Smith on this her first luncheon and we do hope that she will wish to come to others.



*The Ladies of Region 2E in May.
Amy Glenn, Margaret Proctor-Smith, Audrey Stringer,
Sheila Davidson, & Maureen Burdis*

REGION 2W

from Charles Southall

The first meeting of 2W Fellowship Members was held at the Grange Country Club Heswall, on Thursday 21 May. We had a number of wives and guests totalling forty five in all.

Several new members were present and guests who had not previously attended. Among these was Harold Willey and his wife Margaret and Allan Knagg whose wife is also called Margaret. They have both now retired fully and were made very welcome by many of their former friends and colleagues from Chester and Manchester. Margaret Riding came as a guest with her husband. She was a former installation operator from Preston and later in Manchester. She had a lot of nice things to say about 'Postscript', from where she says she gets the only news she ever has of all those with whom she enjoyed so many happy years with N.C.R. We had quite a large contingent of members from North Lancashire. We had not met Carole Latham before. Fred Duckworth with his wife Elizabeth has not been for a while and Gordon Jenkin and Beattie, Bill and Pat Rodberd and Frank and Elsie Ellison. They travel a long way for just a few hours. In fact Frank brought his caravan for a few days holiday, to fit in with our lunch.



*Region 2W Lunch in May
Regional Organiser, Charles Southall, centre*

The next meeting date has been changed to FRIDAY 23 OCTOBER. Everyone had a wonderful day and the meal was especially good. We missed a lot of the regulars who were otherwise engaged. Ernie Giles, Audrey Pye and George Daniels for instance. I hope that they may all be able to attend in October. I look forward to seeing everyone then.

REGION 3

from Harry Hardacre

The first meeting of our year was held once again at the Birmingham office, Sheldon on 29th April 1998, 51 members attending. Unfortunately, this could be our last lunch there as the office is scheduled for closing at some time in the future. We have always enjoyed the lunches there and shall miss them. Also no longer being to meet old friends who are still serving with the company will be sad, though these are becoming fewer with the years, most now working from other offices.

We were able to greet an old friend of mine, Doug Rawkins, at the meeting and who explained to the members present the new organisation of NCR. His talk was enjoyed by all and helped members "keep up".

Best wishes from Region 3 to all our other members of the Fellowship and hoping that good health will be enjoyed by all.



Region 3 Ladies - Sheldon

REGION 4

from Tony Poil

As I explained in my last report, because of the extensive building work at Marylebone Road, including the relocation of the Staff Restaurant, we were obliged to go elsewhere for our October meeting. Ted Young and I decided to have a joint meeting of Regions 4 and 5, so on October 29th some 90 brave souls ventured into the salubrious surroundings of Kings Cross Station to meet at the Caledonian Banqueting Rooms.

This venue had been recommended to us by one of our members, Joan O'Farrell and I must say here how grateful I am to her. However it was a bit of a leap in the dark and on the day I certainly had my fingers firmly crossed! But all went very well and everyone enjoyed an excellent hot and cold buffet meal.

For our April meeting we were hoping to be able to return to Marylebone Road but the building work seems far from complete so we returned to the Caledonian Rooms on April 29th - this time just Region 4 alone, but we still managed an attendance of 70. I was able to introduce our new Secretary, John Nash, who has taken over from Betty Campbell and is already beginning to rival her efficiency.

We plan to meet again in October as usual, but the date and place remain to be settled. We hope of course to be back at Marylebone Road by then, but the location of the new Staff Restaurant on the

sixth floor could present a problem. Going up in the lift is OK, but as ex-Safety Officer Ted Young has pointed out, what happens if there is a fire alarm during our meeting and 100 pensioners, some not as agile as they once were, have to get down six flights of stairs! We hope to find a solution (parachutes?) so, members of Region 4, don't give up hope!



Roy Gardner, Jean Agate, Joan O'Farrell & Peter Reynolds at the Caledonian Rooms

REGION 5

from Ted Young

Written in pencil [before I typed it! Ed.], as it is easier to correct than biro - always presuming one can be found. As Tony Poil said in the winter magazine, he always seems to be reporting events in the wrong time frame. Well it's catching but I guess he caught it from me - poor chap!

As Tony said; Regions 4, 5 and 8 had to find alternative venues for our Autumn lunch last year but it fortunately worked out very well. Tony, and then I, took the recommendation of young Joan O'Farrell that we look at the Caledonian Rooms. Joan visits the rooms regularly where she trips the light fantastic. She hasn't any arthritis either so Ted Cluff must be right!

By the way, for those that can remember them, the hands in the sales brochures of 3000's and 31's were Joan's. She was frequently asked to pose at the Earnshaw Street studios but only her hands got into the picture. I was once told that my own hands were useless, looking more like "a bunch of chopped off bananas". Oh, those Art Directors can be cruel.

I enjoyed the pictures of 225 Tottenham Court Road in the last issue. Although, as a child, I frequently visited the area, having an aunt round the corner, I cannot recall the premises.



Then



..... and now!

However, one of my many bosses, Bill Hallams, Stores Foreman, told us several stories of the move and of the conditions in the new HO - amusing but most not fit for a family journal!

I am pleased that my report in No 19 brought a renewal of a contact long lost, that of Elsie Piper, ex Personnel Resources. Unfortunately, Christmas was fraught with personal problems and this is really the first she will have as an acknowledgement. Sorry Elsie but things have improved.

May I join others in London in congratulating John Nash in the way in which he has picked up the Secretary's reins. He must be thanked for the way in which he helped Tony and me organise the combined 4 and 5 lunch; a declared success with 84 members and guests present. Let us hope that the spring lunch is equally successful.



George Bradley & Edith Pritchard



Len Goodrich, Ted Young & Oliver Williams

REGION 6

from Alan Hutchins

Our next function will be lunch at the Queens Hotel, Southsea, on Wednesday 7th October

REGION 7

from Jim Kembery

As our next meeting is not until the 2nd September at the Aztec Hotel, Bristol, I have little to report this issue. What it has allowed me to do, however, is to give everyone lots of advanced warning - put it in your diaries now!

I also have a picture taken at last year's meeting of some of our Welsh members; Bob Horwood, David Jones, John Watts and Colin Chard (though how David Jones can claim to be Welsh is questionable - he was born in Gloucester!).

I have just heard that Ken Bloxham is joining our Region. He joined the company in London, working with Stan Sparrey and, after Sales Training, moved to Bristol.



(l to r:) Bob Horwood, David Jones, John Watts and Colin Chard.

REGIONS 8 & 8a

from Des Woodall

Since my last report, Head Office at NCR has been undergoing a considerable facelift - so much so that we were unable to hold our Autumn Region 8 lunch at our usual venue. Nevertheless, an alternative meeting place was organised at the Firs Banqueting Suite in North London which was attended by a stalwart number of members from the Region, who enjoyed a super lunch in very convivial surroundings.

More recently a similarly enjoyable occasion took place in April at the Caledonian Banqueting Rooms, near Kings Cross, where we joined our good friends in Region 5.

Region 8a's lunch was held on 20th May in Newmarket at the Bedford Lodge Hotel.



Region 8a's John Limn, Gerard Cutler, Denis Gill at work!

I am very sad to mention the loss of two very good NCR friends - Joyce Newman (née Joyce Johns 'Johnnie'), who was my first boss in the Accountants Department at Head Office in April 1940 when I started work there as a young lad, died just before Christmas in a residential home for the elderly. Also, Paul de Carle, with whom I worked closely in the 1970's and 80's died in February. Paul had a distinguished career with the Company, and worked in many parts of the country. He is particularly remembered for his successes in the Carlisle area. 'de Carle of Carlisle here' were his famous opening words when calling Head Office from his territory. Both these dedicated NCR employees will be particularly missed.

REGION 9

from Tom Farmer

On the 1st June we held our Summer lunch at the Great Western Hotel and were able to welcome Tony Poil as our guest. During coffee Tony gave us a most interesting update on NCR's progress in re-establishing itself in the market place and made no attempt to make light of the difficulties faced in overcoming



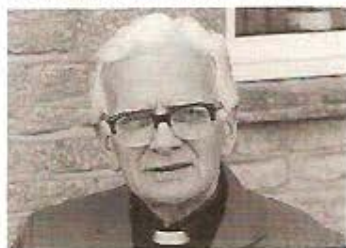
(l to r:) Maureen Webber, Pete Swannell & Gladys King
at the Great Western Hotel

current fierce competition. Sadly our numbers were down due to members minor health problems, unexpected in June but perhaps the immunity built up will result in bumper numbers at our December 7th meeting!

(At this point it would be appropriate to announce that Tom has taken Holy Orders [albeit temporarily] The Dridport News let the cat out of the bag by revealing that Tom is a stalwart of some 14 years with The Symondsby Village Players and has recently appeared in Derek Benfield's "Beyond a Joke". And I quote from the critics report:

"He was sure the visiting vicar would die and subjected the bumbling cleric - Tom Farmer, great in cycle clips and panama hat— to some hilarious indignities involving a pondweed covered corpse which is carried off in a wheelbarrow. The vicar duly dies and has his turn in the wheelbarrow....."

Oscar nominations are not expected! - Ed.)



The "Reverend" Tom Farmer

REGION 10 - Ireland

The Republic - Allison Perry

Our annual Christmas lunch was held on the 9th December at the Rochestown Lodge, Dunlaoire. It was our largest gathering to date and we all agreed that the food and crack was to everybody's liking. We were delighted to welcome, for the first time to our festive gathering, Donald Weaver and William Tracy. Donald retired to the south of Ireland having been based in Iran. He is kept very busy looking after his prize cattle which are the only ones of that breed in Ireland - thanks for making the long journey, Don. Gerry Mullen joined again from Sligo.

It is with great sadness that we learn of the death of John Murphy on the 23rd of December. John and Nora attended our gathering every year. John was the Technical Manager for Ireland until his retirement some years ago. All the members of the Fellowship would like to extend their deepest sympathy to Nora, his wife and best friend. Maurice Bowe also died last year; he had so enjoyed last year's lunch and will be sadly missed by his wife and son Paul.

We would like to wish our Northern colleagues a very peaceful and happy 1998. Although Jack Martin and I failed in our efforts to bring together North and South perhaps we will be more successful this year?

The North - Jack Martin

Our Christmas lunch was held at the usual hostelry - Robinsons. Unfortunately Sally English developed a bad cold at the last moment and could not be with us. However, Muriel Mahon did enjoy the individual attention of all us chaps!

Victor is still having some heart problems but keeps going. We were also glad to see Alf Lucas back and looking very well. Ronnie was welcomed for the first time but Colin Hughes couldn't make it sending his best regards.

Note. You will note that the Ireland reports do not appear under Jack Sale's familiar "byline". I am sorry to tell you that Jack is not at all well at present and I feel that I speak on behalf of the entire Fellowship in sending him our best wishes. Ed.



Christmas Lunch at Robinsons (l to r:) Alf Lucas,
Ronnie McGowan, John Bates, Muriel Mahon, John Moth,
Himself, Jimmy Thompson, Victor Frizzell

From Noel Shaw

Noel writes to say that he is pleased to be in e-mail contact with an ex-colleague of the 70's and would be delighted to hear from others in the same fashion he can be contacted on nsa.shaw@virgin.net

Noel joined Support, Liverpool, in 1965 when George Daniels was DM. He worked in NCR Manchester and finally in NCR Sheldon as Project Manager, with an earlier stint as CASE manager.

He retired to Stratford upon Avon and lives not far from Pat and Sid Anderson, also NCR Liverpool in the 60s!

He is proposing that a directory of Fellowship members e-mail addresses should be compiled and that this could, initially be published in PostScript. This would only be a first step but, out of this, all sorts of other exciting possibilities are there, including an NCR Fellowship-supported Web site for our members. Who knows, we might even get the company involved in our activities one day, certainly one Director has shown some interest already.

The first step therefore is to let the Editor have your details [if you would like to take part]

LATE NEWS

In May, NCR lost its northern Europe vice-president of computer systems, Malcolm Roberts, to one of its systems house customers, Kalamazoo Computer Group.

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 on retirement
Mrs D N Hatfield	1970	07 yrs 10 mths	87	11 October 1997	*Information Required* *
Mr R Dafforn	1985	29 yrs 01 mths	77	29 October 1997	Display Foreman - Brent
Mrs N Bruce	1984	05 yrs 10 mths	72	24 November 1997	Admin Assistant - Jersey
Mr E G Jones	1980	31 yrs 06 mths	82	06 December 1997	Accounts - Head Office
Mr P W Smith	1984	37 yrs 08 mths	71	11 December 1997	Order Analyst - Brent
Mr J B Murphy	1988	39 yrs 02 mths	72	23 December 1997	Engineer - Dublin
Mr A Burchett	1990	29 yrs 06 mths	67	29 December 1997	Financial System - St. Albans
Mr R Da Gama Pinto	1985	08 yrs 11 mths	66	07 January 1998	Admin Assistant - St. Albans
Mr E A Doherty	1989	37 yrs 06 mths	73	13 January 1998	Engineer - Leeds
Mr K H Thorne	1984	36 yrs 04 mths	73	13 January 1998	Engineer - South London
Mr L Whittett	1985	33 yrs 02 mths	72	15 January 1998	Senior Instructor - UK Tec, Dundee
Mr N N Smith	1985	32 yrs 11 mths	66	07 February 1998	Engineer - Leeds
Mr C T Rawlings	1986	48 yrs 10 mths	76	13 February 1998	Engineer - Brent
Mr R A McGhie	1986	11 yrs	77	17 February 1998	Clerk, Finchley
Mr S P De Carle	1981	31 yrs 05 mths	80	19 February 1998	See Below
Mrs E M Ferry	1975	10 yrs 02 mths	79	25 February 1998	Clerk - Greenford
Mrs R M Fraser	1973	10 yrs	33	28 February 1998	*Information Required* *
Mr H Davis	1966	31 yrs 11 mths	92	20 March 1998	See Below
Mr J R Claydon	1985	36 yrs 11 mths	73	28 March 1998	Instructor - UK Tec, Brent
Mr P F Sayer	1977	39 yrs 02 mths	76	13 April 1998	Retail Systems - Birmingham
Mr H Barnes	1975	10 yrs 05 mths	87	29 April 1998	Security - NCR 1000
Mr J Cheek	1987	32 yrs		27 May 1998	Engineer - Bristol

* *"Information required". Please contact the editor if you can fill in the gaps.*

P.W. Smith

Peter Walter Smith (always known affectionately in NCR as "PW") died suddenly at his home in Selsey, West Sussex. He was 71. After leaving the Navy in 1947, "PW" was taken on at NCR by W.R. Hart working in the original Office Services department at Head Office with people like A.V. Smith (Ex Remington) Eric Eaton, Freddie Rowlands, Bert Hyde and Wally Rawlins, all "long since gone". The Department progressively changed its name to today's grand title of "Logistics" being located at NCR 1000, Greenford & Brent from whence he retired in 1984.

"PW" held various management positions, and was for a time Executive Assistant to the Managing Director (S.J. Conway) in the 1960's. He was well known in the company for his liaison with Sales, Field Engineering and all Administration Departments countrywide with his constant cheerful and friendly disposition. He was a meticulous person, great to work with and a very dear friend, he will be sadly missed.

Gordon Trow
December 1997

Note: Peter's Picture appeared on Page 4 Winter '97 edition.

Paul De Carle

I have referred to the sad passing of Paul de Carle in my Region 8 & 8a report, but, having known him for nearly all of the years he was with NCR, I have been asked to write a short history of his life with the Company.

Paul was a Chartered Secretary and Accountant (ACIS and AACCA) before he joined the Company in 1950 as a trainee adding machine salesman. This in itself was a most courageous step to take - with his qualifications he was assured of a decent career in industry or commerce - but then Paul always believed in his ability to persuade like-minded business people to buy products built precisely for the purpose of assisting and improving accounting procedures. How right he was! His career with NCR is not untypical of others, but the tenacity and dedication he applied to it must surely be unique.

He became an adding machine salesman and then an accounting machine salesman in Carlisle in 1950, remaining in that lovely area until 1962, when he was made up to Territory Manager in Liverpool. In 1964 he transferred as Territory Manager in London before becoming a Products Manager in Manchester in 1968. In 1971 he again moved to London, where he was appointed a District Manager. He later spent two years as a Field Manager and for the last 4 years before retiring he was in the Marketing Division in London. Paul won many awards - 8 CPC's, SQC's (Supply Quota Club) every year until 1964 - in fact he won the first SQC and the W.R. Woods prize in 1954. In 1960 he won the Director's Prize for best all-round performance.

As a family man, however, I know Paul would regard the best thing he ever did was to marry Joan (in 1952) and together raise a family of three girls and a boy. Paul was 80 years old when he died, and lived the last 27 years of his life in St. Albans in Hertfordshire.

Des Woodall

Howard Davis

Howard Davis had a long and distinguished career with NCR. He joined the Remington Cash Register company as a salesman in 1930 and which was taken over by NCR in 1932. Mrs Muriel Davis, his daughter-in-law, and to whom I am indebted for this information, tells me that Howard was a top salesman for many years running and believes that he achieved CPC every year of his employment! She tells me that she has found a number of his CPC certificates; one for 1964 records his 22nd year of membership. One plaque awarded to him in June 1939 records 314% of quota.

War years were spent with the RAF, seconded to the Ministry of Aircraft Production, rejoining NCR as soon as possible after. An interesting visit in the late 50's was to East Berlin to visit the old Krupp/NCR factory only to confirm that it was totally destroyed. Many trips to Dayton to study latest developments ensued. One such occasion involved taking a party of retailers there, one of whom was a Joseph Cohen, to whom, before the war, he had sold four cash registers for his little shops in the East End. (Cohen was, of course, the founder of the supermarket giant, Tesco's).

Howard finally retired in 1965 as Assistant Director, Multiple Stores Division and enjoyed many happy years of retirement in the company of his beloved wife Peggy, who died in 1992. Although they lost their only child, Barry, in 1979, they were blessed with three grandchildren and six great-grandchildren.

Mrs Muriel Davis reminds us that it was her husband, Barry, who is mentioned above and who also worked for NCR from 1950 until 1963. Also that Howard's great-great nephews are Mark, Andrew and Philip Lemmon, sons of the late Derek Lemmon (also NCR), these young men all successfully carrying the NCR banner.



Ernest Harvey

We are indebted to John Hill for bringing to our attention the death of Ernest Harvey aged 85. Harvey was not an NCR man but deserves a place in our archives. He had a genius for figures which he used to revolutionise the reporting of election results in the 50's and 60's.

After the Second World War he was Financial Director of press Association Reuters. During the elections in both the 50's and 60's he was able to give a minute by minute service beating the rival organisation, Extel, in speed and volume of information.

In 1964 he introduced an NCR 315 and, at a touch of a button, the country could learn about swings and forecasts. The 315 was too big to be housed at PA's HQ in Fleet Street but a mile away; the results telephoned back to the office causing delays of a minute and a half.

The 1966 election included a teleprinter link with a delay of only half a minute. The pace was too hot for Extel who bowed out and left election coverage to Ernest Harvey and PA!

Space does not permit more details of Harvey's life which was full of innovation but the above account will, I hope awaken Basil Garsed's memory, and those who worked with him in the Training Department at that time.



Harvey (circled) in the Press Association newsroom, London, on general election night in February 1950

From Fred Duckworth

On the 4pm news on Classic FM 12th January this year a report (not another one!) stated that people on low incomes had a tendency towards obesity, high blood pressure and alcoholism as well as suffering more than their fair share of general ailments.

As an (apparently) fit 77 year old who has allegedly had slightly high blood pressure for over thirty years, is slightly overweight and likes a drink, I have resolved to increase my income immediately!

(Regards to all the lovely people I met during my 38 years with NCR)

STOP PRESS STOP PRESS STOP PRESS

The Editor received a phone call from Jack Sale just before we went to press. As many of you will know, Jack has been very ill and has spent many weeks in hospital — he is home again now and has been overwhelmed by the extent of his fan mail — over 80 contacts by card, phone and letter!

He did not realise how many friends he had and is concerned that he will not be able to reply to each of you personally.

I told him that POSTSCRIPT was about to be published and that I would thank everyone for him. (If you would like to contact Jack, his address can be found on the back page of PS under 'Region 10 - Ireland')

CONTRIBUTIONS

NCR Customer Profile No 1.

from Jim Kembery

An interesting business enterprise run by one of NCR's customers in Bristol, the West of England Sack Company, was "returnable sacks". They used the C13000 and later, C1 31/32 kit and were one of Jim Kembery's customers. He writes; "Today we have record harvests, high yielding crops of both wheat and barley and massive on-farm storage facilities, this combined with the bulk transport of grain in 25 tonne tipper lorries. Yet, only a comparatively few years ago things were very different. On-farm storage in those days meant a thatched rick or a dutch barn full of sheaves of corn waiting to be threshed. Once done, a large proportion of the grain was packed in "returnable sacks".

The West of England Sack Co. provided a supply of clean returnable sacks; their Bristol office controlled the destination and return of thousands of sacks. Today's problems with exchange pallets pales into insignificance compared with the sheer volume of sacks then in circulation. Each sack was heavy duty and not designed for today's legislation because, when full they contained one and a half hundredweights (about 75 kilos) each. They were made of hessian or woven jute - no plastic in those days. When full they had to be hand sewn to close down the top, this procedure producing an "ear" at each top corner which provided a simple grip for handling the sack.

The use of these bags continued well into the 60's, there being several million in circulation at any one time. They were accommodated in a Port of Bristol store at Avonmouth when not out on hire, their movement being controlled by an army of young (and not so young) ladies. One of their tasks was the recording of movements and invoicing of hire charges, in handwritten ledgers before the days of mechanisation. Sacks were charged out at 10 shillings each, thus ensuring their return. And, when they were returned, cleaned for reissue, the byproduct from the cleaning process being sold to animal feed manufacturers.

The advent of combine harvesters meant that the hired sack trade declined rapidly and the company which had depended for so long on the grain transport industry closed for ever.

I am indebted to the Bristol Corn Trade Guild for information about this former NCR customer. Has anyone else a story to tell about an NCR user that they used to deal with?

From Maureen Coe

So sorry I missed seeing my friends at the last Region Meeting. I have a job which makes getting away mid-week difficult. While I was away on holiday I came across an old cash register in an antiques shop and thought that other members might have fun identifying it - don't ask me I don't know! Thank you Ted and John for all you do for the Fellowship.



GERRY COLE - A LIFE - PART 2

I was released from the forces feeling very disheartened since I had been looking forward so much to being trained at the best PE college, Loughborough College, in the UK I had been at home for some weeks having done nothing about contacting Borough Road, and was feeling very despondent, when my father who must have had a bad day turned to me and said "Its about time you pulled your finger and got a job" I was so taken aback that I didn't know quite how to respond, and in my dilemma I suddenly thought of uncle Fred in Cardiff. The following day I went to Cardiff to see Dusty and having poured my heart out to him he said "Why don't you work for National selling adding machines like Graham?" It seemed to be a solution to my problem, and with that he picked up the phone and spoke to someone at HO and arranged for an interview the following day. I duly arrived at the front door no less, well let's face it I was going to be one of their star salesmen! I presented myself to the receptionist explaining that I had come for an interview for a sales job with adding machines. She asked me to wait for a moment while she contacted someone. I was soon to meet a very well dressed gentleman (I believe him to have been Mr Pateman who expressed his regret that the person who was to interview me was not available, and since I had travelled from South Wales he would arrange for someone else to see me; I was led to a room towards the top of the building, the 4th floor I believe, and was met by a very charming man who listened to me and asked a lot of questions. The gentleman introduced himself as M.E. Powell, and on completion of the interview excused himself leaving the room. He returned a short while later with a fearsome looking man towering above me, and he was introduced to me as Mr Webb. Mr Webb told me that he felt that it would be in my best interests if I first learned how the adding machine worked, and in that way I would be better equipped to sell the product to a potential customer I could be trained as a mechanic and then transfer later to the adding m/c sales force. This would also give an introduction to the company and allow me time to mature in the organisation. I believed him, thus my career with The National Cash Register Co. was to commence.

THAT IS ANOTHER STORY.

I wonder how many memories will be stimulated by the following, and how many stories will unfold.

You will recall that having met C S Webb I was invited to join the Engineering Division and when asked when could I start, I responded that I was immediately available. I was then handed back to Mr Pateman who refunded my train fare plus a single fare in order to return the following Wednesday, with instructions to bring a suitcase and to be prepared for a lengthy stay in London. I was advised that I shouldn't worry about accommodation as "National" had accommodation available. I duly presented myself, at the side door this time, since I was politely told that only the Chairman and customers were expected to use the front entrance. I was instructed to leave my suitcase downstairs and was escorted to the 6th floor where I was introduced to a gentleman called Fred Weston. It turned out later that Fred had worked with Fred Miller from Cardiff many years before, possibly in the car industry. What took place then had me a little puzzled for a short while, but I accepted it as part of my indoctrination into the company. Fred presented me with a piece of flat steel, a scribe, a punch, a hammer, two files, and a nut with the instruction to fit the nut into the centre of the steelplate. What that exercise had to do with my learning all about adding machines escaped me. However the task presented no problem bearing in mind the numerous occasions I had been required to assist my

father in various jobs. He was after all a skilled blacksmith, farrier and engineering fitter, and I had learned a lot from him. I soon presented the piece to Fred who took it from me and painstakingly examined it this way and that, holding it to the light and shaking it vigorously. He gave a mild gesture of satisfaction, and walked away. He returned shortly and handed to me a flat rectangular piece of machinery, which I was to find out later was a lid counter from a cash register, with the suggestion that I should spend a few minutes examining it, and when I was satisfied that I understood it I was to strip it. I did so and carefully laid out the pieces so that if required I could re-assemble it without any problem. I was sitting back and looking around me when Fred spotted my inactivity and promptly gathered everything up into a small pile and told me to put it back together. For the moment I was horrified but within a matter of a few minutes the whole thing was back together. I was of course being tested for aptitude, a little like putting a bicycle pump back together when I first joined the RASC. By that time it was time to "clock off" and Fred introduced me to an engineer who was to take me to my digs, where I was to live during my stay in London. I was not unduly concerned since I had heard of the company flat which was only a short distance from HO — where then was I to stay? — none other than Ovington Gardens in Kensington — I will never in my life forget that place. I had already some experience of barrack room life, and having come from a comfortable home I never dreamed that I should ever be required to live that way again. It was known as the London Reception Centre, and consisted of two or three old Victorian houses each about 4 stories high, where each room had been divided into two or more cubicles, each contained two or more army style cots, and each cot had its own locker. Some rooms had the luxury of a shared wardrobe. There was a WC-cum-washroom on each floor, and some had the luxury of a bath. The basement housed the kitchens and dining room!!! The whole place was run by a "Matron" and four very nice live-in young ladies. I think that almost every guest (???) fell in love with one or the other of those young ladies at some time or other during their stay there. In fact a real romance did blossom and one of the girls did marry an engineer who later became a great character in FED. Rationing of food was still carried out at that establishment and we were all required to carry our butter and sugar with us down to the dining room, in a jam jar at each meal time, and once a month we were issued with a new pot of jam. Had it not been for the light hearted fellowship of the lads I met there I don't think that I would have been prepared to stick it. It was on my very first evening that I first met Jim Kembery and Syd Anderson. I had seen them at head office huddled over a Postronic (214) with Johnny Harris and I knew that they were important because they — unlike every one else, were wearing white shop coats. They both immediately befriended me and put me at my ease, and when I told them that Fred Weston wanted me to give an explanation of how an adding counter worked, Syd pulled out a pad and pencil and proceeded to explain in great detail how the lid counter worked and the basic principle of all adding mechanisms, and gave his assurances that he felt that I would have no problems. I was suitably impressed, and since that time always held a special regard for Syd. I was to remind him of the incident some years later when, as a Centre Manager myself, Syd was to become my Regional Manager.

During my time on the 6th floor I was to meet and remember so many people who became successful in their various fields, many of them became managers. It was almost like a 1950s club. I remember S. Bates very clearly down on the adding machine section (why wasn't I there?) stamping out parts that he had designed to make the adding m/c do something that a zealous salesman had told a customer that it would do. As far as Mr. Bates was concerned nothing was impossible, and many of us were to suffer as a result of some of his ingenious modifications. It was there also that I first met Reg Sherwood and Bert Newman on the

3000 section — and of course, dear old Fred Weston. In those days the 100 class was as much a mystery to Fred as it was to the rest of us. All except Jack Wright. Do you remember the trouble we had with that pence indicator? Jack was determined to find a solution to the problem and I was given the task to make up a number of modification kits that he had designed. They did work, though to the best of my knowledge was never given approval. I took the liberty to make a few for myself and they got me out of several difficult situations. (Thanks to Jack). At the bottom of the workshop was Old Dusty on the test bench. Dusty could make any cash register add wrong at will. And if you fell foul of him you could guarantee that any machine sent down for testing would be repeatedly returned with his gruff voice saying "It's adding wrong", until you had "learned your lesson". Beyond Dusty and high on his dais sat the formidable Percy Townsend overseeing everything and missing nothing. It was reputed that Percy was the only man in NCR who could span the regular 2000 keyboard with one hand and remove it from the machine. But I knew another in Bristol. (Any comments?) Working at a bench immediately in front of Percy was the very wily and very popular character Frank R. I understood at that time that Percy kept him there so that he could keep his eye on him. (no offence Frank I know that you must certainly have tales to tell about that era). Not far from Frank and nearly always covered with black graphite grease, and surrounded by hundreds of RZ000 counter parts was Len Hurst. Len of course became Centre Manager in one of the London offices some years later. And then there was "Strawberry" from the degreasing booth. He was always covered in paraffin and blue ink. Other friends from the 6th floor at that time included Harold Waddingham. Many will remember that he spent some idyllic years in the sun in the Guernsey office. I was to meet him on a number of occasions both on and off the island (therein are yet more tales). I also spent some time training with another engineer who finally became Divisional Director, and when I was to meet him years later was quick to remind me that he was a "changed person". Nevertheless, I still remember the antics we all got up to. Yet another was Keith ... (Watts)..... who also became a Centre Manager. I also have a recollection of seeing Gordon Sillet there but I believe that he was working on the "big stuff" I was to meet Gordon years later when he moved down to Wales to run the Swansea office, and so it goes on, and on I wonder if any of your readers remember me from those happy days !!!!! I was finally returned to the field as a fully fledged "cash register mechanic", and there are still more tales to tell. Items to follow:-

1. Trip to the factory in Japan
2. Our preparation for retirement & the retirement seminar.
3. Home and garden.
4. Our trip down the French canals to the Mediterranean and subsequent adventures.

THIS MAGAZINE IS PUBLISHED FOR YOUR ENJOYMENT.
ANY MISTAKES ARE PUT THERE FOR A PURPOSE. WE
TRY TO PUBLISH SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE AND
SOME PEOPLE ARE ALWAYS LOOKING FOR MISTAKES!!

1943

BONNY BETTY'S BIRTHDAY.



BETTY "THE GIRL WHOM MOST MEN ADORE"
WHO ISSUES PARTS FROM THE 3000 STORE
YOU MAY WANT A SCREW OR CAM OR SPRING
SO SHE HOPS ROUND THE BACK AND DIVES DOWN A BIN
BEFORE YOU CAN MUMBLE "CHINCHOPPER CHIN"
SHE'S BACK TO INFORM "WE AINT GOT THE DARN THING!"

FROM MONDAY MORN TILL FRIDAY NIGHT
SHE KEEPS THE 4TH FLOOR IN A STATE OF DELIGHT
AND WHEN ON THE SATURDAY DOES NOT APPEAR
THE PLACE IS DEPRESSING - THE CHAPS ARE ALL QUEER
BUT NOW SHE IS 16 - THE TIME IS QUITE NEAR
WHEN SHE'LL WORK A FULL WEEK AND GIVE US MORE CHEER

HER EYES ARE BLUE, HER HAIR IN NEAT CURLS
CHEEKS LIKE A SUNSET AND TEETH LIKE PEARLS
SHE IS SO PLEASANT, DELIGHTFUL AND GAY
AND ANY GOOD TURN SHE WILL TRY TO RE-PAY
WE ALL CONCERNED TRUST THIS WILL CONVEY

OUR BEST WISHES
FOR YOUR
16TH BIRTHDAY!

S.Q.
A.B.
≡

One of Betty Ross's Birthday Cards!

Pensioner Profile

Sister ANN GATE

The village of Kirkbride on the Cumbria Solway plain is quiet, unspoiled and typical of the area. The very last house at the eastern end of the village, on the edge of a now disused RAF airfield, has lovely views of North Lakeland and is the home of Anne Gate - Sister Ann Gate to her many NCR colleagues and friends. As Ann looks out of her living room window and sees High Pike and Braefell in the Caldbeck Fells she says "I am very lucky, I'm reasonably well, I have lots of good friends and neighbours, I have the Solway Firth on one side and Lakeland on the other. I am very lucky"



Sister Ann Gate - March 1998

Ann was born on a nearby farm, Shaw Hill, into a family of three boys, two of whom stayed to farm, the other, like Ann, moved to London. She discovered her vocation while nursing her mother and father as a young girl in the 30's but the decision to leave Cumbria for nurses training was a big one, helped by the possibility of one of the farming brothers marrying and the nearness of the other brother, who lived in Charlton, to the hospital in Greenwich where she was to do her training. She vividly remembers working among the very poor in Greenwich who looked up to visiting nurses as "Angels" come to relieve distress. The "Angels" however were not overpaid - £30 PA and 'found' for 1st year students!

After achieving SRN 'status' and before completing her midwifery exam Ann paid the price of working in the East End and became ill with TB Peritonitis. Antibiotics were not available then and she was not expected to survive, but, 10 months in a TB hospital in Lowestoft and a further 9 months convalescence saw Ann well enough apply to the Royal College of Nursing (RCN) for industrial work and this led to a post with Cossor Radio in Highbury where she gained her Occupational Health Nurse qualification and where she worked during the war years.

Ann's office at Cossors' was next to the Chief Engineers; he was beginning to experiment with TV and great was the excitement when the first pictures were produced. The war stopped TV work and all efforts were concentrated on Radio Control and Radar, or RDF as it was known then. The Chief Engineer worked closely with Watson Watt and there were those who thought he should have had equal credit for the development of radar.

Leaving Cossor after the war to catch up on current medical practice Ann joined the private wing of University College Hospital as a 'Special Nurse'. Special Nurses worked one to one with a

patient, some famous. She worked with Vivien Leigh for a time and it was there that she met Mr DAF Donald, then Chairman of The National Cash Register Company UK. "I knew Sister Williams, my predecessor at NCR, we'd met at the RCN. When Mr Donald - he wasn't my patient - heard of my experience with Cossor he asked if I'd like to succeed Sister Williams who was due to retire in a year or so. Eventually he invited me to apply and of course I did, staying with the company for 14 very happy years. NCR was just beginning to be involved with electronic computers and I remember visiting a classroom on one occasion to find all of the young men far too engrossed in studying to be aware of who had entered the room. 'This is strange, this is something new' I thought. 'Why am I being ignored?'"

Ann did have an opportunity to get 'Hands On' a computer by attending one of the appreciation courses for non technical staff held in the evenings and week-ends, she found it all very exciting, but bemusing, and was glad to return to her own speciality in the Medical Department where she was in charge of four NCR locations: HO, Elstree, Boreham Wood and Brent. Four nurses were employed with a doctor on call. "The staff all knew me in uniform and I was very happy doing my job which entailed being in contact with the management, Mr Donald, Mr Robilliard, Mr Poil and many others. Numbers of overseas visitors called at the office for a chat between meetings, Mr Haines, for instance, brought in his young son to have the stitches removed he'd had inserted in Japan. That was the beginning of a friendship which still continues. I recall meeting an American visitor in the corridor one day accompanied by one of the staff, he stopped and said to his colleague 'Sister Gate has more friends from overseas than anyone else in NCR!'"

When Mr Donald retired I got to know Gordon Shingleton when he returned to the UK. He and Mrs Shingleton used to visit me and I visited them in Italy. I still hear from them and from lots of other friends, and from my nurses, most of whom are grandmothers now!

Ann decided to leave NCR when her brother became ill and could no longer run the farm, which, sadly, had to be sold but, luckily, Mount Pleasant became available and they moved in. Ann to be housekeeper, she was 60 then.

"I still keep my connection with the farm. It always had the use of Coastal Marshland for grazing cattle, sheep were not allowed. We kept fifteen 'Stints', as the grazing allotments are called, when the farm was sold, and I draw rent from them. The marshland is a very remarkable place, a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) and part of the Solway 'Ramsar' Site (a place of international significance for migratory birds) thousands of waders, ducks and geese winter on the marshes and mudflats, it is a wonderful place to live"

Ann lives a very quiet and orderly life now. she reads a lot and has plenty of visitors to talk about what is happening in the outside world and, of course there is TV. She still hears from NCR people, among whom are Margaret Lamb and Mr & Mrs Ted Way - Margaret was a Head Office Receptionist - and Harry Redington, who joined Personnel at H O at the time Ann joined the Medical Department. "I like hearing from my friends and send my best wishes to all of them."

Ann continues to attend the luncheons in Carlisle during May and November where she enjoys meeting old friends and an opportunity to look back on old times.

Jo Leighton



GLOBETROTTERS



Mike Hughes writes from

NEW ZEALAND

After leaving NCR marketing I spent some time as a self employed consultant and then became a teacher in one of Her Majesty's prisons. Let me hasten to say, I got to go home at night! After several years of teaching under somewhat stressful conditions, I decided to take early retirement and emigrate to New Zealand to be with my son and his family. I've now been here for quite some time and I have no regrets about leaving UK.

New Zealand is a breathtakingly beautiful place to live. The scenery is incredible and there is everything to see from seascapes and lakes to snow covered mountains and thermal activity. You can even go bungee jumping which I can tell you from personal experience is the greatest thrill. The streams and lakes teem with fish. The last fish I caught was a 5lb rainbow trout. There is big game fishing in the Bay of Islands and there is beach casting and sea fishing. For the more sporting minded you can go walking in the bush, there is deer stalking the whole year round and there are plenty of high standard golf courses as well as inexpensive 9-holers. You might even want to watch the world's best rugby team in action! On the cultural side, there are theatres, art galleries, museums, symphony orchestras etc. in all the main centres and many overseas artists tour the country. In addition, mad cow disease is unknown and New Zealand wines rank with the best in the world.

I can see hills covered with native bush from the windows of my house and yet I'm only 10 minutes drive from the centre of Wellington. There is also a train which takes about 15 minutes and runs every half hour. For longer travel there is a good rail service in both islands and frequent air travel to every part. There are car hire companies in most towns and some have motor campers for hire. The present rate of exchange is \$1NZ=£0.35 and as the cost of living is much lower than that in UK, your NCR pension will be worth more. As an example, 91 octane non-leaded petrol is £0.32 per litre, butter is £0.70 per kilogram and a loaf of bread will also cost you £0.70 so picnics on the beach are not expensive.

If any NCR pensioner would like more information you could write to me c/o the Editor. Don't forget, the seasons are reversed so a holiday in the New Zealand summer /English winter would mean you could enjoy three summers in a row. That's really something to consider and just maybe you might like the thought of eating your Christmas dinner on the beach - on a barby of course! I'll tell you, this is a great place to settle down in or just for the holiday of a lifetime. If I sound ecstatic, I won't apologise - it's just that I enjoy this country very much.

Mike Register writes from

PROVENCE

It is interesting to note that the spirit of French student militancy is being channelled into less dangerous activity than before. Students at the Ecole Polytechnique at Avignon last year set up a typically French organisation called 'The Association for the Protection of Height-Challenged Plastic Horticultural Effigies', which to you and me means garden gnomes.

Last summer they collected a fair number of the gnomes from the gardens of the good inhabitants of Avignon which they then deposited, at dead of night, at a nearby camping site exclusively patronised by the solid burghers of the Swiss Republic, all of whom came from (yes, you guess it) Zurich.

Good to see the young French have a sense of humour.

John Morden writes from

CANADA

(a long letter only a part of which is here)

Dennis Triggs and I belong to the Canadian Association of British Pensioners. This organisation came into being because of the vast number of residents here receiving UK pensions. The fact that in certain countries (largely former British Empire members) pensions are non-indexed is iniquitous! I read in the Telegraph recently that UK pensioners in Spain not only get their pensions indexed but are now being considered for the coal allowance! Worldwide there are some 450,000 of us, of which some 130,000 live in Canada.

Also, through PostScript I've had letters from Howard Siedmere, his father was a contemporary of mine, he mentioned that Colin Levett had "taken the cloth". Colin might be glad to know and contact a fellow "taker" - Brian Blade. Brian was a Systems Analyst in my Croydon District and much liked, he left NCR in the early sixties. He now lives, with Mrs B, at 15, Beverley Road, Barnhurst, Kent DA7 6JH. The birth of a new "ex-NCR Ecumenical Association" could be yours to create!

[I know of at least three other "Revs" ex. NCR so your suggestion may have some merit! Ed.]

[The following letter dated 9th April 1998, has been received by Lynn Cross, and is passed on for information. It is not endorsed by NCR or PostScript. Ed.]

HELP THE AGED Tax Services

We all hate filling in forms, but many older people find complex forms especially daunting. The introduction of self assessment, with fixed penalty fines, up to nine separate forms to complete, and the responsibility of calculating the tax due, can be particularly intimidating.

Whilst Seniorline, (Help the Aged's free help-line service), assists many elderly people, those with more complex problems really need access to professional advice. Yet tax advice can be expensive and many older people are put off by the open ended nature of hourly charges.

Late last year Help the Aged launched 'Help the Aged Tax Services' to assist the large number of people in the 50+ age group affected by self-assessment. The tax affairs of pensioners are often complex, even though their overall income is not necessarily high, and in the first three months of operation more than a thousand people have benefited from our help.

Help the Aged Tax Services offers low cost tax return completion, conducted by qualified taxation professionals, for just £69 with a 90 day, no quibble, money back guarantee. Not only is the service extremely competitive when compared to fees charged by local accountants but also Help the Aged benefits financially from each tax return completed.

We believe that it is important to remind pensioners of their responsibilities under self assessment without creating alarm. In your next communication with your pensioners, perhaps the payroll slips issued at the end of April or May, on the P60, or in your pensioner's magazine, you might consider the following message:-

Remember, if you received a Tax Return this April you should file it with the Inland Revenue by 31st January 1999. If you would like help with Your Tax Return, Help the Aged offers a low cost tax return completion service for just £69.

Call free on:- 0800 056 55 35 for details.

If you did not receive a Tax Return you have nothing to worry about.

Angela Maxwell's Benefits Update

State Benefits

- The Court of Appeal has recently overturned a High Court decision which had allowed a local authority, (LA), to avoid paying for residential or nursing home care for the elderly because of its limited resources. The November 1995 budget obliged local authorities to help pay for care when capital is £16,000 or less. In this particular case a lady had been made to pay for her own nursing home care until her savings dropped below £1500. The Master of the Rolls ruled that the LA's refusal to pay was not dependent on the person's condition, but on her capital resources which he said totally defeated the intent of the regulations. Now, where a LA has assessed someone as needing care, it cannot use its lack of resources as a reason for not meeting the duty to provide accommodation. An application has been made to the House of Lords for leave to appeal!
- A guide has been produced for older people leaving hospital and for their carers. It provides a checklist of the help that may be available on return home and what should happen if there is a need to go into a care home. *"I'm going into hospital - what happens when I leave?"* It is available from Age Concern London, 54 Knatchbull Road London SE5 3QY - price 30p.
- A short claim form, HC1(RC), has been developed for permanent residents in care homes to confirm that their resources have been assessed by the local authority and that they pay less than the full cost. Such residents, applying for help under the Low Income Scheme, are entitled to full help with their health costs such as dental treatment, sight tests, travel to hospital etc. A certificate entitling them to full help will then be issued for 12 months. There is also a short explanatory leaflet available, HC11(RC). Supplies of these forms should be held by the care home for ease of access by the residents but are otherwise available from the Department of Health - Tel: 01937 840250.
- Don't forget that where a resident is temporarily absent from residential accommodation, the local authority can vary the personal expenses allowance upward to enable the resident to have more money if staying with family or friends. The allowance is currently set at £14.10 per week.
- RADAR, The Royal Association for Disability and Rehabilitation, has published a housing information guide which gives advice about how to get financial help with the cost of adaptations to the home. It covers how to apply for a disabled facilities grant or home repairs assistance and how to get help from social services departments and housing associations. *"Meeting the cost of adaptations"* available from RADAR, 12 City Forum, 250 City Road London EC1V 8AF - price £1.
- The Income Support mortgage interest rate was increased to 7.97% from 30th November. The government now uses a standard interest rate to calculate payments regardless of the actual interest rate being charged to the claimant. For many people there can be a substantial shortfall!
- The law has now been changed so that accident victims will no longer have to repay any of the state benefits they received in respect of pain and suffering while waiting for compensation to be agreed by the insurer. However, money paid for loss of future earnings or cost of care will be affected. People whose claims were settled before 6th October will not benefit from the reform as it is not retrospective.
- Tens of thousands of elderly and vulnerable people could be affected by a change to council tax benefit due to take place in April. The changes will affect people living in homes worth more than £120,000 (council tax bands F, G and H) who have all their council tax paid by the Department of Social Security. From April, the government will pay the council tax in full only for properties up to and including band E which is £120,00 in England, £80,000 in Scotland and £90,000 in Wales. Any extra amount, claimants will have to pay themselves. The change will mean an average weekly shortfall of £3.80. Various organisations are trying to stop the proposed changes.
- While on the subject of council tax, don't forget that carers could be eligible for a discount on their bill. Some disabled people receiving the higher rate of Attendance Allowance or Disabled Living Allowance care component and their carers are entitled to up to 50% discount on their bill. You can get a free booklet that explains more about council tax concessions for carers. You should write to Council Tax booklet, Carers National Association, 20/25 Glasshouse Yard, London EC1A 4JS. N.B. This is just one of the useful pieces of information sent to me by one of my readers!
- In a recent bulletin I was able to inform those readers in receipt of a UK retirement pension and residing in a country which does not attract the annual increases, that on returning to the UK for a visit of not less than a week they were eligible to have their pension uprated just for that visit as if they had never left the UK. As a result of my article, the Pensions and Overseas Benefits Directorate in Newcastle has been receiving a higher than usual amount of correspondence from benefit customers! They have asked if claimants can ensure that they write to Overseas Division Payments, Pensions and Overseas Benefit Directorate, Newcastle upon Tyne NE98 1BA England. They should also advise periods they have visited the UK, stating exact dates, enclosing supporting documentation such as a copy of their airline ticket or relevant pages of their passport and the address at which they resided.
- The government has dropped controversial plans that would have restricted the time that benefits could be backdated to one month in most cases. Only last year backdated claims were reduced from one year to 3 months. This is a timely reminder of the importance of claiming benefits to which you are entitled at the earliest opportunity.
- Two new guides and checklists have been produced to assist people who wish to claim the disability benefits Attendance Allowance (for those 65 and over) and Disability Living Allowance (for those under 65). The guides give details about the conditions you must meet to claim the benefits, the decision-making process and how to make a claim. There is also a detailed checklist to remind people of the points that might be relevant to a claim, to ensure that people provide a full picture of their position. *"Attendance Allowance - a guide and checklist"* price £2.50 and *"Disability Living Allowance - a guide and checklist"* price £3 are available from Disability Alliance, Universal House, 88-94 Wentworth Street, London E1 7SA. Cheques payable to Disability Alliance ERA.
- When assessing couples in residential care for Income Support, the normal practice of the Department of Social Security (DSS) is to treat couples who share a room in a care home as still being a couple in the same household. They would therefore only be able to claim the benefit if their joint capital dropped below £16,000. A recent Commissioner's decision has thrown some doubt on this approach as it found that in four cases under consideration, the couple should be treated as separate individuals thereby

triggering help by way of Income Support if their joint capital falls below £32,000 (£16,000 each). The DSS may of course appeal against this decision.

Finance

* I have been receiving many requests for information on raising capital from the family home. A new edition of a guide called *"Using your home as capital 1997-98"* has been published. It provides advice and information for older people thinking of taking out schemes which enable them to release equity from their homes in order to raise additional capital or income. It is available from Mail Order Department, Age Concern England, 1268 London Road, London SW16 4ER - price £4.95.

* The Association of British Insurers has updated its free information sheet on buildings insurance for home owners. This explains how to calculate the amount for which you need to insure. For a free copy send a stamped and addressed envelope to Department B, Association of British Insurers, 51 Gresham Street London EC2V 7HQ.

* Did you know that there is a special tax allowance that can be awarded if you are widowed. Unfortunately, widowers do not receive the same advantage! The widow's bereavement allowance can be claimed for the tax year in which a husband dies and the following year. It is currently £1830 for the 1997/98 tax year (not yet announced for the 1998/99 year). This means that the widow can receive an extra £1830 of income before she becomes liable for tax this year. The tax relief is, however, due only at 15% and not at the highest rate of tax you pay.

* People who are registered as disabled do not need to pay VAT on items that are designed to assist them in their daily lives. VAT is currently 17.5% so if something costs £235 (including VAT), you would only pay £200. The item must relate to the purchaser's own disability and be designed to be suitable for use by people with disabilities. Zero-rating, as it is called, is also possible on a car (5 seats or less) or other item that has been adapted to accommodate someone in a wheelchair. To save the most money, it is therefore best to get adaptations done before buying the car. This VAT relief is also available on hiring or leasing such items and any repairs or servicing costs. A useful guide is *"VAT reliefs for people with disabilities"* available from your local Customs and Excise office.

General

* Have you heard of The Cinnamon Trust? This charity makes it possible for older people to continue enjoying the companionship of much loved pets, even when they may no longer be able to care for them. Volunteers take dogs for walks, pop into feed cats and budgies and often foster pets when owners are temporarily in hospital. The Trust also holds a national register of about 800 residential care homes that welcome pets. For more information or to become a volunteer, contact The Cinnamon Trust, Foundry House, Foundry Square, Hayle Cornwall TR27 4HH or ring 01736 757300.

* If a person has gone into a care home after April 1993, the Local Authority will be responsible for help with fees. They are already allowing a couple in a care home to be assessed separately, thereby having a capital limit of £16,000 each, before help can be given.

* A private care helpline has been launched to help people with chronic snoring and their long-suffering partners! Ring 0870 6034444 for advice about coping and information on possible treatment.

* Two consumer guides have been produced, one on community alarms and one on stairlifts. The community alarms guide gives information on how they work, how to get an alarm and who provides them. The stairlift guide covers how to get one, including grants available. It advises what to look for when choosing a stairlift and reports on a test survey, with comments from users. Both guides are available from RICA, 2 Marylebone Road, London NW1 4DF at £2.75 each.

* A teach yourself guide, *"Caring for someone at home"*, has been produced by the Carers National Association. Topics covered include your rights to health and Community Care services, looking after yourself and getting a break, adapting your home and other very useful practical items. The book costs £5.99 and is available from CNA, 20-25 Glasshouse Yard, London EC1A 4JS. Tel: 0171 490 8818.

* Every year the National Trust holds a 'Free Entry Day' to encourage visits from those who might otherwise be unable to afford the admission charges. The date this year will be Wednesday 16th September. You can contact the National Trust on 0181 315 1111 to find out more details.

* Medic Alert is a registered charity which offers support to People with hidden medical conditions such as severe allergy, heart conditions or diabetes. It provides stainless steel emblems to members to alert emergency services to these conditions. Free membership is offered to people on a limited income. Ring freephone 0800 581 420 for further details.

[The article below, from a National source, compliments Angela Maxwell's first entry. Ed]

SAVINGS WRONGLY USED FOR CARE

Elderly people in private nursing homes are often spending their savings needlessly on their own care. According to a recent newspaper report that is because of overcharging by local authority officials.

A proportion of long-term care costs are paid by the State, depending on the assets of the pensioner. People with more than £16,000 have to pay for their own care; those with less than £10,000 have their care paid for in full, and those between the two thresholds pay a varying proportion.

Research has shown that some residents have continued to make payments even after their savings have fallen below the threshold. The Age Concern Institute of Gerontology found that many had wrongly assumed that local authority officials would notify them once the capital limits had been reached. Council staff also misunderstood the system, especially when only one partner of an elderly couple was in long-term care, when the capital owned by the husband and wife should be divided in two. But some spouses reported being told that they must continue contributing from joint savings until the maximum amount for a single person was reached.

HUMOUR !!

WHAT A CATASTROPHE !

The names have been changed to protect the cat.

One of my fellow mechanics (that's what we were called in the distant past), we'll call him Fred, had this story to tell, let me first say that we usually travelled around the territory by foot or London transport but sometimes used our own means to get around, in this case a car.

Well Fred, having finished his job, went back to his car and put his case in the boot, and as he went to get in the car, he heard a miaowing; funny he thought, the cat must have jumped in the boot and he'd locked it in; opening the boot he could find no sign of any cat, but could still hear the cat miaowing.

He listened and traced the noise down to under the bonnet of the car behind, on cars of that era you could release the bonnet by a lever in the front of the grill, which Fred did, and when he put his hand in to release the safety catch, suddenly this paw shot out, giving our Fred a nasty scratch. Each time he tried to open the catch this paw came out, giving him a new scratch every time.

So being resourceful, our Fred got a screwdriver out and released the bonnet - lifting it up, the cat shot out with a triumphant miaow and at the same time the car alarm went off, so there was Fred with a bloody hand, holding a screwdriver and the bonnet up, alarm sounding, and the cat nowhere to be seen.

Fortunately when Fred shut the bonnet, the alarm stopped, so quickly wiping his finger prints and blood off the bonnet, he made a rapid getaway.

From Colin Franklin
(Better known as "Corn Finknall"!))

BIRTHDAY FRUIT CAKE RECIPE

1 Cup Water	2 Cups Dried Fruit	1 Cup Brown Sugar
1 Cup Sugar	1 Tsp. Salt	8oz Nuts
4 Large Eggs	1 Tsp. Baking Soda	Juice of 1 Lemon
	1 Bottle of Whisky	

Sample the Whisky to check quality.

Take a large bowl. Check the whisky again to ensure of highest quality, pour one level cup and drink. Repeat.

Turn on electric mixer. Beat one cup of butter in a large fluffy bowl. Add one tsp. sugar and beat again.

Make sure the whisky is OK. Cry another tup.

Turn off the mixer. Break two eggs and add to bowl and chuck in the dried fruit. Mix on the turner.

If the fried fruit gets stuck in the beaters, pry loose with a drowscriver.

Sample the whisky to test for tonistency.

Next, sift two cups of salt. Or something. Who cares?

Check the whisky.

Now sift the lemon juice and strain your nuts. Add one tablespoon. Of sugar or something. Whatever you can find.

Grease the oven. Turn the cake tin to 350 degrees.

Don't forget to beat off the turner. Throw the bowl out of the window, check the whisky again and go to bed.

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THE NCR Retirement Fellowship



ORGANISING COMMITTEE
PRESIDENT: Harry Redington

73 Dickerage Road, Kingston-upon-Thames, Surrey KT1 3SR
0181 942-6977

CHAIRMAN: Tony Poil

6 Ashbourn Close, London W5 3EF. 0181 997-2131

VICE-CHAIRMAN: Basil Garsed

47 Sharps Lane, Ruislip, Middlesex HA4 7JG

SECRETARY: John Nash

c/o Pensions Dept, NCR Ltd, Freeport, 206 Marylebone Road, NW1 6LY
0171 723-7070 (Fridays) Home: 0171 586-1765 (Urgent calls only)

EDITOR "POSTSCRIPT": Geoff Jackson

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