

Jack Sale

The Company was organised differently then, although having 80 odd offices in the UK, in addition to HO and the District offices, many were, including York, Darlington and Lancaster, single clerk operations. In the majority of cases the District Managers had cash register backgrounds, Paul Black at Newcastle a case in point, what a character he was. The salesmen were Davy Bowland, Johnnie Oppenheim and Julian Charles.

Jack Sale used to have to visit offices like this to carry out Audit Checks, making sure the petty cash was still there, stock and, horror of horrors, all supply items balanced. The main selling cash register of that time used "4A" rolls and it was amazing how many of these were used for "demonstrations" (or so the salesmen said.) No explanation ever surprised Jack, missing form bars, supplies "out" with salesmen, it was all the same to him. Later, when I was to carry out audits with him, we always worked into the evening and eventually managed to trace every last item, mind you, it was surprising where we found some of them!!!



Jack presenting Ernie's "Second Retirement" Memento - Nov. 1996

Jack worked out of the Newcastle office for many years, being Area Admin Manager for the Northern part of the country, his opposite number in the South at that time being Ted Greenhill. Later, he added Ireland to his responsibilities and then, when Frank Nolan had to be out of the country, he deputised for him; he was able to do this as he had every confidence in his own staff - Leeds Admin weren't called "The A Team" for nothing!

By this time, Jack had been based in Leeds and, although he and his wife, Margaret, had settled in a house in Otley, she was never to live any length of time there. It was a very sad time for Jack and he took on more responsibility during this period. He relied heavily on his daughter, Penny, and son, Richard (Dick), at this time and later his daughter was to travel up from her home in Birmingham to help him to celebrate his retirement at his dinner - what a night that was! Susan Algar (who succeeded him in Leeds) together with other members of "The A Team", Kathy, Elaine and June really made sure that Jack had a celebration to remember, guests coming from every corner of the country.

Jack was very proud, like so many of his generation, to say that he had worked for the same company all his working life, over 50 years I think. He had one abiding passion that I recall and that was STEAM TRAINS, saying that he was never happier than when helping out at Bridgnorth. His other hobby of photography was a fantastic blessing, especially on those occasions when a record was needed of the many and varied celebrations held at the offices in his domain.

Following his retirement, he moved South to Stourbridge to be near to Penny and her husband; although being a member of the NCR Fellowship he was for a number of years Organiser of Region 1 - Scotland. When he handed over responsibility for this to Scott Caldow he still retained the organisation of the all-Ireland group.

I, like most other folk when retiring, have promised to keep in touch but have not done as well as I would have hoped. Jack, on the other hand, was in regular contact with an incredible circle of friends. You only had to say; "I wonder what so-and-so is doing now", Jack would immediately give you the latest information. Because of him I was recently in touch with Mrs Jesse Stephenson (Jack used to write to her) and am hoping that she will be able to come to our May meeting.

Not many of us are aware of our "sell by date", Jack was given this privileged knowledge and, although not as agile as before, was still able to contact his friends by phone, to express his thanks for all their letters and tell them of his prospects for the future, many of which he was, sadly, unable to fulfil.

JACK SALE WAS MR NCR TO A GREAT NUMBER OF US AND WILL BE SADLY MISSED.

Maureen Burdis December 1998.

REGION 1

from Scott Caldow

We held three meetings during 1998 as has been the custom during the last few years. There were a number of visitors which helped to swell the numbers at the Glasgow lunch held on the 18th March in L'Ariosto. Stan Catling came up from Morecambe to join us. Stan was one of the Technical Field Supervisors at Glasgow. He transferred to Scotland during the latter part of his career with NCR and enjoyed meeting up with all his old colleagues. Ginger Gray, David Graham and John Seater came through from Edinburgh as they have done for a number of years now. John and his wife are emigrating to Dunedin, New Zealand, to be near their son and his family. They have visited New Zealand a couple of times and enjoyed it so much they decided to move there permanently. John is hoping to hillwalk and join a tramping club when he gets there and to improve his golf handicap.

The Edinburgh lunch at the Murrayfield Hotel on the 9th September went off without a hitch. Bob McCarthy from Glasgow joined us. He is a faithful supporter and attends all the lunches.

In Dundee on the 14th October we tragically lost our old friend and colleague, Frank Whitbread, who died suddenly in the hotel prior to the lunch. Frank had worked with FED in Kirkcaldy before moving to Edinburgh where he retired in 1989. I would like to express my appreciation to all those who helped me throughout that day. A very special thanks to Margaret Hay. Margaret and her husband, Wallace, are from Ayr and came up to Dundee for the lunch. Margaret is a nurse and was able to give invaluable assistance. She, together with Rob Loudon, gave CPR until the ambulance arrived to take Frank to the hospital. A day that started with such promise ended so tragically for Frank. I received a letter from his son, George, following the funeral at which many of his old colleagues came to pay their last respects. In the letter he asked me to pass on his thanks for the floral tribute and expressed his gratitude for the splendid turnout of so many NCR pensioners and serving members of NCR. In his own words he said "It made me proud to think that you thought so highly of my father and that he had not been forgotten". Barry Harrison, Director Worldwide Services Marketing, and Pat Keogh, one of the Pension Trustees, had come along to the lunch to meet with the members. Don McFadyen and Gordon Davidson came down from Aberdeen and Bob McCarthy from Glasgow.



Glasgow Lunch.
Jean Allan & Scott Caldow

REGION 2N

from Jo Leighton

We had our second meeting of the year at the Plaza Hotel, Carlisle and all enjoyed a nice meal with plenty of lively chat.

Our earlier meeting, in May, was graced by the presence of Trustee Pat Keogh - see 'photo. Pat conducted a very informative question and answer session, on pensions and related topics, after lunch. It was nice to see him again after all these years, he used to be a fairly frequent visitor to Carlisle, from Liverpool, on trouble shooting expeditions. If my memory is accurate it was the class 446 that interested him. He is bigger now than he used to be - he is lucky, a lot of us are simply much much older! Sadly, we didn't have a full complement this time, two of the Newcastle ladies, who are in the Fellowship, don't find it possible to travel to Carlisle, Gladys Foulner too is unable to cope with travel from Morecambe in winter, Andy Ewart is not well enough to leave the house, and Dot Turnbull was unable to attend. The rest of the Newcastle contingent were in fine form as were the Carlisle crew and Jim Brown, who is now settled into his new place at Grange-over-Sands, although, he says, his DIY is not quite finished yet!

Sister Ann Gate has been showing her friends her copy of Postscript (with her profile), she is very pleased with it, and her friends were quite surprised by some of the contents. We're still trying to organise a meeting in Newcastle and will succeed before long. The Northeast group have faithfully travelled through to Carlisle twice a year and they deserve some reward!



Pat Keogh, Mary Hunter, and Sister Ann Gate

The date of our next meeting - wherever that turns out to be - is Tuesday 18th of May. I wonder if any of you lot down there could be persuaded to visit the frozen north? The beer's good!

REGION 2W

from Charles Southall

The last meeting of the year in the North West 2W, was held as usual at the Grange Country Club, Heswall, on the 23 October. We were accommodated on this occasion in a new function suite in order to cater for more members, with a little more space. The members were very impressed with the new surroundings and extra comfort, as well as the excellent meal, to which we have now become accustomed.

Forty four members and guests attended including a number of wives and friends. Tom Wallbank, who has transferred from Yorkshire to his native county was a very familiar face to everyone present. He is a most welcome addition to our numbers and John Porter and his wife, who has now retired. It was great to see you both.

A number of members who could not attend, wrote with apologies and good wishes to everyone. Among them Cyril Ashworth, who we have not seen for a year or so. Cyril lives in Hampshire now, with his daughter and it's not so often that he is able to get up to

Lancashire. We send our good wishes from all your friends in the North West, Cyril. I will gladly pass on any letters from old friends and former colleagues. Stan Howard too was not able to attend. Good luck to you Stan and best wishes from everyone. We all look forward to seeing you in the new year.

I would like to thank everyone finally who attended. Some having to travel very long distances for only a few hours. Thank you one and all and a prosperous and a happy new year to everyone.

The date of our next meeting is Tuesday May 4th 1999.

REGION 2E - Report next time

REGION 3

from Harry Hardacre

The Sheldon office is still ticking over but over half the building is closed down. Fortunately the Restaurant is still functioning and so we had our Christmas Lunch there on December 9th. 50 members were present to receive an excellent lunch and to hear a talk by Pat Keogh, one of the Pension Fund Trustees.

It is always a delight to welcome Pat to the Midlands and all the members appreciated the frank way in which he approached his subject, his answers to questions and his explanation regarding the current control of the Pension Fund.

All of us in Region 3 send greetings to the rest of the Fellowship and wish you all good health and happiness in the New Year.



The Christmas Lunch at Sheldon

REGION 4

from Tony Poil

In my last report I expressed the hope that for our October meeting we might be able to return to Marylebone Road, but alas the construction work continues and scaffolding still covers the entire building. Could it be that NCR is using the same builders as the Jubilee Line extension? In September of last year (1997) the then Chairman and MD, Malcolm Roberts, told me that he expected the work to be completed in January. I thought he meant January 1998, but perhaps I misunderstood!

So once again we held our Autumn meeting at the Caledonian Rooms on October 21st, with 69 members attending. I believe that all present had an enjoyable time chatting to old colleagues, though of course we would all prefer to be at Marylebone Road. Meanwhile the Caledonian is reasonably convenient, provides us with a private room, serves a tasty hot and cold buffet and a glass of wine, all within our price limit. I don't think I need to tell you that it's not easy to find all that in Central London!

At the time of writing we still hope that the work at Marylebone Road will be sufficiently complete in time for our April lunch but it's not at all certain. Whatever happens the invitations will go out in good time and I hope that even more of you will attend.



The Caledonian Rooms, October

Finally, putting on my Chairman's hat for a moment, a very pleasant part of the job is being invited to attend meetings of Regions other than Region 4. This year (1998) I attended Tom Farmer's Region 9 meeting in June, Alan Hutchins' Region 6 in October, and - a special pleasure - the first joint Region 10 meeting in Ireland at the end of October, I look forward to seeing more of you in 1999 - if I am invited, of course!

As Geoff tells me that he expects to be sending this edition to you in January, may I wish all members of the Fellowship a very happy New Year.



Stan Sparrey on a strict Boiled Potato Diet

REGION 5

from Ted Young

Our most recent lunch meeting was held once again at the Caledonian Rooms near Kings Cross Station on 13th October. We shared the venue with Region 8 and it was nice to see that most of our members had been able to make it in spite of the longish walk, or longish wait for a bus, whichever was your choice or necessity.

We live in hope that we shall be able to return to HO before too much longer and provided that somewhere suitable can be found for us; the new restaurant is situated on the 6th floor - a problem if an evacuation is necessary and lifts can't be used.

We have been grateful that a venue was found in the interim in the shape of the Caledonian Rooms, the food was wholesome and good but I think that a return to a more conventional style of meal would be welcomed by most - here's hoping.

Region 5 wishes all in the Fellowship a happy New Year.

REGION 6

from Alan Hutchins

We held our lunch on 7th October at the Queens Hotel, Southsea. The weather was fine and sunny this year which made travelling much easier.

Last year's meeting was possibly the worst weather of the year.

This is becoming a favourite venue with our members; we have been here for three years now and are treated very well. No photographs this time as I am afraid that the Organiser left his camera at home!

We were all very pleased to welcome our Chairman, Tony Poil, to our lunch. Tony was able to give us some information on the company and reassurance that the pension fund is in both capable hands and in a healthy state.

Vic Orange, Barbara Forster, Stella Murray, Ron Read and Jim Joyce were paying their first visit to our lunch since transferring to our Region. We hope that they all enjoyed themselves and will come again.

We had 51 members and 7 wives which is a wonderful attendance when you realise that our overall membership is only 67! Maybe next year some of the ladies will bring their partners to show them what lovely people we used to work with!

We were all delighted to hear that Howard Kensett has married again; Howard was unable to attend as he was on honeymoon in Canada. Everyone sends their best wishes to both him and his new wife Kathleen and maybe we will see them both next year.

REGION 7

from Jim Kembery

Our Region lunch was held on the 2nd September. I was pleased with the response, 24 members were seated round the lunch table. A welcome was extended to Roger Whelan and Ken Bloxham, both of them attending for the first time. Ken was able to relive some of his past time in the Bristol office and Roger, who had worked as a Financial Controller in HO, Dayton and the Middle East had interesting tales to tell about those days. It was also convenient for him to bring his mother along. Lilian Whelan had moved to the West Country upon her retirement and had been to our lunches in the past.

Our day was made complete by the attendance of Lyn Cross from HO. She was able to respond to the questions posed to her from several of our members but the time came round all too quickly for me to take her back to the station and our members departing for home.

REGIONS 8 and 8a

from Des Woodall

There has been one lunch meeting since my last report at the Caledonian Rooms, near Kings Cross station in London, on 13th October, when we once again shared the occasion with our good friends in Region 5.

We were pleased to welcome two new members to Region 8, Arthur Tomlinson and John O'Shea, and since the lunch two other pensioners have joined the Region - D. Maberley and S. Fitzgerald, both from the Luton area; we look forward to welcoming them at future meetings.

Since this is such a short report I will finish with one of my awful jokes -

Scandinavian Airways were holding interviews for air hostesses, and three were shortlisted one from Norway, one from Denmark, and one from Sweden.

The Norwegian girl was the first to be interviewed and was asked to imagine the following situation:-

She is the only survivor of an air crash, and ends up on a desert island with no clothes. A United States battleship appears on the horizon heading for the island with 2000 sailors on board who had not seen a woman in months at sea. What would she do?

She replied that she would dig a large hole in the sand and bury herself up to her neck in order to preserve her modesty.

The Danish girl was interviewed and given the same problem and what would she do? She replied that she is a strong swimmer, and would swim out to sea until after the battleship had gone away.

The Swedish girl was interviewed and given the same set of circumstances and what would she do? Half a minute went by and she had said nothing. The panel chairman asked her why she was taking so long to answer. "Well" said the girl, "I'm still trying to work out the problem".



Betty Wassink & Henry Rowbotham with respective spouses and Harry Thornhill at the Great Western

REGION 9

from Tom Farmer

Date : 7th December 1998

Place : Exeter

Occasion : Region 9 pre-Christmas Lunch

And what an occasion it was - by all accounts one of the best we ever had and everything seemed to go with a swing. It was well attended, the food was great and the service couldn't be faulted. Can't say why it was special but perhaps we were all in good spirits. Hang on, I almost forgot, it must have been due to the presence of our visitors! Namely, Geoff Jackson, our revered editor of PostScript and Miriam Rogers, political refugee from NCR Lebanon and Greece. Thank you both for joining us.

Apologies for absence were received from a number of our

members mostly, to quote Ida Haynes, due to old age niggles. Sadly, three cases are of a more serious nature and everyone in the Region sends best wishes to Ernie and Brenda Brown, Percy and Ann Davis and also Bill and Gladys Smith.



Pat Caldecourt, Derek Buck & Chris Christmas

REGION 10

from Tony Poil

It was a longstanding ambition of Jack Sale (a tribute to whom is elsewhere in this newsletter) to see a joint meeting of our members living in Northern Ireland and the Irish Republic. Thanks to the efforts of Jack Martin in Belfast and Allison Perry in Dublin, the meeting finally took place on October 29th - but sadly too late for Jack to join the happy gathering. I was kindly invited to attend in his place, and it was heart-warming to see the delight shown by the members present in getting together at last at a very pleasant hotel just south of the border. Personally it was a great pleasure for me to be with them, and to meet again one or two who remembered me from my time in Belfast 46 years ago!

Allison and Jack are very encouraged by the response to this first joint meeting, and are hoping to make it an annual event in addition to their separate meetings in Dublin and Belfast. I am sure that they will have no difficulty in getting an even bigger attendance next year.

Banquet at the Border

from Allison Perry

At long last the North and South bodies have got together after a lapse of some 25 years. The meeting took place on 29th October 1998 at the Carrickdale Hotel right on the border. Not everybody could make the lunch but those of us that did had a most enjoyable time. It was great to see our Northern colleagues again, we may all have changed in appearance but not in spirit.

Tony Poil did us the honour of attending our celebration and we enjoyed hearing of his experiences when working in Belfast in the '60s. Thanks also to Jack Martin who helped organise this event.

A special word about Jack Sale. He was our "forever friend"; he loved coming to Ireland. He phoned me two weeks before he died and expressed the wish that the North/South get-together should happen. So sorry it was too late for you Jack, although we know that you were there in spirit.

Our Christmas lunch took place on the 9th December at the Royal Marine Hotel, Dunlaoire. It was our biggest gathering to date and we were all delighted to see Kevin Keogh, whose poor wife Nancy died in September. Nora Murphy was there as was G Mullen who was sporting a nice tan, having just made it back from the Canaries in time. Oh, and Bill Coleman, our new boy was present. Sadly, we missed Jimmy Tierney who died in July.



Banquet at the Border

I would like to take this opportunity to wish all in the Fellowship a very happy, healthy and peaceful 1999 and, in particular, Cyril Doyle and Des O'Callaghan who were unable to make it to our Christmas lunch.

Changing Times. Is it progress?

One of my interests which has taken much of my spare time over the years is that of the Scout movement.

Seeing that as a boy I was not in the Scouts, how did I get into it? My house is built next to land owned by the local Church, and just after we moved in the Scout group decided to build a Headquarters on the site. It was not long before the Parents Committee doing the work were supplied tea and cakes by my wife. To supply some light to finish off a late job, long leads were plugged into our house supply. The Grand Opening day came and went; shortly after, the Church Army Captain who ran the Group came to me and announced that he was moving to pastures new. Would I take the job on that he had started? With always an interest in the outdoors I was soon warranted complete with shorts, shirt and hat badge with the Green and White plume of a Group Scoutmaster.

As in all positions of management, training is a requisite, in the Movement it is known as "The Wood Badge" it came in those days in three parts. Part 1, the introduction to the Movement, Part 2, a correspondence course, Part 3 the practical - a 30 mile hike with an overnight camp. Part 1 was easy, a few evenings with others on the training. Part 2 was to take much longer, the correspondence with a Commissioner at B.P. House London, took 18 months. The practical over a weekend with others, a 30 mile journey with map and compass ended with a location from a final Map Reference. I thought I had joined the Scouts, not the Royal Marines!

The activities and training the boys received then, is very different to today's ideas. Gone is the low cost uniform, the prized Scout sheath knife is not allowed, and for the training, the 30 mile hike of the Wood Badge is now abandoned. The title of Scoutmaster changed to Scout Leader.

One of our activities was to take groups of boys out in the country for an evening; equipped with torch, map and a handful of pennies (old ones). They were required to find a telephone box, ring my home and tell my wife they knew where they were. Unknown to them we were not far from them in cars, but they had to find their way back to the Scout Hut, where a hot meal and bed awaited them. On one occasion one group arrived back at the hut in no time - it transpired they had been stopped by a police car and

CONTRIBUTIONS

asked what they were doing. The boys gratefully accepted a lift in the car but said "Please don't take us all the way to our hut, we don't want the others to know we had a ride in the car". On camping many rules have changed and for today's environment the changes are for good reason. All leaders have to be qualified and camps have the right ratio of leaders to boys.

It is not many weeks ago my old Cubmaster and I were in camp serving up full cooked breakfast at the Annual Cub Camp, all cooked over the open log fire. Somehow we still get asked (or expected) to help out.

Like NCR, only the name remains the same; sorry I stand corrected! When I joined it was known as the Boy Scout Movement - the word boy was dropped when the girls were allowed in.

Jim Kembery
Ex-District Commissioner
Brislington District Scouts.

That Cash Register!

from Alf Collingham

I was very interested in Maureen Cole's letter and photo. I think that this machine is probably a 358, 32 keys composed of the following: halfpenny, 1-11 pence, 1-9 shillings, 10 shillings, 1-9 pounds and a "no sale". It usually had an autographic printer using an O roll.

When I retired from NCR I went to work for Bob Avis, an ex-NCR salesman, with his company; Marina Cash Registers. It turned my working life full circle, I was back to Hoovering, cleaning and answering the phone, exactly how I started in Brighton office all those years ago!

Anyway, after eleven years, I left Marina to come up to Telford for some TLC with my family. Before I went, however, Bob gave me a surprise dinner with Frank Robinson, Geoff Arnold and our ladies. The highlight of the evening was the presentation to me of a 56 (what a beauty!) - there are not many around with the "amount purchased" sign. Frank came staggering in with it and placed it on a table and, when I pressed the "no sale" key I found the cash drawer to be filled with gold and silver chocolates - the ones that look like coins!



Alf's 56



The "Munich" C1. 500

Alan Hutchins, Regional Organiser of Region 6 - "The picture of the register sent in by Maureen prompts me to send in this one. I discovered it, still working in a cafe in Munich. It was a little before my time so I contacted my old friend and colleague, Alf Collingham, who identified it immediately as a C1. 500. I wonder how many of these machines we would still have working in the UK if it was not for decimalisation?"

Jim Kembery, Regional Organiser of Region 7 has added his bit too:

I am certain that I can supply the answer and with reasons why. It is a brass cabinet register with a chrome finish. All brass cabinet machines with press down keys were either in the Class 35 to 40 range or the 300 range.

The model shown cannot be in the 300 range because all that class had the factory and class numbers engraved on one plate. In this case factory and class number plates appear on either side of the company name. The number of registering keys make the model a Class 35, odd serial numbers indicated a printer (on r/h side) and even numbers, none.

Factory numbers of Class 35 - 40 consisted of six characters: numbers 100,000 on were shipped from 27th April 1896 until number 990,000 on 29th May 1911.

The model shown could have been maintained under a company maintenance agreement for one year for two pounds and sixteen shillings. This covered mechanic call-out, travel costs and all parts needed to effect a repair!

From Bill Park (ex. FED)

Reading Gerry Cole's excellent article in the Summer 98 Post Script, I found myself being mentioned as 'someone in Bristol' who also has hands as large as Chief Instructor Percy Townsend. In those early Post- War years on the 6th floor in H.O Marylebone Road, I found myself meeting up with all those wonderful characters whom we will never forget. In addition to Mr. P.T. himself I remember Reg Sherwood and his total recall of every movement of every part on any of the company's products. Jack Wright, Bert Newman, Vic Gladden and also Ron Tarling (who could forget Ron) and Fred Weston.

Looking back again I can still remember Bill Hallums (store's foreman) Len Hurst and Jock McKinnon on the N2000, repair section, and Dusty Rhodes as machine tester. One other name I well remember is Frank Shear who was then shop porter and self appointed counsellor-friend to everyone and side kick to Jack Wright.

Anyway more about this big hand business; at the time,- about 1947, I was on my first basic training course, after joining N.C.R in 1943. A couple of days after I started the course, a lad came up to me with a length of wood on which had been painted two black lines about 10 inches apart. Throwing the wood onto the bench he said "there you go mate- span out on that and if you reach past the second line make a new pencil mark," at this point I have to make one or two observations - first, the size of Mr. Townsend's hands were legendary throughout the company and I think he was secretly proud of his record. Secondly, in my youthful innocence I had not yet learned the unwritten rule in business, namely ' never ever beat the boss at anything.' So, being willing to oblige I spanned out on the piece of wood and covered both lines with 3/4's of an inch to spare. Seeing this the lad gave me a whoop of triumph and rushed off to show Mr. Townsend who in turn left his desk and came down to confront me with a hand to hand challenge. On being defeated the ex champion walked away and I distinctly heard him say "The man must be a freak."

Several years later I was up on the 6th Floor again, this time on a five day course on the 100 Class and at the end of the course we

had a 100 question exam and the first question was 'how many ways are there to open the printer lid?'. For a joke I put down '4' and after the papers were handed in it wasn't long before Jack Wright came down to ask why I had made such a simple mistake, saying 'how do you make it four different ways?' so I said 'First L1 key, second read key, third reset key and finally putting my left hand around the top left hand corner of 100c, fingers round the back, palm on the side and thumb at the bottom of the vertical part of the printer lid, I squeezed my hand and dislodged the lid from its retaining arms and opened the lid.

From George Hawkins

I read PostScript with a lot of interest as usual, but this time it was particularly so for two reasons; the item regarding Noel Shaw and the internet and the article by Gerry Cole. I went through a similar induction period in June 48 as Gerry, when I also walked through the main door of Marylebone Road.

I had been demobbed from the RAFVR early in that year and didn't want to resume my previous job of Draughtsman. A member of the family introduced me to the Manager of the local Employment Exchange and on getting there he passed me over to someone who would surely find me an alternative job. A week went past and on the second visit I was informed nothing suitable had come up, I should then return the following week and they would sign me on for Benefit.

Being a member of the local RAF Association I visited the HQ in Portland Place and was given a filing tray, full of cards, with all the companies that were looking for new Staff.

I spent quite a long time reading all the information and finally came upon one for The National Cash Register Co. Ltd. My father had been a publican for some time and before WW2 had to move out of a pub (The CROWN Cleveland Street) because the GPO had purchased all the properties in the particular area for new offices. The Post Office tower was built in our back yard! Right opposite Clipstone Street

Being a publican he was also a customer of "National Cash" with several cash registers and I often went with him to the offices in Tottenham Court Road to get ribbons and rolls for the machines.

They were advertising for "mechanics" to work on the cash registers so I took the plunge and arrived at Marylebone Road (Front Door) and met Mr Pateman.

After a short time I was introduced to a Mr Wallace and when we had finished our conversation he invited me to come the following Monday at 8am for the week as a probationary period before he would decide if I was suitable for the job.

Having been taken up to the 6th Floor I was introduced to Mr Wright and Mr Weston who promptly handed me some tools and a piece of steel plate and a large nut. It was intended that I should make a spanner to fit the nut. Having got the shape about right, I asked him how I could drill the hole..... he pointed out a vertical drill on a stand and gave me a suitably sized drill. Having had no experience of "drilling holes" I asked him how I would go about it. He queried the fact that I should ask him such a silly question and asked me what I had been working at. Having established I had "No Previous Experience" he disappeared rather quickly and came back with Mr Wallace. Mr Wallace had assumed without asking me that I had previous experience, and was quite surprised that I had not.

My explanation was that I wanted to start from scratch and I was sure that they would take me on once I had proved my worth. To this, Mr Wallace agreed that I could continue until Friday. Phew!

Having finished making the spanner. I tried to present it to Mr Weston but he said he was busy and would come to see me when he was free.

Not knowing what to do with my time, I borrowed a piece of emery paper from one of the men and walked around the 6th floor chatting with various mechanics about what they were working on and what they were doing, rubbing away on the spanner with my piece of emery cloth.

I tried several times to see Mr Weston but quite some time elapsed before he found me. On giving him the spanner and the nut he was taken aback..... the spanner looked as though it was made of stainless steel, it fitted the nut exactly.

He wandered off to see "the big white chief" (Mr Townsend of elongated 'ole fame) and together they inspected my spanner, placing the nut in the spanner and trying to make it fall out of the hole. It would not, a perfect fit!

Like Gerry I was given a lid counter and again Mr Weston jumbled all the parts up so I could reassemble them correctly. Having succeeded I was taken to a bench and told to wait for something to arrive. For the rest of the week I had to find out how a Class 700 cash register worked, I seem to remember, or was it a 300? (narrower)

On the Friday I was taken into the "Lecture Theatre" along with Mr Wright, Mr Weston, Mr Townsend and someone else, who I was later to find out was a Mr Sherwood. I spent so long in there that at lunch time some of the mechanics asked me what I was doing with all the foreman in there, "no one had ever been in there that long with so many of them"

The session began again after lunch and I felt quite confident answering all their questions, until Mr Sherwood pointed to the screen and asked me; "what is that?" (he would wouldn't he)... "a circle" I replied, a frown appeared on his face and again the question was repeated with a bit more information "what is that, a hole or a spring post?" Having juggled with a piece of wire trying to get a d*** spring back on it, my reply was absolutely correct. We all came out of the room and I was informed I could "Start on Monday"

My first job was to make up plates, remove the "dollar display wheel" and fit the plates to cover the hole. This I found very boring and a few days later Mr Sherwood asked me why I had been talking to the people on the Adding Machine Section instead of "Filling holes". I thought "this is my last day" but on telling him the adding machine looked interesting, more so than the Class 700 he immediately moved me from the Cash Register Section to the Adding Machine Section.

Wow, I done a bit better than Gerry in that respect!

A Heavenly Poem

A man stood knocking at the Pearly Gates,
His face was scarred and old.
His knees were weak, his back was bent,
He was just about to fold.
"What have you done.." St. Peter asked,
"...to gain admission here?"
"I've worked for NCR, Sir,
for many and many a year."
The Pearly Gates swung open wide;
St. Peter rang the bell.
"Come in and choose your harp," he said,
"you've had your share of HELL."

Submitted with feeling by Reg Cullen -
late of Doncaster FED

A Voice From The Past

One Sunday afternoon a few weeks ago the Ed was having a bit of a nap when the phone rang. It was Gordon Langmaid - remember him? - and we had a very pleasant half hour chatting about the past and, although I didn't know him at work, we had many common acquaintances.

The upshot was that I learned that he had written a small biography of Gordon Makins and has let me have a copy from which I hope to produce a potted version in due course. I think that Gordon's letter which accompanied the biography has much of interest in it's own right and I reproduce it below:

"First, may I say how I enjoyed our conversation and learning of all the changes at NCR. Although it is now thirty five years since I left, memories of my time with the company are, in the main, fairly clear, although it must be confessed that they do tend to blur the finer detail.

My career with the company began in 1949, late July or August and was as a member of the Display Department. Initially we were located in the basement at HO, but eventually moved to Bravington Road. Somewhat later I had the offer of moving to the Cash Register Division Sales Promotion Department, whose Manager was Nogens Bang. "Mac" Mackenzie was Office Manager - not long after he left the company and was replaced by George Bradley. Other names I remember from those days were Ron and Les Wiltshire and Allan Millard.

In those early days the main function of the department was the preparation of "propositions" for potential customers on how NCR equipment could help their business. It was also responsible for the staging of the bi-annual Sales Conventions and the National Sales Conference. When I joined CRD/SPD I was given the job of NCR Stage Manager at the London CPC, held at Wembley Town Hall.



*CPC Wembley.
Business
Presentation.
The 'legs' of
this Adding
Machine
belonged to a
charming lady
midget*

There were two of us, each working one of the two main presentations. It was a full-blown professional production and there were approaches from the BBC to record the first day's presentation, a musical tour of London in song and dance. Unfortunately the plan was abandoned as many of the cast had other commitments. The photographs only give a small idea of what a spectacular production it was. The cost was equally spectacular, so much so that it was virtually the last of the big CPC productions!

I began to work very closely with Gordon Makins in the newly formed Self-Service Advisory Bureau. Over the years the departmental activities broadened, producing our own in-house brochures and branching out into slide/tape presentations for specialist trade applications; the latter in conjunction with the Special Sales section of CRD Sales. Sales Training was another area covered and on more than one occasion I stood in for Brian Hitchens. After a session in the Sales School, I came to the conclusion that I would rather organise Sales Conferences.

On that subject, one episode comes to mind. I was told that there was no need to worry about booking conference facilities as, in the absence of the Departmental Manager, it had already been confirmed. Just one day had been booked!! The fact that it took at least twelve hours to load in and set up, plus time for rehearsal, plus time to strike the conference set and reset for the evening gala dinner had been totally overlooked. It meant that we were waiting outside the Connaught Rooms at midnight for the previous function to finish in the suite of rooms we were going to occupy. We managed, I'm not sure how but I do remember all the crew walking round Covent Garden Market some twenty seven hours later for an early morning fry-up!

Nogens Bang left the company and for a while we carried on. The daily routine was in the capable hands of George Bradley, while, on the creative side there were enough ongoing projects to keep me occupied for the foreseeable future. Eventually Howard Sledmere was appointed Sales Promotion Manager. I left the company in February 1963, my memories of those years include headaches, heartaches and a fair amount of backache but overall, they were happy years with wonderful colleagues.

I didn't mean to ramble on but it is easy to get carried away with one's memories - if anyone should remember me then please forward my regards. I doubt it after thirty five years but who knows?"

I am sure they will, Gordon, and thank you for this piece. Ed.

From Jimmy Lane

I am always pleased and grateful to receive copies of PostScript and to be able to be reminded in particular of the almost forgotten and many developments during my business lifetime of 43 years with "The NCR". My career progressed through the Cash Register Division and thereon to the Retail Division. The current issue of PostScript includes someone, Howard Davis, who also followed the same path. In this context I was also very closely involved with "Bill Poil", the father of young Tony!

Although slow in today's terms, retail selling developed to meet the requirements needed for new products and I thought that your readers might be interested in a major development in Department Store Cash and Credit Contract at the point of sale.

The enclosed photograph was taken at a voluntary, after hours, demonstration to NCR staff at what was then called an Owl Class (a subject of a previous issue) and referred to a major development by NCR. It was a telephone constructed to include a printing device which allowed a sales docket to be sanctioned by a remote Credit Office, when placed in the device which was located near to a cash register, on a sales counter. Such were the new sales aids provided in those days.



I leave your readers to identify those taking part, except to say that the person in the bottom left hand corner was Company Secretary, Roy Bedford.

I very much regret and am disappointed not to have been able to attend a Regional meeting over the last two years but have now passed the 80 year mark and rely on a pacemaker to keep the old ticker going; one's activities tend to become more and more restricted. However I do hope to continue to keep in touch via PostScript and would like to thank all concerned in its production.

Relocation

I draw back the bedroom curtains and the sun is already high in the sky - a glance at the church tower tells me that it is seven o'clock and that the wind is in the west. It is high summer and sparrows are quarreling over a piece of bread in a cloud of dust in the lane.

Looking down the lane, which terminates in a meadow, the view is of fields full of crops, cattle and sheep stretching to the horizon, the only sign of human habitation being the tower of Staple church some two miles away.

Poppy the Yorkie reminds me that it is time for her walk so I get dressed and off we go across the fields. Crossing the dyke we catch a glimpse of our resident kingfisher - minnow in beak! Further on we see in a hawthorn bush the flock of goldcrests that return every year - the smallest British bird, with their punk haircuts, they are as quarrelsome as the sparrows.

A first this morning is my sighting of a cuckoo on a telegraph pole, bigger than I thought she would be; almost like a hawk in shape but calling loudly to prove what brand she is. To my left is a field owned by the village animal sanctuary, a delight to our grandchildren as it is usually filled with horses (including a couple of Shires) sheep, cows, goats and even a couple of donkeys, ex Margate Sands and all seeing out their days of retirement in comparative comfort.

Over a stile and I come to the track of the East Kent Light Railway, abandoned in the 50's but leaving a fine wide path upon which to walk. Ten minutes later we wend our way through one of the area's vineyards and then drop into a sunken lane which winds its way back to the village. Through the churchyard; the house martins are still feeding their young in their nests up on the tower, back down Pudding Lane to Cherry Tree Cottage - breakfast for both man and dog!

As I enter the collage a thought strikes me; twice whilst working for NCR I was asked to relocate, once to Birmingham and the second time "because you live too far away from a London job" (!) I dug my heels in on each occasion and I still live here in my retirement - wouldn't you have done the same?

Geoff Jackson

We are indebted to Reg Cullen for the following story:

Licence to Steal !

Two villains tried to pull the front off a cash machine by running a chain from the machine to the bumper of their truck. Instead of pulling the front panel off the machine, though, they pulled the bumper off the truck. They panicked and fled, leaving the chain still attached to the machine, their bumper still attached to the chain and their number plate still attached to the bumper.

The editor replies:

Your "Licence to Steal" story reminds me of what happened in my village a few years ago. Our village supermarket has an entrance about the same width as your average 4X4 and some of the local bad boys decided to do a ram raid. Midnight saw them backed up to the entrance when they reversed at a rate of knots into the double doors. These burst inwards and when the vehicle was halfway through it stalled and could not be restarted. Neither the driver's nor the passenger's doors could be opened and there was a solid partition at the back of the driver's cab. They had made such a din that half the village turned out, who then proceeded to inspect them through the windscreen until both police and breakdown lorry arrived!

A Quiz

A former FED Centre Manager has photographed the items below. He assures us that each one of them was used by him at some stage in his career. What he wants you to do is to recognise and name them. No prizes but the answers are contained on page 13 - let us know if you get them all right!

Photo No 1:

top left	- 3 items
top right	- group of 8 items
centre left	- 1 item
Centre	- 1 item
bottom	- 1 item

Photo No 2:

top left	- 1 item
next right	- 1 item
next right	- 1 item
top right	- 1 item
bottom	- 1 item

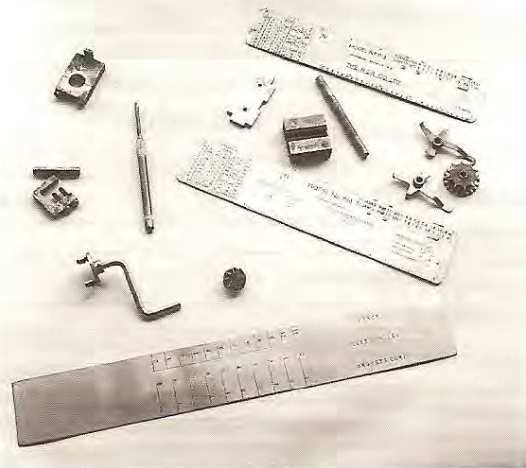


Photo Number 1



Photo Number 2

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
Mr J Cheek	1988	33 yrs 01 mths	67	27 May 1998	Team Supervisor - Bristol
Mr J A Candish	1981	33 yrs 11 mths	78	26 June 1998	Field Engineer - Leicester
Mr J M Barber	1986	24 yrs 01 mths	76	13 June 1998	Site Supervisor
Mr S E Thomas	1971	15 yrs 09 mths	91	21 July 1998	*Information Required* *
Mrs S J Ali	1992	28 yrs 11 mths	66	09 July 1998	Imaging Systems Group
Mr A J Holman	1991	35 yrs 7 mths	68	10 July 1998	A/V Services - Head Office
Mr T W Pottle	1984	17 yrs 04 mths	79	07 July 1998	FED - Borehamwood
Mr W Gating	1991	21 yrs 05 mths	72	30 July 1999	Marketing - Finchley
Miss G J Harvey	1980	20 yrs 01 mths	77	26 July 1998	Clerk - Brent
Mr J Tierney	1983	44 yrs 07 mths	78	05 July 1998	FED - Dublin
Mr J E Sale	1986	50 yrs	76	13 August 1998	Area Manager - Leeds
Mrs A G Pye	1981	26 yrs 10 mths	65	12 September 1998	Secretary - Liverpool
Mr R F Mackenzie	1981	34 yrs 06 mths	78	30 September 1998	Account Manager - Head Office
Mr R H Payne	1988	41 yrs 07 mths	71	16 October 1998	Financial Clerk - Finchley
Mr J R Taylor	1988	26 yrs 02 mths	67	08 August 1998	FED - Manchester
Mr H J Ladd	1979	11 yrs 09 mths	82	01 November 1998	Secretary - Brent
Mr F G Whitbread	1989	38 yrs 06 mths	73	15 October 1998	FED - Lothian
Mrs E A Row	1971	10 yrs 08 mths	68	27 October 1998	Showroom, HO
Mr P Cassar	1976	30 yrs 03 mths	77	29 November 1998	Support/Sales Malta
Mrs G J Grabban	1981	12 yrs 10 mths	73	22 December 1998	Clerk - Borehamwood
Mr P J McKeen	1977	6 yrs 09 mths	86	13 December 1998	Warehouse - Brent
Mr R K Punter	1994	16 yrs 03 mths	52	31 December 1998	Express Boyd
Mrs F M Smith	1975	9 yrs 08 mths	82	05 January 1999	Bindery Assistant - Harrow Road

* INFORMATION REQUIRED - PLEASE CONTACT THE EDITOR IF YOU CAN FILL IN THE GAP.



Paul Cassar, who was a member of the greater family of NCR and worked in Malta

Angela Maxwell's Benefits Update

State Benefits

* The Community Care (Residential Accommodation) Act 1998 has just taken effect. It is intended to clarify that local authorities must disregard a person's capital if it is below the capital limit (currently £16,000) when deciding whether care and attention is otherwise available.

* New regulations have also just come into effect to protect people receiving means-tested benefits who take out insurance to cover the loss of income. The new rules will ensure that if people receive payments from certain creditor insurance policies to cover hire-purchase, car or credit loans, the payments will be disregarded as long as they are intended for and used to pay off the debt.

* The financial support given to war widows to visit their husband's graves overseas will be extended until March 2001. Widows pay one eighth of the cost and are accompanied by a Royal British Legion official. The Pilgrimage Department of the Royal British

Legion will provide more details.

* The Court of Appeal has ruled that local housing authorities are not entitled to take resources into account when deciding whether or not to approve an application for a disabled facilities grant. The Carers National Association produce a useful guide called "Getting help to adapt your home". Send a SAE to 20/25 Glasshouse Yard, London EC1A 4JS, or tel. 0345 573 369 Monday to Friday 10am to noon, and 2pm to 4pm.

* The Winter Warmth free helpline is now available this year and up to 31st March 1999 on 0800 289 404. Callers can get advice on cold weather payments, how to keep up with fuel bills, grants for insulation and what to do in an emergency. There is also a leaflet "Keeping out the Cold", available by sending a SAE to Information Department (KOTC), Help the Aged, St. James' Walk, Clerkenwell Green, London EC1R 0BE

* To help you prevent damage from burst pipes, the Association of British Insurers has produced an information sheet called Cold Weather Code, available free by ringing 0171 600 3333.

* I can now give you a helpline to ring if you have any queries on the Pensioner Winter Fuel Bonus. Tel: 0645 151 515, which is a local rate call. For your interest, a male retired postal worker, who is not entitled to the bonus because he is only 63, has just taken his case to the High Court. Women receive the bonus of £20 at 60. The High Court have agreed the matter is best referred to the European Court because it raises issues of EU law. A ruling could take up to 2 years!

General News

* British Gas has announced a new service which will allow customers to receive and settle gas bills for members of their family or friends. Bills for 2 properties could be paid by one monthly direct debit which could make savings on both bills when compared to

other payment options. "Home and Family" scheme may be of particular interest to people with older relatives who want to ensure their bills are paid. Ring 0345 126 126 for an application form and further details.

- The Royal National Institute for the Blind (RNIB) has launched a new holiday service which will help visually impaired people to choose a holiday which will cater for their particular needs. You can find out more from the RNIB Holiday Service on 0171 388 1266.

- A retirement property search service is available from Help the Aged. Houses on its database cost from £30,000 to more than £250,000. About 9,000 come up for sale each year. Call 0800 592 605 if you want to know what's available in your area.

- Are you over 60 and living in a rural area? Then read on. Help the Aged, in partnership with the Millennium Commission, is giving away more than £2.3 million to older people in rural areas to help them set up projects to benefit their community. You can apply as an individual or as part of an informal group of up to 5 people as long as the majority of the group is aged 60 or over. The winning projects so far include a magazine covering 24 rural communities in Devon, an Internet course for people of all ages in the Dumfries area, a community tapestry and video project in Powys and a health and fitness club in Norfolk amongst many others. For further details, call the Help the Aged Millennium Awards hotline on 0171 250 4477 between 3am and 1pm (Monday to Friday).

- Gas deregulation was supposed to put you in control of your bills but instead it has left many people confused by the variety of schemes on offer. Now there is help at hand for anyone with access to the Internet. The site www.buy.co.uk includes a gas calculator to find the best deal. It asks you which area you live in, your current bill cost and your method of payment. It then comes up with alternative suppliers and an idea of how much you save. If you don't have personal access to the Internet, you could try your local library to see if they will allow you to use their Internet facility. Failing that, they'll point you in the right direction in the high street.

- You can now put your affairs in order and ensure your family and friends follow your wishes with the help of a new leaflet from Age Concern. "Instructions for my next of kin and executors upon my death", contains a form to complete which provides those details which your family will need to know. It covers questions such as who to inform of your death, and where you keep your will. It tells relatives and executors where to find your keys, birth certificate, house deeds and financial documents. You can call 0800 009966 for a free copy.

- Counsel and Care has established a database of home care agencies which covers the whole of the United Kingdom and currently contains over 1500 records. Each entry lists contact details and the type of care provided. Searches covering a specific geographical area can be printed out and sent to enquirers. There is also a factsheet "What to look for in a home care agency". For further information write to Counsel Care, Twyman House, 16 Bonny Street, London NW1 9PG or tel. 0845 300 7585 (local rate call) 10.30am to 4pm.

- The Government has just announced stringent measures to crack down on unsolicited phone calls from salesmen. People will be able to put their names on a register which companies will have to consult before ringing. Sending direct-marketing faxes would also be banned. Companies would have to give details of a free telephone number during the call so that recipients could ask to

be removed from their contract lists. This scheme is to be implemented at the end of the year (1998).

- Patients diagnosed as at risk of glaucoma are eligible for free, regular sight tests in the same way as patients diagnosed as actually suffering from the disease.

- I have had some positive feedback from one of my readers who has used the Internet facility to make a saving on his annual gas bill. By using the www.buy.co.uk website at his local library and keying in details of his current bills, he found he could save £35 per annum. Of course, you need to check the small print to make sure there are no hidden snags. In my next bulletin, I will be dealing with the supply of electricity.

- A restaurant scheme aimed at attracting the over 55's now has 1.3 million members. The scheme is free to join and offers members a 20% discount on food, or three course menus for £5.99 or £8.50. For details of how to join write to: Emerald Club Membership, Freepost BU279, Nelson, Lancashire BB9 5BR.

Finance

- The revised Banking Code has been published. From March 31st this year, it will outlaw the practice of banks and building societies launching accounts only to let the interest rate drop dramatically as they are replaced by newer accounts. Banks and building societies will be required to maintain interest rates on superseded accounts at a comparable level with newer accounts, or to switch the customers to an account with similar features. If there is no account with similar features, customers must be told that the account has been superseded and helped to switch to another account without additional charges, interest or notice. All customers are to be given 30 days' notice before any changes take effect. The new code should be in branches by now and on the Internet : www.bba.org.uk

- From November 16th, it was unlawful for travel agents to tie insurance to special offers and discounts.

From Jim Kembery

Often heard at Fellowship meetings are the words "What business is the company doing, we never hear what is being sold or to whom". Well I can provide some information in that direction from Bristol. A new Bentalls store has recently opened. An old John Lewis store has been refurbished at a cost of £24 million and Bentalls are now in business. On a recent visit I was delighted to see a full installation of the latest NCR point of sale terminals.

Bentalls are an old user of NCR kit, their headquarters being located in Kingston-upon-Thames. It brought back memories of the refresher training we received just after the war. The school, located on the 6th floor HO, was also a production line. We were all watched over by Jack Wright and Percy Townsend (the latter from his desk on a raised dais) whilst we refurbished N2000 registers from the Kingston store.

Our congratulations to the Sales Team responsible for expanding the Bentalls account.



Back row left to right: S R Franklin and Jack Ritchie (Bristol). Next row: Norman Cole Depot Mng'r Bristol, Mr Starkey Dist 4 Sales Mng'r, Gordon Rope - Cardiff, G H Dyer - AMD District Sales Mng'r, G Mackenzie - Exeter, J Walsh - Cardiff, J Quinn - Bristol, G Allen - Bournemouth, S L King - Plymouth, H Wilson - Cheltenham, T Tilley - Taunton. middle row: Four young salesman on their first territory, names not recalled (perhaps they didn't last very long) who are flanking a lady from AMD Installation. Front: Jim Kembery, photographer and, bottom right John Morden.

John Morden

Jim Kembery has found amongst his archives this photo, recent mention of John Morden (living in Canada) having triggered off his memory.

It portrays the young John whilst on his first sales territory (front row, r/h side) during the May/June Sales Contest - 1950 at the Bristol Office.

District 4, as it was then known, comprised 10 offices and Jim, who has a prodigious memory, tells me that the line-up on the left was as under the photo.

From Mim Rogers

As promised, when we talked at Tom's Region 9 Fellowship lunch on Monday, I am enclosing the two photographs you would like to have for possible reproduction in the Post magazine and I give below a short description of the events of that momentous episode.

Whilst holidaying in Paphos, Cyprus with my friend Sheila, I watched with interest other people paragliding and thought how exciting and different it looked. Not to be outdone, I "had a go" and I confirm that it is out of this world.

On the back of the boat you are strapped into a life jacket and into a webbing cradle which has a parachute attached. The boat takes off and gains speed and you are launched into the air to a height of 200 metres.

Once you pluck up courage to open your eyes and look down to the little dot below, which is the boat to which you are attached, then it really becomes exciting. Every time the boat hits a wave your chute shudders, but fear not. Look around, across the town, the countryside and the sea, feel the gentle breeze and listen to the quietness, it's so peaceful.

At the end of the trip the boat winches you slowly down again and you land gently on the deck and back to terra firma.

As I think I mentioned to you, I was told by the boatman I was the oldest person they had taken up - was this my claim to fame?

Magnificent Mim - John must be proud of you! Ed.



Mim Rogers paragliding in Paphos, Cyprus in June 98 "going up.....".



..... back down and much relieved!

Transport of Yesteryear

We are indebted to Peter Glyn for the photo below of a pre-war Bedford coach which was unearthed from the archives. It is pictured outside Head Office and was, in effect, a travelling showroom. Are there any readers out there who remember it or, indeed, used it for demonstrations?



Probably from an earlier era is this shot of one of NCR's early mobile engineers, certain facial resemblances gave rise to the possibility that this might have been George Bradley's first job but he denies it emphatically!



As promised, here are some useful e-mail addresses:

Roger Hill (Kelso Travel)	rogerhill@easynet.co.uk
Paul Glynn	P.Glynn@btinternet.com
Noel Shaw	nsa.shaw@virgin.net
Ken Umney	umney@globalnet.co.uk
Jo Leighton	joleight@globalnet.co.uk
Gerald & Babs Cole	GeraldandBabs@compuserve.com
George Hawkins	georgeh@penn45.freemove.co.uk
Geoff Jackson	geoff@megalops.freemove.co.uk
David O'Connell	daveocon@dircon.co.uk

Quiz Answers (from page 9)

- when coupling the sorter to the main entrance.
Lifting tool used on the C1 482 Bank Proof Check Sorter. Used Bottom
Relay contact adjusting pliers
Top Right
open and closed.
Class 462 paper tape punch block gauge to check setting of contacts,
Next Right
Class 462 paper tape master gauge.
Next Right
Spring clip tool - inserts and removes them.
Top Left
Picture 2
of pulses.
Magnetic ledger card gauge for C1 29 Postronic - checks location Bottom
line pinion).
register. (cut out part of segment so as to allow movement, transfer
Cutting tool used to convert to point standard of Class 100 cash
Centre
& 227
A ribbon handle for Class 2000 transverse type line machines; 214
Centre Left
8. A 10 shilling accumulator pinion.
6 & 7. Add and subtract pawls in the accumulator.
5. Stop plate nut tool.
4. Jig used in stop assembly.
total.
3. Master gauge to check stop plate length: add, subtract, subtotal.
1 & 2. Rulers used in stationery design.
Top Right 8 items all Class 31/32 a/c machine.
3. An electros screwdriver.
date cylinder. Homemade.
2. Jig for removal of consecutive number wheels of Class 400/800
homemade 1941 era.
1. Jig for fitting transfer cam on Class 400/800 cash register. Jig is
Top Left 3 items
Picture 1

Gerry Cole - A Life Part 3

I hope that my previous contributions haven't bored the pants off the readers of "Postscript", it's just that when something happens to spark off my thoughts or if I meet someone from NCR all the memories come flooding back. I was fortunate to have had the opportunity to meet people from all over the country, and in the very early days of working in the field I probably knew about 70% of all the field engineers. It is at times of reminiscing that I remember the camaraderie and fellowship that I found throughout my career with the company. More especially at the time when I worked out of the Cardiff and Newport offices. I particularly remember with a smile my days at Newport when Bob Hornwood was the "Depot Manager", working with Colin Chard, and Dave Jones who was a refugee from Bristol. Vic Court was to join us later. Others were to come and go but we four were to remain with the company until we each retired.

In those days overtime was never discussed or even thought about, finishing time was when we had finished talking about the various jobs we had cracked during the day. It was a contest to find who had cracked the most obscure fault, and who had visited the site with the prettiest operator or cashier.



From the Editor's 'Naughty' File - President Harry and secretary Heather, many moons ago!

There was one particular occasion, I remember, laying down underneath a class 31 checking out the drive only to find that I had company on the floor at my side. The lady asked me if I had ever had any special holiday dream, and when I told her that I had always dreamt about travelling up the Amazon, she exclaimed that she thought that was a perfectly romantic idea and offered to pay the fares and to accompany me. I can't remember how I managed to get out of that one but I can remember that all future calls to that site were made with some trepidation. It was always a pleasure to go to work, and NCR was a "fun" company to work for. Every day brought a new experience and something to laugh at.

In our area it was the custom to have an arrangement with the local and well known multiple store to service their cash registers in the evening after the store was closed, and on one occasion when we were in the store I noticed Colin beckoning me to quietly peer into the ladies section of the store where our third member was working. I carefully made my way to the corner and peered around only to see our third member dressed in a flowing ladies dressing gown, standing in front of a full length mirror, and doing what appeared to be his interpretation of Romeo and Juliet. He explained that he was rehearsing his lines for a play in which he was to appear. Needless to say he was to suffer a great deal of "leg pulling", despite his explanation. He did get his own back on me, but didn't tell me until years later; by playing on my infamously bad memory, he was able to recover from me on several occasions the one half crown that I had borrowed from him.

There was another occasion some years later when I was Depot Manager at Newport, involving Dave. I was in the office early one morning waiting for the engineers to arrive, when the phone rang and a very strained voice said: "Gerry, I'm having terrible trouble with the van!"

"Why what's the trouble, where are you?" I asked fully expecting him to say - "oh I've got a flat battery or some such problem." He responded, "I'm sat on the ladies front wall"

"What lady?" I asked.

"Where the van is" he said, "It's stuck in her front door". Actually it wasn't as bad as it sounded but we never were able to find out quite how or why it landed there though on reflection I suppose I should have expected something like that to happen to Dave.

Some years earlier, before he had passed his driving test, Dave and I were in the van way out in the country many miles away from anything and everyone when he persuaded me to let him "have a go". He had had a number of lessons so I agreed, but only on condition that he stayed in low gear and go quietly. We had travelled some hundred yards or so and he was beginning to get more venturesome with his speed when there suddenly appeared an enormous farm tractor bearing down on us. I screamed stop!.... STOP!!..... STOP!!!!!! Dave casually took a slight detour left into the ditch and up the other side and started to climb the hedge until the van was just about on its side and the wheels lost traction. It was at this point that he decided to de-clutch and switch off. The tractor casually brushed past but I never did see if the tractor driver thanked us for "giving way" since the roof of the car was facing the road and I was laying on top of Dave. Getting out of the van was like climbing out of the conning tower of a submarine. I exchanged places with Dave in the driving seat (I don't recall what I said to him exactly) and with Dave sitting on the sill of the van like the captain of a tank I engaged reverse gear and with my tongue in cheek let the clutch out quietly. The Gods were looking after me on that occasion, both rear wheels gripped the hedge and banking and we slowly but surely dragged our way out in the tracks we had made going in. Miraculously there wasn't a scratch on the van. He didn't ask to drive again but always insisted that he had had full control all the time!!!!!!

Misfortunes like that don't always happen to other people and I remember very clearly the occasion that I very nearly blew up the Cardiff Office. The offices and workshops were heated by an antique gas boiler that sometimes failed. A good friend of mine from those times in Cardiff was John Watts. And John always made it his business to make sure that the boiler was alight in the mornings. I had watched him on a couple of occasions go to the boiler, light a taper of paper, turn on the gas, and apply the taper to the gas jets. So it was that one morning I arrived first and found the place to be ice cold and upon investigation I found that the gas fire was not alight..... it was simple, I first checked that the gas was switched on. Then I found a piece of paper, and after two or three attempts to light the paper, I went to apply it to gas jets. Little did I realise there was no fail safe on the pilot light. I only got the paper to the door of the furnace — BOOM —, the door of the boiler flew between my legs together with a six inch wide jet of flame and the chimney suddenly cleared itself of all debris from years past. Everything was still working fine, but I was still trembling when the first engineer arrived some thirty minutes later.

It's always a good to be able to laugh when the joke is on you, but nearly always better if its on the other fellow. Elwyn Davies who joined the company as a 14 year old boy was, I am told, continually asking Dusty to allow him to go out into the field to do some service work but was told that he could only go into the field when he was strong enough to carry a tool bag I personally did not witness the incident but I am told that the moment was hilarious when he was told that his bag had arrived and provided he could carry it he was to commence that morning. Can you imagine his chagrin when he was unable to lift the bag, only to find that the boys had screwed it to the workshop floor! However it can be disconcerting sometimes if the joke is on you. I was a smoker at the time and since I couldn't really afford to smoke I was all ears when one of the lads began to enthuse over the miraculously curative properties of some very expensive pills he had managed to purchase. He explained that owing to the cost they were only sold in packets of two and that one had completely cured him of all his craving for tobacco. He

offered to give me the remaining tablet for nothing, but only if I really wanted to give up. I said that I was in deadly earnest and he gave me the pill which I took immediately and then awaited results. It was later in the day at lunch time when a number of the lads had returned to eat their lunch. I had finished my sandwiches and my second or third cup of tea when I felt the need to visit the loo. I returned feeling a little disturbed to say the least and the place went into hysterics when I explained my concern that my water had "come out" purple. You guessed it. The miracle pill was a kidney pillit took me a long time to live that one down!

I was young and full of enthusiasm to do well and on another occasion when I had arrived very early (my bus arrived in Cardiff at 7.45am) and was waiting for the others to arrive I noticed a call on Dusty's desk to collect a cash register I saw also that the van was in the garage which was unusual because Tom Edwards (top dog) usually took it home at night. So having just been put on the list of drivers and feeling that I had as much right to drive the van as Tom, I decided that I would go and collect the machine. Alas luck wasn't on my side, and on the way back to the office I ran into the back of an army lorry. The lorry driver didn't even notice and wasn't interested.

I remember feeling very sheepish when ex Sgt. Major Tom questioned and cross questioned me as to how I could possibly have been such an idiot, driving into another vehicle and damaging his van. I think I later proved myself to him and forgave him the dressing down and we became quite good friends in the ATM days.

I made a great number of friends during my career and I can't remember falling out with anyone. But there was one occasion when I almost did. I was Depot Manager in Newport at the time and I was responsible for one very successful site with 4 class 500s and several other installations around Wales. Very late one afternoon I was directed by my supervisor to travel down into Devon to a site where a 500 engineer who was also a "Century" engineer was bogged down with a problem. I will never forget the experience. When I arrived it was dark and well past six o'clock. The engineer was still on site puffing at his curved pipe and when he saw me enter the room he demanded, what do you want? I explained that I had been sent to assist him, he fumed that he didn't need anyone's help and if he couldn't find the cause of a problem it was no good anyone else looking for it, and with that stormed out of the building leaving me speechless, and helpless since he hadn't even explained what the problem was. I gathered from the state of things about the place that it was the card reader that was giving problems and I determined that it was a "registration" problem. Under the circumstances I decided to leave the site, and when I arrived home I phoned the supervisor to put him in the picture. I left home the following morning very early and arrived on site about 8.45am. only to find Tom Edwards all ready on site, with a fully functioning system. He confirmed that it had been as I had diagnosed and he had installed a replacement m/c. I didn't meet the engineer in question again until some years later during Bob Gregory's. reign as Div. Director. We were to meet at a special management assessment seminar. On that seminar were Tom Bowles and myself both now having being "promoted" to assistant supervisors, Ian Ormerod Centre Manager Jersey and my friend from Devon all representing the TSD, together with a couple of high flyers from Sales and Marketing, one of whom was a very attractive young lady. I particularly remember the young woman since one of the exercises involved a post box and letter. I can't remember the precise object of the exercise but I do remember that we ended up in a total pile in the middle of the room with the girl on the bottom

of the pile. She finally emerged with a very flushed face and exclaimed with a smile "that she had never been manhandled by so many men at the same time in all her life". (I wonder if you remember that incident Geoff) I recall that during casual conversation with the other three, I remarked that I thought the reason we were there was that we were under scrutiny for further development!!! Little were we to know then that one of us was to become Div. Director.

By the way, on conclusion of the exercise described earlier, my friend from Devon told me that he was on a winner from the start since the letter everyone was trying to get at had been in his pocket all the time, and that he had put a blank sheet in the original envelope.

I have been very fortunate to have made so many friends during my career with the company as well as those to whom I have already paid tribute. I would mention:- John Phillips of Birmingham who helped and encouraged me in my early days as Assistant Supervisor. Ron Jones of Cardiff, now sadly departed, who was such a "storyteller" and who looked after all the new boys like a father. Also there were John Cheek, Eric Thrush, Dave Robinson, and Len Oslime, all of Bristol, and all of whom became good friends at the time when I worked out of the Bristol office, and oh! so many more.

I also have fond memories of the days training at Brent with great characters like Vic Gladden and Ron Tarlin, and the days spent at Dundee Training Centre with two more of the famous, Jack Fowler and Johnny Clayton, and what about the times with Fred Fowler and Guido (Sid) Sidoli during decimalisation.

It was a great pleasure to work with all of these guys, and it's a great delight when I have the chance to meet some of them again at the annual get-together.

A further delight for a later issue is an account of Gerry's experiences on courses in both Germany and Japan - watch this space. Ed.



*Reminiscence - Restaurant Tropic Falls
Lisbon in 1964*

1964 CPC Lisbon. Special Fields Salesmen.

**Facing Camera: John Burrington, Gary Wright, Bill Baker,
Frank Bushell, Frank Cunningham.**

**Back to Camera: Eric Rasmussen, John Mabey, Ron MacKenzie,
Tom Treadwell, unknown woman (not NCR), Gerry Skelly.**

COMPANY NEWS

NCR At A Glance

1997 Revenues	\$6.589 billion
Net Income	\$7 million
Net Income per share	\$0.7
Research & Development Expenses	\$381 million
Cash and Short-Term Investments	\$1.129 billion
International Revenues	51% of total revenues
Number of Employees	38,300
Locations	1,000 offices and 30 development and manufacturing facilities in 130 countries throughout the Americas, Europe, Middle East, Africa, Asia and Pacific regions.

Top Global Markets (based on revenue)	United States, Japan, United Kingdom, Germany, France, Australia, Spain, Italy, Canada and Switzerland
--	--

1997 NCR Revenue by Industry

Retail Industry	\$1.3 billion
Financial Industry	\$2.8 billion
Communications Industry and National Accounts	\$1.6 billion
Systemedia	\$500 million
Other	\$400 million
Total Revenues	\$6.6 billion

History

- **1884** - John H. Patterson founded the National Cash Register Company, maker of the first mechanical cash registers.
- **1906** - Charles F. Kettering designed the first cash register powered by an electric motor.
- **1962** - NCR acquired Computer Research Corporation (CRC), of Hawthorne, California, which produced a line of digital computers with applications in aviation.
- **1963** - NCR established the Electronics Division to continue to pursue electronic applications for business machines.
- **1974** - Company changed its name to NCR Corporation.
- **1982** - The First NCR Tower supermicrocomputer system was launched, establishing NCR as a pioneer in bringing industry standards and open systems architecture to the computer market.
- **1991** - NCR was acquired by AT&T and subsequently renamed AT&T Global Information Solutions (GIS).
- **1996** - Lars Nyberg appointed chairman and CEO of AT&T GIS.
- **1995** - AT&T announces spin-off of AT&T GIS by the end of 1996.
- **1996** - AT&T GIS changes its name back to NCR Corporation in anticipation of being spun off to AT&T shareholders by January 1997, as an independent, publicly-traded company.
- **1997** - Signalling its evolution from a hardware-only company to a full solutions provider, NCR purchases Compris Technologies Inc., a leading provider of store automation and management software for the food-service industry, and Dataworks, a company that develops check-processing software.

POSTSCRIPT is the newsletter of the NCR Pensioners Fellowship
Published by Pensions Department, NCR UK Limited.
Contributions for the newsletter should be sent to
the Editor at the address above.
Produced by BUSI-PRINT, Deal, Kent CT14 9TS



THE NCR Retirement Fellowship



ORGANISING COMMITTEE

PRESIDENT: Henry Redington

CHAIRMAN: Tony Poil

VICE-CHAIRMAN: Basil Garsed

SECRETARY: John Nash

EDITOR "POSTSCRIPT": Geoff Jackson

REGIONAL ORGANISERS

Region 1: Scott Caldwell

Region 5: Ted Young

Region 2E: Maureen Burd

Region 6: Alan Hutchins

Region 2N: Jo Leighton

Region 7: Jim Kembery

Region 2W: Charles Southall

Region 8: Des Woodall

Region 3: Harry Hardacre

Region 9: Tom Farmer

Region 4: Tony Poil

