

### PENSIONER PROFILE

#### JIMMY YOUNG

**Scott Caldow, organiser - Region 1, writes:-**

For some time now I have been trying to get one or two of our members in Region 1 of the Fellowship to tell us what they are doing in their retirement, for, after all, retired people have plenty of spare time - so they say! Well, I'm just like the rest of you; until now I just haven't found the time to get down to twisting someone's arm.

During the last Glasgow Lunch I spoke to Jimmy Young and asked him if he could draft me out something for the magazine. Time went on and before I knew, another year had passed and I resolved to get in touch with Jimmy. We arranged to meet up at his home in Cumbernauld where he lives with his wife May. As we chatted I got a better understanding of why Jimmy found it difficult to find the time to give me a draft of his present activities in his retirement.

For those of you who do not know him, I should fill you in and explain that Jimmy Young was a Field Engineer. He worked for seven years in Edinburgh, later transferring to our branch in Stirling and finally moving to NCR's offices in Glasgow. All told he had 32 years service with the Company. During all of this time he was an enthusiastic piper in his spare time.

As we talked, his wife May produced an article from "The National Post" which described him as one of Scotland's up and coming pipers. The article went on to describe how he was made an honorary member of the Edinburgh City Police Pipe Band and how he had given up his holidays to play for the Band each day during the Edinburgh Festival and, as though that was not enough, he played again at night in the Military Tattoo at Edinburgh Castle. At the time, the article went on, while this was the most arduous holiday he had ever had, he said he wouldn't have missed it for the world.

So, that was 1954. What about the years since then? Well, hold your breath. With all of those years since the 50s, it is not surprising that he eventually ended up teaching and judging pipers all over the world. More recently, in 1996, he was invited to judge the United States Piping Foundation, Professional and Amateur Piping Championships in Newark, Delaware. In the following year Jimmy and May were bound for Newark for a one day event held in the Dupont Music Building at the University of Delaware and at the end of July they were off again, to Canada where Jimmy was the sole judge at the Piobaireachd Society Gold Medal Competition in Maxville, Ontario.

What about 1998 - At the beginning of April he was asked to assist with teaching at the Glasgow College of Piping, just for a couple of days. Needless to say he is still there, giving lessons every day. The only break he had during the year was when he was asked to teach at the Army & Navy Academy in Carlsbad near Santiago - that was during June.

When I asked him what he did in his spare time he laughed and told me "I take part in the Oban, Inverness and Cowal Highland Games. Oh yes! I almost forgot", he said, "I was in Armagh in Ireland judging in November". Jimmy and May have two sons, two daughters and three granddaughters. His eldest son, Roddy is also a keen piper and is following in father's footsteps. Jimmy is now 70 years of age - not bad for someone who had a triple bypass about three years ago. I think they must have changed his batteries at the same time!

A big thank you to May and Jimmy for taking the time to see me and helping me to fulfil at least one of my New Year Resolutions.





## REGION 1

from Scott Caldwell

Our first luncheon for 1999 was held in L'Ariosto in Glasgow on the 17<sup>th</sup> March. A number of regulars were unable to make it this time, **Andy Aitken, Bob McNiven, Bill Hogg, Tom Wilkin, Jack Fitchet, Alan Pearce, Bill Ferguson and John McMahon**. They all sent their apologies and asked to be remembered to everyone. In spite of this we had 18 members present and as usual they all enjoyed a good meal and a chat. It was good to see **Ginger Gray, David Graham and Brian Strathdee** who came through from Edinburgh. This helped to swell our numbers

In my last report I told you that **John Seater** and his wife had emigrated to New Zealand and I am pleased to pass on their best wishes to everyone. They have settled down to their new life and although it's coming on to winter the temperature some days is as high as 70 F. It's interesting to read that John still gets his copy of the Postscript sent to him in New Zealand.

Many of you will have heard that **Mike Clancy** died early in the year. Mike was Regional Manager F.E. for Scotland and Ireland when he retired. Mike had spent all of his working life with the company, starting as a boy then through the Field Engineering as an engineer and eventually into management. During the latter part of his career he became an ordained minister and on his retirement took this up full time. Many of his old colleagues from all over Scotland attended his funeral.



A wee reminder to everyone that our next lunch is in Edinburgh at the Murrayfield Hotel on the 8<sup>th</sup> September and the last one for this century will be at the Riverside Hotel, Earl Grey Place, Dundee on the 13<sup>th</sup> October.

Hope to see you then. Regards to all.



The Glasgow Lunch

## REGION 2E

from Maureen Burdis

I have found that our Spring luncheons are always well attended and this year was no exception with more than 40 of us enjoying an excellent meal at our usual venue "The Buckles" on May 19<sup>th</sup>. It was wonderful to see so many of you looking well and nice that **June Rudge-Priestley** was able to come, (mind you, she had to come in order to give "new boy", **Sandy McMillan**, directions to get there - hope the waistline is back to normal now Sandy - he had to endure another meal that evening with Rotary!)

I was lucky enough to pick a warm, sunny day; it always prevents the switch-off a rainy one causes. The chauffeurs were out in force - thank you **Brian, Dave, Bud, Baz and Henry**. Yes, an excellent meeting and meal, though we were sorry that **Jim Batchelor** had to pull out at the last minute but, when chatting to Alice and him that evening I learned that his anxieties had been unfounded - so see you next time, Jim. Also **John**, the same message goes to you - see you in October.

By the time we are all reading this in print **June** will be back from her trip with **Malcolm** to the States and, **Stan**, hope your knee stood up to the rigours of sightseeing in Budapest and Prague.

Next meeting/luncheon arranged for 20<sup>th</sup> October; those that didn't make it last time try harder this time - put it in your diaries!

Wishing you all a happy, sunny Summer.

## REGION 2N

From Jo Leighton

### The Lost Hotel

Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> May was one of those days when you believe - rightly - that "...to be in England now that Spring is here ..." is sheer delight.

Glorious sunshine and a warm breeze meant coats, hats were not needed for the car journey of 60 odd miles to Newcastle for our May luncheon and Fellowship meeting.

We had finally managed to arrange, through the good office of **Eddy Rose**, a suitable venue in the North East. Carlisle of course is central when it is recognised that members of Region 2N hail from all four corners of a very large territory, (I know some others are bigger, don't tell me about them) Morecambe, Grange over Sands, Kirkbride on the Solway, Carlisle and various parts of Northumberland & Durham. The North East group have journeyed to Carlisle for some years now and deserve consideration to be given to having many more meetings in the North East now that we have found a suitable place.



Newcastle on 18<sup>th</sup> May. L - R: Bob Graham, Eddie Rose, John Maunsey, Mary Heinten, Enid McManus, Tony Poil.

We had a lovely meal in the County Hotel. The hotel is centrally located directly opposite the entrance of Newcastle railway station and was named as such on my invitation to members. What they, and I, didn't know was that in the interim the hotel had changed it's name to the Thistle Hotel. First **Jim Brown**, travelling from Grange over Sands, was discovered, nonplussed outside the hotel entrance and cursing Jo Leighton for giving inaccurate instructions, followed a few minutes later by Tony Poil, our welcome guest.

Because of the change of hotel name I'd gone into the station to meet Tony but missed him in the crowd alighting from the train - dead on time by the way. Later, thinking about the reason I'd missed him I concluded it must have been his hat that confused me, I'd never seen him in a hat before. Anyway, after consulting a taxi driver, Tony too found his way into the hotel without further trouble.

Members unable to attend - Sister **Ann Gate** and **Gladys Foulner** were unable to travel the distance, **Andy Ewart** sadly is unwell, **Zena Young, Ellen Liddle** - widow of **Alf**, Newcastle Porter for



many years, and **Dot Turnbull** - missed a great meal and an opportunity to meet Tony and hear him speaking about what interests most of us, viz. pensions, possible pension increases and how Dayton still keeps an interest in our affairs, Trustees and where NCR is in the market place.

In the discussion that followed it was interesting to note that members welcomed the inclusion of reminiscent articles in the Newsletter. "Keep it up", they say.

It was nice to be in Newcastle. Like so many Regional Centres it is changing almost daily, so much going on and so lively. We will return to the same venue on future occasions when we hope to see more members from the North East and we were delighted that Tony could join us and speak - he was careful to point out that he is Chairman of the Organising Committee of the Fellowship not of the Fellowship itself - his welcome presence, and the great weather, made it a splendid day, despite the Hotel that wasn't!

### REGION 2W

*from Charles Southall*

The summer meeting for Region 2W was held - as we have now become accustomed, at "The Grange Country Club" Heswall, Wirral on the 4th May. We have had quite a number of extra members since our last meeting and I suspect also that the date was convenient because we had a good turnout.

A total of 54 attended including guests and wives, many more than at previous meetings. New members included **Peter Cole** with **Jean Faulkner** and **Arthur Southall** with his wife **Joan**. **Don Cartwright** and **Ken Haughton** also attended for the first time, **John Evans** has not been for a while either. There was quite a party atmosphere engendered with so many old friends there.

We were all sorry to learn that **Cyril Ashworth** is not so well down there in Church Crookham - get well soon Cyril. I haven't heard from **Robbie Wilson** recently. Are you alright Rob, would be nice to hear from you, I know that you haven't been too good lately either?

Arrangements have been made for our Autumn meeting on Monday 25th October. Please note, **Maureen** - I couldn't get the Tuesday!

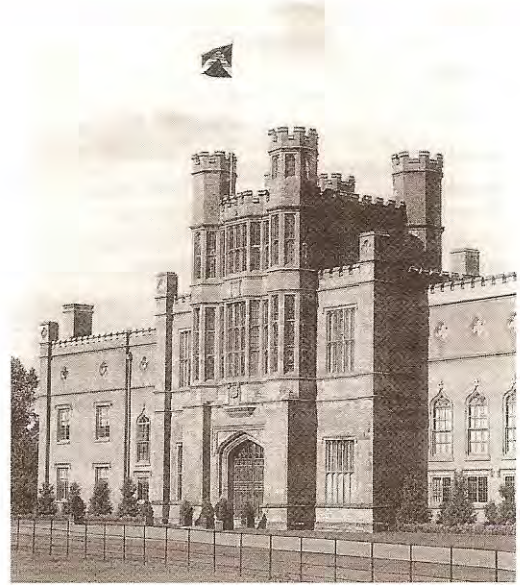
Enjoy the summer everyone, see you all in October.

### REGION 3

*from Harry Hardacre*

Arrangements have been made for a Regional Lunch at Coughton Court on Thursday 5th August. Phone Harry for further details.

(You may recall that this is not the first time Harry has used one of his relation's abodes for a Fellowship meeting - it was Warwick Castle last time! Ed.)



*Coughton Court - Venue of Region 3's next meeting*

### REGION 4

*from Tony Poil*

"Hope springs eternal in the human breast" wrote Alexander Pope 250 years ago. How right he was! In my last report I said that we had hoped to hold our October meeting at Marylebone Road, and although we were disappointed we hoped to be able to return there for our April lunch. Alas! we were disappointed again as the building work still continues, so it was the Caledonian Rooms once again. And a second alas, because due to a little health problem (now sorted out) I was unable to attend. **Des Woodall** and **Ted Young** kindly deputised for me, and I understand from them that an enjoyable meeting took place with some 60 members attending.

I hope I am not tempting fate when I say that we do expect to be able to meet once again at Marylebone Road in October. However, it is possible that we may have to have separate meetings for 4A and 4B. Needless to say, our efficient Secretary **John Nash** will send out the invitations well in advance and I am sure that we can expect a record turnout.



*Tony Poil - Chairman of the Organising Committee and Organiser of Region 4*



## REGION 5



*Region 5's organiser Ted Young!*

## REGION 6

*from Alan Hutchins*

We have not had a function for Region 6 since the last edition so unfortunately I do not have anything to contribute. But I would be grateful if you would remind all the members of Region 6 that our next meeting is a lunch at the Queens Hotel, Southsea on October 6th, so anybody who would like to come and has not yet replied, maybe this would be a good time to do so, before they forget.

The summer seems to be arriving slowly, so have a good one.

## REGIONS 8 & 8a

*from Des Woodall*



*Des Woodall - Organiser Region 8 & 8a*

Another successful lunch at the Caledonian Rooms was held for Region 8 on 15th April, shared again with Region 5. Attendance was not quite as high as for the previous get-together, but I am sure the lunches will be very popular again when we get back to Head Office, which we hope; and believe will be the case for the future. On 15th April, we sent good wishes to Chairman Tony Poil, who, at the time, was not well enough to attend.

On 20th May, 18 attended the Region 8a lunch at the Redford Lodge Hotel in Newmarket. We were delighted to welcome **Brian Bourdon** for the first time, and **Jim Whitehead**, who he brought as a guest. Four wives also attended, and **Charlie Morgan** and

**Charles Lee** came along to see how 8a ticks! **George Murray** had to regretfully cancel his anticipated attendance, but sent his kind regards to everyone. The day was sunny and pre-lunch drinks were enjoyed in the garden, before a sumptuous lunch in a reserved part of the dining room. Coffee was served in the Squires Room, and nobody left until it was nearly tea time !

We all strove to be successful during our working lives at NCR, so here is an old adage to remind you of what it was all about...

"A successful man is a man who makes more money than his wife can spend; a successful woman is a woman who can find such a man."



*Region 8a at Newmarket. L - R: Beryl Woodall, Charlie Morgan, Denis Gill, Charles Lee, Alice Lee, Doris Simm and Ivy Morgan*

## A note from Northern Ireland

*from Jack Martin*

Sorry for the delay in sending you details of our Christmas lunch. As the photo shows, a good time was had by all. Those attending, clockwise around the table are-

Victor Frizzell  
Muriel Mahon  
John Bates  
Jim Thompson

Ronnie Magowan  
Himself  
Sally English  
John Moth



**Alf Lucas** and **Colum Hughes** were unable to attend but are both well. Tony Poil has given you full details and photos of our first get-together with our South of Ireland Fellowship colleagues. Everyone really enjoyed meeting again after so many years. We would like to thank Tony for his help in arranging our get-together and for taking the time and trouble to be with us and entertaining us with a speech remembering old times (Tony worked in Belfast office in the 1950's) and bringing us up to date with the new N.C.R.



## Contributed by Hilda (Ott) Perryman

### NCR's Further Involvement in General Elections

Following **John Hill's** report in the Summer 1998 Post Script of the 50's and 60's General Election results and the involvement of Ernest Harvey forecasting trends via the 315 I thought you would find it interesting to hear how NCR was responsible for the election results in 1955 and 1960.

The redoubtable **Timothy Patrick O'Hara -'Pat'** - the then Sales Manager of District Two was responsible for organising the processing of the results at The Press Association, The Daily Mail, The Daily Express and their associated Evening Papers. These results were processed on the Class 31 accounting machines - P13's -, which meant a full keyboard to accommodate the large capacity, required for the numbers of the electorate voting in each constituency. The class 31 machines had ten registers, which wasn't enough to give separate totals for the many fringe political party's required by the Press Association, so a class 2000 machine was installed in addition to the class 31.

A week or so prior to Election Day I had charts drawn up showing Constituency Number and number on electoral roll for each constituency, similar to PAYE Table 'A' charts - for those of us who can remember them. There were separate charts for day and night returns. As always **Mrs. Nina Wiltshire**, manager of the Drawing Office was responsible for producing these, and not for the first time I was most grateful to Nina for the efficient, reliable and professional job she did.

**Marie Cox** the District Two supervisor, **Margaret Price** from the Luton office, which came under District Two were at the Daily Express and Daily Mail operating class 31's, **Jessica Jacobs (Jakes)** District One operated the class 2000 and myself the class 31 at the Press Association. Prior to joining District One Jakes operated the class 2000 for a few years in the Accountants Department. Back up, unbelievably in this day and age, were adding machines operated by District Two adding machine salesmen, one in each location. The only man I can remember in this connection is **Dennis Holden**. I recall there were two pairs of engineers available to cover the three sites, one pair for the night shift and one for the day and knowing they were around gave the rest of us confidence. As far as the two machines at the Press Association were concerned they upheld the NCR reputation for reliability and kept going through the night and day that we were processing the results.

On the afternoon of each election Marie and I visited all three locations after the machines had been delivered, checking on electrical points etc., and testing the machines; I remember thinking this was the worst part of the operation as we were dashing around between the three offices and on both days it was very hot.

All NCR personnel concerned on election night were booked into a hotel off The Strand. 'Pat' stipulated we presented ourselves for dinner at 8pm. It was the most hilarious and enjoyable dinner it has been my good fortune to attend, and it was hard to tear ourselves away to be at our posts at 10pm ready to process the first returns which were due at that time. From memory I believe Billericay fulfilled their then reputation for being the first in the UK to file their election results.

The three accounting machines recorded the results line by line under the headings; 'Constituency Number', 'Total Electorate', 'Conservative', 'Labour', 'Liberal', 'Communist' and 'Others' and from the sum of these last four columns 'Total Voted'. Again very many thanks are due to Nina who drew up a very large number of Proof Sheets with these headings to accommodate us. After we had processed each individual result - or rush - as it was known, Press Association personnel worked out the percentage of electors

who voted from the 'Total Electorate' and 'Total Voted' figures both for individual constituencies and Totals to Date.

Jakes recorded each result under their separate headings. The Press Association required what they termed a long return on the hour - from the class 2000 - and a short return - from the class 31 - on the half-hour. The total number of electorate and the total voted could be agreed at a glance but I then had to add up manually and collate the separate totals from the class 2000 to agree with the four individual totals of the parties produced by the class 31. We were both pleased and relieved to find that neither of us made a mistake during the processing of the electoral results.

We worked from 10pm on polling day Thursday until 5am Friday and then from 9.30am until 7pm on Friday. Walking along the embankment back to the hotel at 5am on the Friday morning I found to be most refreshing but after an hours sleep in a very hot hotel I felt rather tired when I went down to breakfast. This soon disappeared once I reached The Press Association offices and started to process the day returns. At the time I was of the opinion that it would have been better to have stayed up for those few hours and paid a visit to Covent Garden Market.

The busiest time for processing the returns was both midnight and midday. During our time at the Press Association we were continually supplied with cups of tea or coffee and packets of delicious sandwiches.

Prior to 1955 I had never been in a press office but I found the reality to be at that time as I had imagined it. Possibly due to the press itself and the radio. The night editor was a most charming Irishman called Mr. Murphy who wore his glasses on the end of his nose, had a multi-coloured waistcoat shirtsleeves rolled up and wearing carpet slippers. This may not sound too unusual today but as my contemporaries will know smart lounge suit's and collar and ties was the order of the day then. There were a fair number of journalists around who were continually looking over our shoulders studying the results and endeavouring to forecast the outcome.

At 4pm on the Friday we were waiting for just one result to come in which I believe was from the Outer Hebrides and that was received at 7pm.

In those days evidently the Press Association supplied the BBC with information and I arrived home in time to hear the BBC 9pm news announcer read out the final election results that Jakes and I had processed.

Marie and Margaret were each paid by their respective newspapers but NCR classed it as a favour to organise the proceedings for the press association and both Jakes and I were given a present of £5 from NCR. I can remember very clearly the blue silk corded suit I bought with the money.

Except for a few changes in personnel the 1960 election results followed the same procedure except that the Press Association allowed us to leave at 4pm on the Friday although the Outer Hebrides results were not in. Mr. Murphy had retired and I cannot remember his successor. Jakes had also left NCR and her place on the 2000 was taken by a girl called 'June' who was then operating the 2000 in the Accountants Department.

I think 1964 was the year of the next election and with computers making their mark, the accounting machines were declared redundant. Those of us involved in the previous elections could not help but smile when we were told there were sixteen NCR personnel required to produce the results, various analyses, and swings etc., it was possible to obtain from the computer programmes, but there were a few hiccups. It was put down to inexperience!!!



## from Alf Collingham

That regular contributor, Alf Collingham, has had the old grey matter stirred up by Gerry Cole's reminiscing and has submitted the following. It only goes as far as the beginning of the war but can continue if you would all like some more - for my part, I would say "Keep going Alf!"

I was thinking, and reading **Gerry Cole's** letter in the *PostScript*, most of us Narecans could write a book on the experiences in our NCR life.

I started in Brighton at the age of sixteen in 1936 as a Junior Clerk/Mechanic, 23" hours for each Department, the Agent paying one half of the wage and the Service the other half. First job in the morning, was to clean the cabinets of these beautiful 5000 and 4000 machines, no finger marks on the chrome or glasses, and see that there was a proof of reset on the detail roll. Service-wise I used to "tank" machines and gradually progressed to stripping down and assembling; in those days 15 hours at 4/- an hour was the limit for a clean and oil, and if on delivery of the machine the money could be collected the mechanic received the commission. 15 hours at the present rate I dread to think. **A.J. Beeching** was the head of the Service Division and when he paid us a visit he would take the stock. I had to count all the screws, then I would write so many off with each job.

Brighton was considered a plum territory for the agents, the first one we had was **G.L.C. Swaffield** who obtained a large order from Boots of Nottingham and was rewarded with the Brighton Territory. He was followed by **Bob Mellish**, ex District Manager, a dour Scot. Agents purchased their Supplies from the Company and then sold them for themselves, there used to be a reduced rate for selling a gross (two dozen free). Bob was most upset on the odd occasion I sold a gross; I would deliver the local boxes of rolls on my push-bike. While on the subject of my bike, the cash registers used to arrive in very strong boxes from Ontario, Canada, which were not returnable, and I used to sell them to a Bed & Breakfast hotel opposite the office and receive six old pence, some went home for firewood, one on each pedal of the bike, the only snag was that the ends of the boxes were difficult to chop, so quite a few ended up in my Mum's shed, as long as I saved enough boxes for machines to be returned, the rest could go. I was taken over fully by the Service Department, and a Lady Clerk was engaged - a very glamorous **Miss Glaum**, and it was not long before she attracted the attention of our Head Office visitors, and she was transferred to Head Office as a senior secretary. We shared a toilet with another company, the toilet was outside down a flight of steps, and when Miss Glaum paid a visit, I had to stand at the top of the steps on guard!

**Mr. Leslie Sykes** was the next agent, another ex District Manager, he came from Portsmouth and some years later he became Mayor of Hove. The War had started and machines were not being imported, and I had a pointer on the last 5327 sold in a district: the time had arrived when an agent could not sell a machine unless he traded one in, so the brass machines were stripped down, cleaned and went out with a one piece black cabinet the next day, which we called the black knights; if they had printers on the side these were removed. We had our first Austin Van which was very necessary, as we had several large companies evacuated to Sussex villages. I had in 1939, taken a Basic Retail course at Head Office, which consisted of repairing machines. The course ended with six weeks on the London territory servicing machines, The course was on the sixth floor and the Stores on the fourth floor. Access was by stairs at the back of the building, which faced a block of flats. A lady would be taking a shower soon after we started work; the

story was the builders had put the glass in the wrong way round, so about this time we would all be needing parts from the stores - on the way, we would be looking out of the window! The building was about 50 yards away, and as you can imagine we saw very little, but for young men on a visit to London it was quite exciting. **Bert Townsend** seeing the empty benches would come and get us on our way.

During all this time my Depot Manager was **Harry Macdonald**, an ex Remington man who repaired the 3000 accounting machines. I had by now got married and was in the RAF, and on my leaves would visit the office. Harry was, I found out, very well organised in the black market, and underneath a pile of overalls in the work shop was on one occasion a box of Carnation Milk, so as we left the office we had to take care as the new Office Clerk's dad was in the Police. We had one or two Food Parcels during the early war years from personnel in our Australian Company which were used to make Christmas cakes.

## Spot the cash register!

Is this the oldest and furthest, working NCR in the world? Spotted in February 1999 in the Museum, Reefton (NW South Island), New Zealand. The machine is not an exhibit and is in daily use! It is believed to have been in that area from new. It carries the legends:-

- H2428 99

- September 13 1898 (patent)

(Can you beat that? Can anyone confirm the model number and any other details? Ed.)



## Elementary....

Sherlock Holmes and Dr Watson went on a camping trip. After a good meal and a bottle of wine they lay down for the night and went to sleep. Some hours later, Holmes awoke and nudged his faithful friend, 'Watson, look up at the sky and tell me what you see.' Watson replied, 'I see millions and millions of stars.' 'What does that tell you?' said Holmes. Watson pondered for a minute. 'Astronomically, it tells me there are millions of galaxies and potentially billions of planets. Astrologically, I observe that Saturn is in Leo. Horologically, I deduce that the time is approximately a quarter past three. Theologically, I can see that God is all powerful and that we are small and insignificant. Meteorologically, I suspect that we will have a beautiful day tomorrow. What does it tell you?' Holmes was silent for a minute, then spoke. 'Watson, someone has stolen our tent!'



## 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	D H Campbell	1998	6yrs 2mths	48	04-Mar-99	Cumbernauld
Mr	E W Channon	1977	35yrs 7mths	86	19-Feb-99	Electrician - Marylebone
Rev	M Clancy	1987	47yrs 3mths	74	30-Jan-99	Regional Manager - Glasgow
Mrs	M G P Hamilton	1981	13yrs 10mths	78	30-Jan-99	Binding Operator Gourrock
Mr	K Holmes	1984	24yrs 10mths	68	05-Mar-99	Systemedia - Brent
Ms	M Home	1972	42yrs 9mths	86	14-Jan-99	*Information Required* *
Mr	V W Hope	1981	45yrs 6mths	82	11-Mar-99	Field Engineering - Brent
Mr	P W Horan	1983	17yrs 8mths	66	04-Apr-99	Schriber Operator - Borehamwood
Mr	P W Keane	1987	18yrs 10mths	76	28-Nov-98	Warehouseman - Brent
Mr	A C King	1973	15yrs	84	24-Feb-99	Time posting Administrator - Elstree
Rev	C A Levett	1971	41yrs 3mths	85	11-Mar-99	Associate Director
Mr	S C P Lowe	1986	22yrs	74	29-Mar-99	Snr Control Administrator
Mrs	A Martin	1984	16yrs	75	04-Feb-99	Administrator - Gourrock
Mr	A E Mercer	1990	1yr 10mths	66	02-Mar-99	Porter - Marylebone
Mr	P J Pond	1981	29 yrs	78	02-Apr-99	Field Engineering - North London
Mr	W H Preston	1985	33yrs 10mths	70	24-Feb-99	Co-ordinator - Marylebone
Mr	P W Pruden	1991	42yrs 11mths	71	09-Apr-99	Personnel - Marylebone
Mrs	M J Rogers	1977	31yrs	72	14-May-99	Overseas
Mr	A A Rouse	1995	33yrs 8mths	61	15-May-99	Team Supervisor - Watford
Mrs	D M Rowley	1975	23yrs 9mths	84	20-Feb-99	Marketing - Marylebone
Mr	J F C Sanders	1970		93	28-Mar-99	*Information Required* *
Mr	D G Sleigh	1981	44yrs 7mths	77	08-Mar-99	Retail Support - Marylebone
Mrs	F A Smith	1963		95	24-Apr-99	Engineer
Mr	J Stirrup	1989	14yrs 1mth	74	29-Mar-99	*Information Required* *

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

## Angela Maxwell's Benefit's Update

### State Benefit's

• I would like to clarify one of the proposed changes to benefit's for bereaved people being introduced from April 2001. The new £2,000 bereavement payment will only be given to people aged under 60 and those over 60, provided the spouse who predeceases them was not receiving the state pension and had paid adequate national insurance contributions. This means that if both of the couple are already in receipt of a state pension when one of them dies, no £2,000 will be payable and widows will continue to inherit their husband's basic pension in place of their own as now.

• Under current rules, a widow or widower can inherit all of their spouse's SERPS up to a maximum level. However, changes to SERPS mean that if the person dies on or after 6th April 2000, the remaining partner will only be entitled to half the SERPS income.

• A recent Court of Appeal hearing has ruled that disabled people who go abroad for their health for more than 4 weeks will have their income support stopped.

• Following publicity about the lack of information concerning the cut in SERPS for widows and widowers whose spouse dies on or after 6th April 2000, the Government has announced that it will consider compensation for anyone who can establish that they received advice that did not reflect the change from April 2000 and, as a result, acted to their detriment. See above.

### Finance

• The Inland Revenue estimates that it still owes money to as many

as 2 million people who voluntarily paid more tax than was due in order to boost government funds during the last world war. Taxpayers were given certificates of credit to be redeemed later with interest. Redemption has been carried out in waves over the years but the taxman is still unable to trace people easily because at the time their records were fairly basic. Many taxpayers could well have died but their beneficiaries can still claim. You should send in the original certificate which will be returned (if required as a memento) together with a cheque. If the certificate has been lost, you will need details such as where you or your benefactor lived during the war. In this case, you can get a claim form by writing to the **Post War Credit Centre, Ty Glas, Llanishen, Cardiff CF4 5TX**.

• Have you just received your self-assessment tax return form? If so, check that it is not one of the 700,000 that have been issued with a misprint! The mistake appears on the last page of the standard form. Here it asks for information for the year ending 1998 instead of 1999. Similar errors appear in the partnership forms and the land and property supplement. If you are affected, the Inland Revenue is advising people to simply change the year on the form and to complete it as normal.

• The Low Incomes Tax Reform Group, (LITRF), has made numerous recommendations as to how the tax system could be made more customer-friendly and fair for people on low incomes and the Inland Revenue is currently reviewing it's response. The Group highlighted the distress caused to thousands of pensioners by the issue of self-assessment tax returns in circumstances that were quite unnecessary because the individuals were below the tax threshold or where PAYE could have collected the right amount of tax. The Group is asking pensioners on a low income and with simple tax affairs who have received self-assessment returns in the last month to write to them with brief details of their



circumstances. Their address is **LITRF, Chartered Institute of Taxation, 12 Upper Belgrave Street, London SW1X 8BB**. All information will be treated in the strictest confidence.

- Do you have a PEP mortgage? Do remember that this will not automatically be transferred into an ISA mortgage now that PEPs are obsolete. You should have received forms to complete to take out an ISA through making regular payments. If you haven't received these forms or have thrown them away thinking they were just more "junk" mail, you will need to contact your PEP provider immediately.

- A recent survey has shown that getting local currency in foreign holiday hotels can cost you up to 10 times as much as using a credit card or cash machine. Hotels charged up to 11% commission compared to 1 or 2% on a credit card.

- If you are taking your car abroad, it is wise to contact your insurance company 2 weeks before you go or you could find yourself without proper cover. Even if you have a fully comprehensive policy in this country it may be automatically downgraded to third party as soon as you leave the UK unless you've already made arrangements with your insurer to extend the cover. It is no longer compulsory to carry a Green Card in the European Union but it is internationally recognised proof that you have at least the minimum level of insurance required by the law of the country concerned. Also, ask your insurer for a standard form called a European Accident Statement. This will make life a lot easier in the event of your having an accident. If you do have to use it, send the completed form to your insurers with any claim.

- National Savings' long-awaited "Pensioners' Guaranteed Income Bond" has finally arrived. It is a taxable, 2 year fixed-rate bond for people who are 60 or over. The new bond will pay 5% gross on balances of £500 to £50,000. If you need access to your money, you can give 60 days notice, but no interest is paid during that period. If you need instant access, the penalty is equivalent to 30 days interest. Contact **0845 3005 959** or visit any post office for further details. **(Do compare it in detail with any other offerings on the market. Ed.)**

## General

- The Internet service, Buy.co.uk has launched an on-line electricity calculator designed to help customers find their cheapest electricity provider. Some areas of Britain are already deregulated, but the electricity market will be fully deregulated from this June allowing all consumers access to a cheaper supplier. The site can be found at **www.buy.co.uk** and don't forget to look at the small print if you decide to change. OFFER, the independent electricity regulator, publishes a booklet setting out how electricity competition affects you which you can order by ringing **0800 451 451**. Remember that you can ask at your local library to use their computer facilities.

- Did you know that a recent survey by Microsoft has revealed that people over 60 spend more time on computers than any other age group? If you haven't yet taken the plunge, you may be interested in a government initiative introducing training for those who have little or no experience of Information Technology or IT as it's called. Information packs with details of local centres offering "IT for All" are available free by ringing **0800 456 567**. My mother, in her seventies, has just enrolled. She's now a "silver surfer"!

- You may already have received your new PAYE tax coding notice through the post. The codes take effect from the start of the new

tax year on 6th April. As the Chancellor only announced the new tax rates on 9th March, it is highly likely that your coding will still show the 1998/99 allowances and therefore be out of date. If this is the case, then any refund due to you should be reflected in your May or June pension and/or pay statement.

- The Royal Commission on Long Term Care for the Elderly has just unveiled its proposals. Some of the key points are:-

- All nursing and personal care including administering medication and help with washing and dressing should be free to all those who are assessed as needing it. Normal living and housing costs should remain the responsibility of care-home residents.

- The savings level (including the value of a home) that a person can have before they have to start paying for their own care should be raised from £16,000 to £60,000.

- The new system should be overseen by a National Care Commission which would enforce minimum standards and monitor costs.

- The value of a person's home should be disregarded for up to 3 months after admission to care in a home to ensure that people are able to return to their own home if needed.

- Local authorities should be allowed to make loans to individuals who need aids or housing adaptations that will enable them to stay in their own home.

- People wishing to remain at home should be entitled to free nursing care, regardless of the value of their assets.

- A national carer support package should be introduced and £220 million set aside to help carers. These proposals will now be put out for consultation with interested parties but it is unlikely that any action will be taken in the short term.

- The massive changes to Britain's telephone numbers proposed by Oftel, the telephone industry regulator, are set to go ahead in April 2000. The changes will, in fact, begin in June 1999 with the parallel running of old and new telephone numbers in six areas - Cardiff, Coventry, London, Northern Ireland, Portsmouth and Southampton. It doesn't matter which telephone company provides your service, all the codes for these areas are going to change. If you want to get details of the new code numbers you can visit the website on **www.numberchange.org** or you can call the free helpline on **0808 224 2000**.

**(we have incorporated the 'London' changes in this issue, viz: 0171 & 0181 change to 0207 & 0208. Ed.)**

- The Government has revised its proposals on the limit's that should be placed on increases in its fair rents system. Private tenants and secure tenants of housing associations whose tenancies began before 1989 are entitled to have a fair rent registered by a rent officer. The Government has now announced that it will impose a limit of the Retail Prices Index (RPI) plus 7.5% for the first registration of a fair rent and RPI plus 5% for all subsequent registrations. A leaflet should be available from your local council explaining the new limit's for landlords and tenants.

- If you need to find out the address or telephone number of any business e.g. plumber, florist, tourist information centre, anywhere in the country, you can ring "Scoot" freephone on **0800 132 132**.



• Most water companies insist on metering your water if you live in a new or newly converted property, or if you make structural alterations that require planning permission. This will apply to most works carried out under a Disabled Facilities Grant. You have no right to refuse a meter. However there is a Water Industries Bill currently before Parliament which, if passed, would mean that people whose disability means that they use much more water would get an allowance to reduce their metered water bill. Carers need to be aware of the likelihood of a water meter being fitted if they have structural work done that needs planning permission.

## Before I Say Goodbye

*(With acknowledgements to Ruth Picardie)*

It's difficult not to have noticed the growth of books recently, eg **"One Day At A Time"** (Pat Seed), **"Because Cowards Get Cancer, Too"** (John Diamond), **"I'm Living, Not Dying"** (Ted Alger) and the book of the title of this piece.

I've also read that one in three of the population will die from cancer, and it is as one of those one in three that **Geoff**, our Editor, allowed me to record my thoughts, having had the misfortune, like some of my colleagues, to join the "Big C Club".

What are one's first thoughts when the doctor says "I'm sorry, but you have cancer!" Perhaps - "Why me?". And then, philosophically - "Why not me?". A lesson I have learned is the importance of attitude of mind - and working for NCR has been a good training ground.

The two enemies are "FEAR" and "PESSIMISM" and, as one writer has put it: "It's not that I have got cancer - It's that cancer has got me - and I'm going to win!" Of all the advice that I have received, both verbally and written, there is a combination of factors - the medical treatments - chemotherapy, radiotherapy etc., additionally - nutrition and a positive mental attitude.

I can speak of chemotherapy - the most effective at present being "5FU" (the FU standing for "FLUCLOXACILLAN"). In the three and a half years after a major cancer was removed by surgery, a secondary cancer of the liver was discovered, and diagnosed as incurable. I have had two three month spells of 5FU. This is administered through a tube inserted in the chest which is attached to a battery operated pump. The pump and battery are attached to a belt, so that the patient doesn't have to stay in hospital. Management of the chemotherapy (ie daily or weekly change of syringe) was carried out at home, where I could live a reasonably normal life.

All chemotherapy has side effects; in the case of 5FU, these include loss of skin on hands and feet, mouth ulcers, loss of nails; but not loss of hair (which was immaterial in my case as I had already lost most of mine anyway!).

To be told that a cancer is incurable is doubly shattering news. The best that can be done is to do everything possible to control what I'm told are the "T-cells". Chemotherapy is the first line of attack; then, secondly, the right attitude. There are two points of view regarding diet. Both the hospital and my GP say- "Eat what you like and enjoy it!" The nutritionists hold strong views on what you should and should not eat (or drink). While I respect the views of both hospital and GP, one should seriously consider what the nutritionists recommend and refrain from what they consider "the baddies". The lists of both are lengthy: the "goodies" are fruit and vegetables and natural foods. The "baddies", which cancer cells are alleged to thrive on, are things containing certain kinds of fat, dairy products, sugar and salt and caffeine. Fish and chips, cream cakes and red meat are out. What influence the "good" and "bad" foods have is debatable.

What is irrefutable, is the influence of the mental attitude. An important cause of cancer, is to allow stress to take over mental management. People can follow a well controlled, balanced diet, refrain from smoking and alcohol, but the cancer cells that are believed to be in everyone, can come to the fore by allowing stress, anger, road rage and pessimism to take over, thus allowing the cancer cells to lower the immune system and destroy the benefit's of good nutrition.

Among the benefit's of being in the NCR family are those of the NCR spirit, which does not need much elaboration. We have all been taught to overcome problems and adversity. We were taught also to have a spirit of enthusiasm and to be optimistic. We may have felt some scepticism about the "Blue Vase" story; but when the "chips are down" it was a lesson in never, never giving up - vitally important in defeating cancer.

I read in *PostScript* that several of our pensioners are clergymen. There must be, out there, many who believe in another weapon in the fight against cancer - Prayer. Prayer, meditation, relaxation and visualising oneself winning the battle might not cure incurable cancer, but all give an enrichment of life and the feeling that cancer is not going to beat you.

Behind everything I have written, goes the love and support of one's wife, family and friends.



My best wishes to my colleagues for the encouragement and support I have received in my years at NCR, and particularly during the past three and a half years.

**Stan Scorer**

## From Alan Perryman

I would like to respond to the letter from **Jimmy Lane** published in the last edition. Jimmy was a much respected colleague when we worked together in the Department Store Division under the charismatic **Harry Edwin Stiles**, and it's good to know he continues to maintain an interest in the affairs of the company past and present.

The personalities in Jimmy's Owl Class photograph are instantly recognisable as is the Department Store Cash Register, a model 6136(16)RI.T&S4C (I won't bore readers with a full description of the keyboard layout, printer and number of cash drawers). The personalities from left to right are **Jimmy Lane**, **George Ohlson** (a successful department store representative who sold the featured Credit Sanction System to the now defunct Woolland Bros. of Knightsbridge, and my late boss, **Ronnie Cooke**. George Ohlson has a very special place in my NCR memories as, together with **Pamela Deeks** a Secretary in the DSD, we were beneficiaries under his will, each receiving a legacy of £10.



## NCR Pension Plan

I am sure a lot of you are wondering whether there will be a discretionary increase in your NCR Pension this year, and I thought you should be updated with the current position.

Under the Rules of the NCR Pension Plan there is a requirement that pensions in payment are reviewed every 12 months, and I would emphasise that a review does not mean an automatic increase. A review was due on the 1<sup>st</sup> March 1999 and a proposal was prepared and sent to the Company in February for consideration. I regret to advise the Company recently declined the approval.

The Trustees have resubmitted the proposal for an increase to take effect from 1<sup>st</sup> June 1999 and again the approval process is underway, hopefully I will be able to write again in the near future with good news.

I am often asked the basis of how a pension is increased when in payment and it is very difficult to explain; as the increases are subject not only to the Rules of the Pension Plan but also legislation.

I have constructed a table below to explain how each component of pension is increased.

### Pensioner aged under State Pension Age ( Male - 65 & Female - 60 )

	Increase
Pension accrued during pensionable service after 5 April 1997	The pension will receive an increase of 5% or the rise in the Retail Prices Index if lower. Payable each 6 April.
All Other Pension	Amount and due date is discretionary.

### Pensioner upon attaining State Pension Age ( Male - 65 & Female - 60 )

	Increase
Pension accrued during pensionable service after 5 April 1997	The pension will receive an increase of 5% or the rise in the Retail Prices Index if lower. Payable each 6 April.
GMP* accrued during pensionable service prior to 6 April 1988	Increases by the rise in the Retail Prices Index.  Note that the increase is not paid by the NCR Plan but by the State as an extra component of your State pension. Payable each 6 April.
GMP* accrued during pensionable service after 5 April 1988	Increases by the rise in the Retail Prices Index. Note that the increase is paid jointly by the NCR Plan and the State.  The NCR Plan pays 3% or by the rise in the Retail Prices Index if lower than 3%.  If the rise in the RPI is higher than 3% the State pays the balance above 3%. Payable each 6 April.
All Other Pension	Amount and due date is discretionary.

\*GMP is the Guaranteed Minimum Pension. This is the amount equivalent to the pension you would have accrued in the State Earnings Related Pension Scheme had you been a member of that arrangement. The GMP is deemed by the State to be payable from the members State Pension Age, which is why the calculation of the increase changes with effect the 6<sup>th</sup> April following the member attaining State Pension Age.

**Keith Pyle**  
NCR Pension Consultant





# GLOBETROTTERS



## John Morden writes from Lions Bay British Columbia Canada

**Jim Kembury** seems to have taken a shine towards yours truly (page 12 issue no 22) so I must offer a riposte.

Firstly, some additional names to that picture. To the right of the lady is **Derek Wadsworth**; one of three brothers who all worked for NCR (likely a record?) and next to him **Peter Kerslake**. The latter later became my assistant in Sales when we both moved to Stoke-on-Trent. I am wondering if the chap on the lady's left might be **Bob Randy** - assistant to **Norman Cole**. Lastly, I suggest that the chap on his left may be **Tom Tilley** rather than the person he names.

To continue in this vein you might like to publish the enclosed. It is a picture of the old CRD Dist. 8. Which I had great pleasure managing headquartered in Leeds circa 1958. Not long ago I was in touch with the bottom row right pair; **John Moody** and **Dennis Cavanagh**. I would be delighted to hear from any of the others if they are still around.



## Now that's what I call service!

Having a well deserved rest from the rigours of producing another **PostScript**, **Patrick Acarnley** our printer, is pictured delivering issue 22 to **MJI Lee** now living in St. Ives, Sydney. Mr. Lee is believed to still be involved within the 'evolved' industry (see page 12 Gleanings from the Internet: Dinosaurs Mating).



## From Eric Hampton - South Africa

I am reading a copy of **PostScript** given to me by a friend of mine, **Philip Murphy**, and NCR Pensioner who is staying with us on holiday with his wife Audrey (an Installation Supervisor who helped deliver the Salesman's promises) and as the memories flowed back and seeing the familiar names in **PostScript** I thought I would drop you a line.

I will be celebrating 40 years of marriage to my wife Iris this year and remember well the first words of **George Lewis** my first District Manager on joining NCR in 1959 as an Adding Machine Salesman just before I was about to get married "do you realise you will be away during the October/November contest you must never let it happen again", "Yes", I promised nervously, so we have stayed happily married for 40 years and kept the promise.

Following the Golden Years (1959 to 1973) I had with NCR I moved to South Africa, working in Johannesburg and Cape Town and now operate my own international recruitment company from my home in Hout Bay, Cape Town.

With all the theories and books published on the importance of Customer Service, I often think back to those marvellous years and it's not difficult to realise why were we so successful, namely because we looked after our customers, no fancy terms just plain good service and everyone responding positively to customer requests. What a great support team the Sales people had around them.

So where are you all out there?

How is the District 103 Croydon "A" Team?  
How is the Launch of the Century "Jargon Killers" Team?  
How is the Greenford Industrial "Dream" Team?  
How is the Croydon Integrated "Invincible" Team?

I think back to starting life at NCR as the Model 3000 was giving way to the Model 315 32 and went through the Postronic, Computronic, to the Century years not forgetting the Live Keyboard and Shuttle carriage Adding Machines that performed magic systems.

It really was life at NCR as business and friends were all part of the NCR family, they were really fantastic years, great rivalry, great respect, lots of fun and great forever friendships, never to be forgotten.

Best wishes and regards to all old friends.

To all those out there an Email can reach me on [erich@iafrica.com](mailto:erich@iafrica.com) or snail mail will find me at PO Box 26951, Hout Bay 7872, Cape, South Africa.

**STOP PRESS STOP PRESS STOP PRESS STOP PRESS**

**\*\* PENSION INCREASE \*\***

Verbal confirmation has just been received from the Trustees that a pensions increase has been approved - back-dated to the 1st June and that further details will be known shortly.

**STOP PRESS STOP PRESS STOP PRESS STOP PRESS**



## Gleanings from the Internet

### NCR Corporation

Electronics company mainly active in the midrange server market.

NCR was founded in 1884 as National Cash Register Company. It joined the computer industry in the 1950's. In 1991 it was absorbed by AT&T (see dinosaurs mating), only to be spat out again in 1996.

NCR mainframes of the 1960's are remembered by some for their hardware incompatibility with IBM mainframes: NCR punched round holes in their punched cards, while IBM punched rectangular ones. The codes and machine were not compatible and information could not be easily shared between NCR and IBM customers.

### Dinosaurs Mating

The activity said to occur when yet another merger or buy-out occurs; reflects a perception that these signal another stage in the long, slow dying of the mainframe industry. Also described as "elephants mating": lots of noise and action at a high level, with an eventual outcome in the somewhat distant future.

In its glory days of the 1960's, it was "IBM and the Seven Dwarves": Burroughs, Control Data, General Electric, Honeywell, NCR, RCA and Univac. Early on, RCA sold out to Univac and GE also sold out, and it was "IBM and the BUNCH", (an acronym for Burroughs, Univac, NCR, Control Data and Honeywell) for a while. Honeywell was bought out by Bull.

Univac in turn, merged with Sperry to form Sperry-Univac, which was later merged (although the employees of Sperry called it a hostile takeover) with Burroughs, to form Unisys in 1986 (this was when the phrase "dinosaurs mating" was coined). In 1991 AT&T absorbed NCR, only to spit it out again in 1996. Unisys bought Convergent Technologies in 1988 and later others.

More earth-shattering unions of doomed giants seem inevitable.

## Goodbye and Hello!!

Many of you will have had dealings with **Lyn Cross** over the years as our NCR Pensions Consultant. I am sad to tell you that Lyn was finding her long daily journey was becoming too much and she has now found a position more conveniently located. We wish Lynn all the best in her new job.

On the bright side may I tell you that we have a replacement, **Keith Pyle**, who started towards the beginning of the year. The Regional Organisers met him at their annual meeting and witnessed him at work. We were all impressed with his knowledge and felt that the administrative side of the fund is in good hands.

Welcome aboard Keith!



Keith Pyle (r) with Chairman of the Trustees, John Cook

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