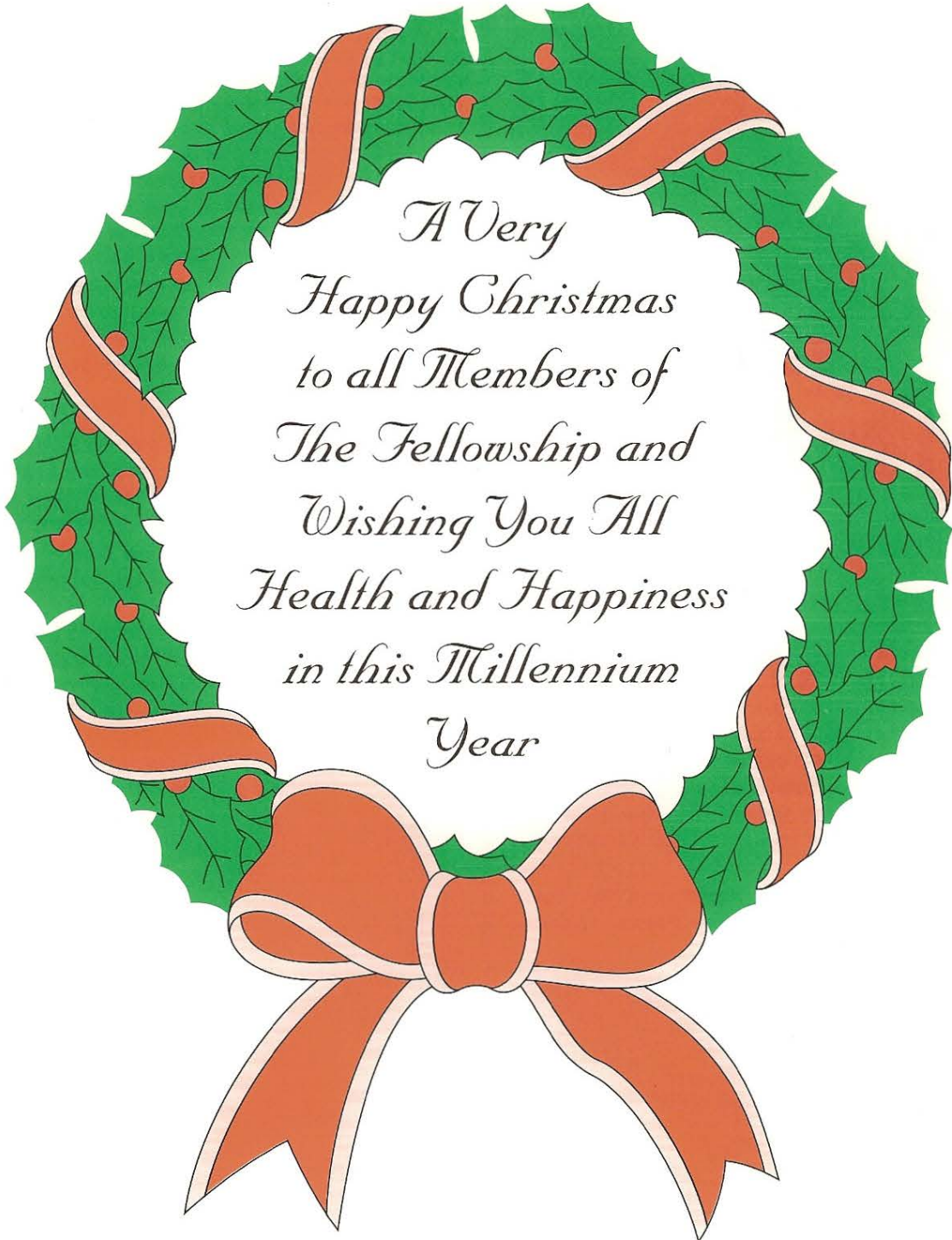




Postscript

NCR

Christmas Issue Number 24



*A Very
Happy Christmas
to all Members of
The Fellowship and
Wishing You All
Health and Happiness
in this Millennium
Year*

1999 - 2000

NEWS FROM THE REGIONS

Region 1 – Scott Caldwell

We have now completed our lunches for this year. We had a good turn out at the Murrayfield Hotel in September where we were joined by a couple of visitors, **Pat Pollock/Carrol** and **Grace Payne**.

In October we were back to our favourite venue at the Riverside Hotel in Dundee and as usual had a most enjoyable day. For the first time since he retired from NCR, **Gordon MacKenzie** and his wife **Liz** joined us from Inverness.



Bob Loudon, Bob Simpson (centre), Helen Simpson

Robert Simpson - I am sorry to report that on the 11th July, 1999 Bob Simpson, retired Field Engineer from Dundee, died. Bob started work with NCR originally in the factory at Dundee in 1964 where he spent several years in Quality Control. He transferred to Field Engineering allowing him to use his skills in electronics which he had learned during his time with the RAF.

Bob was a quiet man and did a great deal of work in his church as an elder. His duties in the church included the distribution of their magazine, a job he did for almost 30 years. He was also secretary of the Mens Association and a keen gardener. His other interests were indoor and outdoor bowling. Bob was a devoted family man. He took early retirement in 1992 at the age of 61 in order to help his wife, **Helen**, who is an invalid.

Bob is sorely missed by his wife Helen, their two sons, **Steven** and **Robert** and two grandchildren, **Sarah** and **Keith**.



Edinburgh Lunch – September 1999



Dundee Lunch – October 1999 Mrs Liz Mackenzie, Gordon Mackenzie, Mrs Con Dailly

Region 2e – Maureen Burdis

A good number of Fellowship members attended the second meeting of the year on 20th October, again at "The Buckles", but this time round some of our regulars had to give us a miss. Justly, **Geoff Beaumont** decided that Hawaii had the edge over York and Harry Bramhall, cruising again! Also, our 4 Musketeers weren't able to make it, nor **June** or the two **Rons** (medical appointments). However, it was lovely seeing all the other familiar faces, catching up on the latest gossip!

I know that many of our younger members still work part or full time so it was especially nice to see **Kathy Argilaga** this time. New faces were **Jim Whitehead** from Peterborough bringing us news of **John Limn** (next meeting John is 10th May), and someone, who after a lapse of a few years, found a gap in his business commitments to look us up, **John Moody**.

We were fortunate to have **Pat Keogh** as our guest speaker who, after our excellent lunch, brought us up to date with the subject most dear to our hearts, our pensions. This finished with a lively and all too short Q & A session. Thanks for your time, Pat.

In closing, may I once again thank all the chauffeurs without whom our attendances would be much depleted. May I wish everyone a good Christmas and happy but mainly **HEALTHY** year to come. See you all on 10th May 2000.

REGION 2w – Charles Southall

It seemed a little out of place that Monday, 25th October was the date of our last luncheon of the millennium - Mondays are, in my experience, rarely reserved for pleasant occasions, but, as it happened, this one was most enjoyable.

Guests and members totaled 57, which is well up on recent attendances. Our principal guest was Mr **Pat Keogh** who is, of course, one of our elected Pension Trustees. Pat was able to inform the meeting at first hand of the proposed merger of the NCR and Scottish Pension Funds. He assured us that our wishes would be heard and that he and his fellow trustees would do whatever was required to

prevent this happening. Thank you, Pat, for all your efforts; it was made very clear at the meeting that you have a great deal of support.

We also welcomed back **Barry Poole** and his wife, **Brenda**. It is more than two years since Barry attended our Grange Country Club meetings. I am sure that he will not mind if I relate some of his wanderings to you all. When he retired, we assumed that he would be one of us, consigned to our two luncheons a year; but he announced that he was off to work in Bermuda for a while. Shortly after his return to this country he informed me that he had been invited by an associate to join him as part of a crew that was to deliver a yacht from Cape Town to the West Indies! Brenda was not to be left out so she joined them. Barry gave a most vivid account of his experiences, both wonderful and fearful. I hope that he may be persuaded at some time in the future to give us a more detailed account of his adventures in these pages. (Yes please! Ed.) It was a most entertaining story, Barry; thank you for sharing it.

May I take this opportunity to wish all my friends and associates in NCR a very merry Christmas and a healthy and prosperous New Year. The date of our first meeting in the new millennium will be Tuesday, 2nd May.

Region 3 – Harry Hardacre

Once again the weather was kind to us on our visit to Coughton Court in Warwickshire. 68 members and partners had a glorious day to look round the gardens and visit the house. The present house was built around 1530 and the Throckmorton family have lived there from the beginning. Coughton Court is connected with the Gunpowder Plot of 1605; two of the plotters being grandsons of the original owners. We spent some happy hours there talking to old friends and enjoying the sunshine.

We in Region 3 send our best wishes to the remainder of the Fellowship for Christmas and the New Year.



Four of the old Leicester office had a Reunion Lunch recently. Some of you may remember them: G L Nation-Tellery, Bill Daniel, Dick Baker and Harry Hardacre (the wives are the pretty ones!).

Regions 4&5 – Tony Poil

Yet another disappointment! Although the refurbishment of the Auditorium (Convention Hall) at Marylebone Road was finally completed at the end of September, the backlog of demands from the sales force meant that it could not be made available to us for our October meeting. So it was back again to the Caledonian Banqueting Rooms at King's Cross - surely for the last time.

In spite of the disappointment, Region 4 produced a good turnout of 65 members, joining with members of Region 5 and their organiser, **Ted Young**. No doubt in recognition of our continued patronage, the caterers produced a special meal including a Greek delicacy, "kleftiko", wonderfully succulent lamb on the bone. (Excuse my enthusiasm - it happens to be one of my favourite dishes!)

We welcomed several guests, including **Keith Pyle**, NCR's Pensions Consultant, and our President and Founder **Harry Redington** who can be seen enjoying the wine and the company of **PostScript** Editor **Geoff Jackson** (also a founder of the Fellowship):-



We missed the company of several regular attendees due to ill health or last minute emergencies, and we shall look forward to seeing them at our next meeting in April 2000 - but I'm not going to tempt fate by saying where!

Depending on when this issue reaches you, may I send you early or belated wishes for Christmas and a happy and healthy Millennium year.

Region 6 – Alan Hutchins

It was a bright sunny day with an autumn nip in the air for our fellowship lunch this year. Quite a change from the terrible weather of two years ago and the rains of the last week, although **Harry Ottoway** tells me it doesn't rain on the Isle of Wight! It was Wednesday 6th October and we were at the Queens Hotel, Southsea once again. Our lunch was very well attended; 53 members and 9 members brought guests. As always there are members who are unable to attend through illness and pre-booked holidays, but we hope to see them next year. Then of course there are those who get to a 'certain age' and feel the journey is too much. **George Pickard**, approaching 98, falls into this category. George was a regular visitor to the lunches. Everybody

REGION 6



Region 6's organiser Alan Hutchins

wishes you well George, who knows, some kind soul might talk you into coming next year. I had a letter from **Jim Gorman's** son to let me know Jim is in the same 'boat' as George. Jim as many will remember is a former Organiser of this Region and would like to hear from any of his old colleagues. Jim can't get about much these days. If anybody would like to get in touch please contact me and I will supply an address. **Jim Lawmon** and his wife **Sylvia** were paying their first visit, hope to see you both again next year.



Stephen Swinbank addressing the Region 6 meeting at Southsea – October '99

We had three special guests this year. **Stephen Swinbank**, a Pension Fund Trustee attended and gave us a very interesting update on the Pension Fund and the workings of the Trustees, also the type of business the Company is doing these days. Quite different from when many of the members were working. Many thanks, Stephen, it was very much appreciated by everybody. We also had our Pensions Consultant **Keith Pyle** and **Geoff Jackson** our scribe and *Postscript* Editor. As it was such a nice day we had a group photo taken by Geoff on the terrace, I wonder if he is as good a photographer as he is an Editor?! Thanks Geoff, can't wait to see how it turns out. (See page 6).

Region 7 – Jim Kembury

Our Region lunch was held on September the 22nd, as has been our tradition over many years, the function being at the Aztec Hotel, north of Bristol. The choice of lunch at the Carvery suited all the Fellowship members. 24 of us enjoyed the time together reliving past times, times when we were known as District 4 with 10 branch offices to serve our customer needs.

Several of our members sent apologies for being unable to be with us. **John Cooper** was due to join us for the first time. He lives in Herefordshire and opted to be in Region 7. John had worked out of the Bristol office as part of the then titled E.D.P. team. The day before our lunch John wrote to me to apologise for not attending, a dental appointment was made for him that day which he did not want to cancel. Better luck next time John!

Gerry Cole also wrote to apologise for his absence, he said he would be cruising off the coast of Spain. Some of us thought Gerry had something good going down there which we may well read of in the local press! (or *PostScript*! - Ed.)

Mickey Myers also wrote saying he regretted not being able to join us. Mickey is also with Region 7 because of past links with the Bristol office.

As we near the Millennium, from Region 7 we wish all our company friends from our working days good wishes, keep well and trust you all nailed the "bug".

Regions 8 and 8a – Des Woodall

Since my last report in the Summer issue of *PostScript* there has been just one lunch meeting for Region 8, on 4th November. This time, as the Head Office facilities are not yet ready, we held the event at the Firs, a banqueting suite in North London, where we went in 1997.

38 attended, and, as can be seen from the photograph, everyone seemed to thoroughly enjoy the good food and company. We all agreed, however, that we were greatly looking forward to seeing Head Office again, and, in view of all the major building work that has been going on, whether we would recognise much of it!

I recently went on a 5 day PROBUS Club holiday based in Shropshire, and to Beryl and my great surprise, while we were munching on a cream tea in Betwys-y-Coed, on the way back from a trip to Llandudno, who should walk in but our worthy Editor, Geoff! The chances of such a meeting must be millions to one (not if you are paying for the cream tea! Ed.). This, by necessity, has been another short report, so here is a 'fill in' for your consideration:-

Ever Notice . . .

. . . that people who say that they want to tell you something for your own good, never have anything good to say.

. . . that a dropped penny always lands at your feet, but when you drop a pound coin it rolls 20 yards away.

..... that people who are wrong always seem to talk louder than anyone else.

. . . that the latest model of anything is the one that becomes available just after you've bought the previous one.



Regional organiser Des Wood with his guests. L to R: Lyn McGrath (Pension Fund Trustee), John Nash (Fellowship Secretary) and Keith Pyle (Pension Fund Specialist).

REGION 9 – Tom Farmer

Region 9's lunch scheduled for Monday the 7th of June came close to being a flambé affair due to the kitchen of the Great Western. The hotel management lost no time in hooking up a mobile kitchen but it seemed wise to allow the chef and his team time to get used to cooking on the public highway, before returning to finish our lunch!

We eventually met up in the middle of July and sat down to a splendid meal prepared in the hotel's gleaming new kitchen. Unfortunately the later date did not suit all our members but it was nonetheless a very enjoyable occasion. We were hoping to welcome two members new to Region 9 but as they could not make it we look forward to seeing both **George Wallace** and **Albert Barden** at our next get-together on the 8th of December.

A NOTE FROM NORTHERN IRELAND

Jack Martin advises us that our colleagues in Northern Ireland will be meeting for their lunch in mid-December – Further details from Jack on 01232 863124.

He adds that their meeting this year will be saddened by the sudden death of their colleague and friend **Jimmy Thompson**, who will be missed by all.

GLOBETROTTERS

Jeanne Edridge writes from Bermuda

I very much enjoy receiving 'POSTSCRIPT' from time to time. Would you please change my address on your mailing list as I am finally retiring, after more than 23 years in my present job, and have had to get my own post box!

I originally joined District 1, under **Mr Lefridge**, and worked for **Joan Weller** until I went out to Trinidad in December 1966. After a year there I came here to join **Jane Heelis** who had just married **Gareth Roberts**. They returned to England leaving me in charge in Bermuda! In 1974, with help from **Tom Farmer**, I went to Grand Cayman, via Jamaica, for 18 months and then returned here to join an NCR customer, as some of us do in the end.

Retirement will mean more time to travel, which I love, and more time to spend in England each year. Perhaps I will be able to meet some old friends some time.

Mrs. Maria Cassar writes from Malta

Thank you for your letter enclosing a copy of NCR Winter 1998-9 **POSTSCRIPT**. It was kind of you to accede to my request so promptly and to include in that edition my late husband **Paul's** photo, name and other details in the obituary. Thank you also for mailing edition No. 23-Summer 1999, and for promising to send me future editions of **POSTSCRIPT** which I enjoy reading.

At our age, many of us pensioners often feel lonely, forgotten, excluded from life and live in constant anxiety. But I maintain old age is a treasure denied to many. There is a particular beauty about getting old, having fought the trials and tribulations that may have arisen along the way. For me, life has not been a vale of tears, nor an uninterrupted source of health and wealth of one sort or another. But it has certainly been adorned by gifts of God. And for this I am grateful. Therefore, yes, I do look forward to receiving your **POSTSCRIPT**, so I can read about other pensioners like myself.

Maria

Thank you very much for sending me a copy of **POSTSCRIPT**, I do so enjoy reading it and look forward to receiving my next copy.

Ruth Dimond.

CLEAR GUIDANCE

Of course all sensible people believe that the new Millennium starts at midnight on Dec 31, 2000. Visit the Website of the Royal Observatory for an explanation of why this is so, or visit the Millennium Clock at Greenwich, which bears the unequivocal message "The new Millennium begins on 1st January 2001".



Region 6 at The Queens Hotel, Southsea

ANGELA MAXWELL'S BENEFITS UPDATE

State Benefits

1. Winter fuel payments of £100 per pensioner household will be automatically made just before Christmas this year. Those aged 60 or over receiving Income Support in the qualifying week starting 20th September 1999 will be entitled to a £100 payment per household. Other people who were receiving a state pension in that week will receive a £100 payment if they are the only qualifying person or £50 if there are 2 qualifying people in the household.

2. I receive many queries about payment of residential and nursing home fees for elderly relatives. A recent court case has highlighted the position regarding the transfer of property to avoid paying fees.

In a recent case held in Scotland, the judge ruled that the local authority was entitled to take account of the value of a property which had been transferred to a resident's granddaughter some 18 months before the resident went into a care home. This means to say that a local authority is entitled to examine property transfers made in the run up to the move to residential care, and, if they feel that a transaction took place purely to avoid paying fees, even if this has not been admitted, they can treat the person as having the funds anyway. Always seek legal advice before making any transactions in a similar case.

3. Widows, widowers and recently bereaved parents who have had to give up work to care for a dying spouse or child are to be included in the government's New Deal for the unemployed. Carers who want to get a job after the person they have been looking after goes into a care home will also be covered by the measures. It is hoped that by offering carers and former carers subsidies of up to £60 a week and a jobcentre interview with a personal adviser, they will help to overcome many of the barriers that keep these people from working.

4. Can I relate a tale of warning from one of my readers about Attendance Allowance (AA). An elderly lady was granted AA for life. She then had to go into residential care which necessitated her home being sold to pay for the fees. While the sale was being processed the local authority had to meet the payments and the AA was forfeited. Once the house had been sold, her fees were reimbursed to the local authority. Had the lady taken out a temporary loan to pay for the fees, the AA would not have been lost. The Benefits Agency rule is that AA remains in payment only where the resident pays for his or her care. It is not payable for a period funded by the local authority.

5. If you have just started to get your state retirement pension, don't be surprised if you receive a letter CA1627 from the NI Contributions Office in Newcastle. It is simply a statement of the names and addresses of the schemes responsible for paying your occupational/personal pensions. It will let you know by how much your state pension has already been reduced because of the contracted-out deduction made by the pension scheme. Your state pension will therefore be unaffected.

Finance

1. If you buy an annuity to pay for long-term care, you will no longer have to pay income tax on the income received as a result. These annuities work by swapping a lump sum for an annual income guaranteed to last until the holder dies. Up until now, the income from such a scheme was taxed at 20%. However, the tax saving applies only if the annuity is initially established with an agreement to pay the fees directly to the care home rather than the annuitant. Any income paid directly to the annuitant will still be liable to be taxed.

2. You can now earn up to £4,250 tax free from letting out a room in your house under the Inland Revenue's "Rent a Room" scheme. Contact your tax office for more details.

General

1. To all budding computer fans, a new beginner's guide to the Internet has just been published. It gives a step by step guide on how to use the Internet and email and aims to demystify and explain the jargon used. You can get a copy of "Grasp the NETtle - a beginners guide to the Internet" by sending an A4 size stamped addressed envelope to:

Age Resource, Age Concern England, 1268 London Road, London SW16 4ER.

2. BT is offering free local weekend calls for most residential users for the first time. From October, residential customers will automatically get 3 hours of local call time each quarter, and at the same time the cost of national weekend calls will fall to 2p a minute. BT, in November launched "BT Together"; a service for residential customers which, for a set quarterly rental, will give 50% cheaper daytime and evening calls. Check with your own provider to see what offers they have available.

VIC DAVIES - "OUR MAN AT AGE CONCERN"

Just a few of you may remember me, I'm still 9 years away from being an OAP - I confess I haven't been to any lunches or events lately, and I am only drawing pension from Wm. Mercer to supplement my earnings as a freelance trainer and as a part-time manager at Age Concern - so I suppose I'm a bit of an impostor, as NCR pensioners go.

But, having been in Education in the early/mid 80's (and for my sins, having helped to roll out the Common Bond Seminars) I bet I remember quite a few of you!

Actually, I worked for NCR, then AT&T GIS, for almost 17 years. Having returned from Africa after 6 years selling for Burroughs and Olivetti out of Nairobi & Mombasa, I joined NCR Birmingham in 1977. As an FSM under **Martin Apperley**. The Birmingham office moved out to Sheldon, and I left briefly in 1979 - returning as a Systems/Sales Trainer under **Dave Collins** the following year. Later I became Systems/Sales Training Manager, after which in 1987, I joined C&G Marketing reporting to **Bryan Turner**. At the time of leaving AT&T GIS (in 1994) I was working for **Malcolm Davies** (no relation!) out of Marylebone Road as an Alliance Manager.

Anyway, impostor or not, I read *PostScript* avidly, and whilst reading the last issue it occurred to me that my fellow pensioners might like to get some useful info. on what Age Concern is, and does. So I offered my services to Geoff - hence this article.

Can I tell you something about AGE CONCERN?

To start with, our Mission is 'To promote the well-being of all older people, and to help make later life a fulfilling and enjoyable experience'. I guess that makes us potentially of interest - and of value - to *PostScript* readers. But in what ways?

- the Movement is made up of over 1,200 separate, autonomous member organisations, which each provide services appropriate to the needs of older people locally...

and respond to local issues, campaigning at a 'grass roots' level wherever the need arises.

- so an Age Concern office or shop can be found within a few miles of any of you and (hopefully) they are all friendly, accessible and welcoming,

- many of our services are free to all older people - covering such things as:

- information and advice on your rights, benefits, allowances, taxation etc,
- help with getting back into normal life after coming out of hospital
- good neighbour schemes
- day care
- 'handyperson' services
- and lots of others (Age Concern's options vary according to where you live)

- we also sell Home. Motor, Breakdown, Travel and Pet Insurance (and a long list of other products, from Flowers to ISA's and Gas/Electricity)

During the next few issues. I will try to cover Age Concern's Services and Products (and how you access them) one by one, in a fair amount of detail - but meanwhile, please feel free to regard me as your first point of contact with the Charity. If you have any queries or needs, just;

- drop me an email on vixco@globalnet.co.uk
- write to me at:

**Oriel Cottage, 16 Holly Grove,
Wolverhampton WV3 7DX**

- leave a (voice/fax) message on **01902-577290**.

Cheers - Vic

From: Reg Cullen (ex Doncaster FED)

*Though I've been around now three score years & ten,
I still think about ventures new,
but most of the time I just dream of the past
when you're seventy what else can you do.*

*I suppose I should count up my blessings
Though I'm not a millionaire
I've got my own teeth, and my hearings not bad
and I've still got a good head of hair.*

*My ticker keeps going, with a good steady beat
and my eyes can see just what they should see
I've still got two legs, though they're not what they were
and my back's not as straight as it could be*

*There's one blessing I still haven't mentioned
It comes from my friends young and old,
The true friendship of one for another
Is a blessing more precious than gold,*

GERRY COLE's MEMOIRS - continued

Of all the many memorable times I have had during my career with NCR, two stand out. The first was my course on the class 390 & class 500 at Giessen, and the second was my visit to Japan to the NCR factory, the Advance Engineering Section and Education Centre.

When I was told that I had been selected to attend training at the Technical Education Centre at Giessen in Germany on the Class 390/500 I must confess feeling a little nervous, especially since I still had very clear recollections of the time in Brent when I was attending the first Computronic course with **George Stopp**, when a Field Supervisor came into the class room and informed us that actually "he was the only person in TSD who was "qualified" to attend to an electronic m/c like the Computronic".

The 390/500 course itself was an incredible experience especially in the way it was taught, and the detailed way in which each step was introduced in great depth by the instructors. (I would pay special tribute to **Emile Forrere** from Switzerland for his patient understanding and teaching technique). That course lasted from September right through to the following March. It was a most enjoyable time especially since we were allowed to have our families with us. On the course with me were:- **Dick Crafer** from London,- **Eric Wilsmer** from Swindon,- **Pete** who subsequently married a local German girl,- **Reg Cullen** from Lincoln, - two Dutch boys,- **Mario** from Italy who made coffee just as I like it, -one from Curacao who supplemented his income by diving for exotic fish - one from Germany - and **Abraham** who came with wife and new born infant from Israel. **Ted** from Cambridge was to join us at a later date.

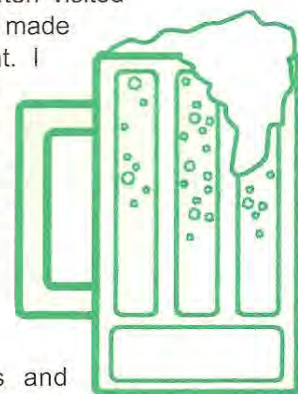


GERMANY

We were allowed to find our own private accommodation if we wished, and I was fortunate to find a basement flat in a typical new three storey house just out of town. My landlord was an ex soldier from one of the elite German units, who unfortunately blew himself up whilst setting "booby traps" at a road block, during the allied

advance, towards the end of the war. It was during my stay in the flat that an incident occurred which, when I think back, has often set me wondering. My landlord was having a problem with the central heating boiler which was in a room adjacent to my flat in the basement. The boiler was an enormous affair reaching the ceiling, and when I arrived on the scene he had the door of the furnace wide open and was cleaning the electronic ignitor, I asked in my best pidgin German if I could be of assistance and his response was somewhat unexpected and most alarming, since I was almost immediately enveloped by a jet of flame about four feet long. "OOPS!!!" Says he. I immediately withdrew to the safety of the passage. Being more than satisfied that the boiler was functional.....and that my presence was neither needed nor perhaps wanted, I withdrew

During our stay in Giessen I was able to obtain some insight into the delights of our host country and the driving force of its people. I always wondered at their love of uniforms. Even the car park attendants have a uniform, and one evening on my return to the flat I found my wife **Babs** smiling broadly. She explained that earlier that day she had been at her kitchen sink where the window was at ground level, and she had been horrified to see a pair of "jackboots" walk to the door, "I thought the Gestapo had come for me" she said, but it was all right it was only the postman. The country-side we found to be magnificent, the country towns enchanting, and the river valleys and castles most memorable. We made the most of our stay there and my two young sons learned very quickly to ski on our many weekend visits to the ski slopes at Voglesburg only forty minutes away. Particularly enjoyable were the locally organised visits to the breweries, where we were not only given the grand tour but were also entertained afterwards with hot "Wurtz" with rolls and as much beer as one could drink, and all this helped along by an accordion player and songsters singing all the oom-pa-pa songs. The British boys gave an excellent rendition of "roll out the barrel" when the German version was being played. The Brits were a good team of chaps and we often visited each others flats as a group and made our own evening entertainment. I still have a recording of a party at my flat, and on it is **Reg Cullen** giving renditions of his famous monologues. I was very pleased to be able to give Reg a copy of it when he visited me about a year ago. Wonderful memories of a great time



It was with some misgivings and apprehension that I travelled to Head Office, having been ordered there by **Charlie Green** our new and formidable Div. Director, to be interviewed by him for a special project. Can you imagine my amazement when his first question to me was "is your passport up to date"? —it was.— "Are you free to be away from home for about three weeks?"—I was.— The next question threw me completely. "Are you prepared to go to Japan to learn all about a new cash register and to bring it back for field trials?" —It was only the "elite" from Field Support in Head Office who got plum jobs like that, and I felt both very elated and very nervous.— YES PLEASE— So it was just three days later that I arrived in Head Office ready for a final briefing from "Charles". I was given a generous sum of American dollars and an open return ticket to Tokyo. Many will remember "**Bunny Labbett**" who was one of the "elite" at H.O. He was delegated to take me to Heathrow where I embarked on this new adventure. On the way there Bunny attempted to give me the "lowdown" on how I should conduct myself, but I was so overwhelmed by the experience that all that I remembered was his advice to get as much technical information as was possible,— and to press for even more if possible.

The journey took 16 hours with a break in Alaska for 45 minutes. I never dreamed that the route to Japan took us over the frozen wastes of the northern ice caps, and I must have spent hours gazing out of the window of the plane hoping to see a polar bear, since at times we were flying quite low and single items could be seen quite clearly. I remember very clearly seeing a crack in the vast expanse of ice which must have been 50 to 100 miles long. The crack was on the same route as our flight for about 20 minutes or so. We passed over the famous pipe line and came to a very quick halt on the Alaskan air strip. We had already been in the air for some 8 hours and I was glad of the opportunity to stretch my legs. The airport building was a very small affair more like a small private flying club. The journey onwards to Japan was uneventful and as time went on I wondered what I had let myself in for. When we arrived in Tokyo I gathered my bags and made my way to the exit where I found dozens of people gathered around. I spotted a small enclosure the size of a dinner table and made my way to it. I figured that if I deposited myself there looking lost someone was sure to find me. Sure enough, almost immediately, I was greeted by a very short youngish Japanese gentleman (I regret that I don't remember his name) who was accompanied by a very stern looking gentleman who most definitely resembled the Japanese Admiral in the film about the bombing of Pearl Harbour. Do you remember it? This was **Paul Danset** the Director of Education at Japan's Technical Education Centre, indeed the whole staff of the centre were utterly convinced that it was Paul who starred in that part. He, like all the staff that I met whilst there, made me most welcome and I felt immediately at ease. My smallest wish was their command, and I found that I had to be very careful how I conducted my conversation, taking care not to express any special liking for anything. Everyone there carried and used a fan, since it was very hot, and one day I was walking along the corridor with the office manager (the gentleman who met me at the airport) and I made a casual remark about the fan he was using. His expression changed and he threw his hands in the air exclaiming "sorry! sorry!" turned on his heel and ran back to his office. I felt most embarrassed to see him returning with another fan in his hand and then insisting that I accept his fan as a gift. He went into detail to explain why he was offering the fan in a particular way to indicate that this was a gesture of friendship. It would appear that in years gone by sometimes the offering of a fan as a gift hid an assassin's knife. This incident was typical of the treatment that I encountered during the whole of my stay. There was an American there at the same time, from the school in Dayton. We both ate in the main canteen with all the other students, where the chef did his best to serve us food that he thought we would prefer. Though I must confess that the chicken tasted rather like I would imagine seagull might. On our second or third day in the canteen two lads came and sat with us and appeared to be enjoying the same food that we had been served whilst their colleges piled their dishes to overflowing with rice. I thought this to be a little odd especially since they both appeared to speak reasonable English. I assumed that **Paul Danset** had arranged for some of his students an opportunity to practice

their English and to help make us feel a little more at home. After a little while and after answering a lot of questions from them I remarked "You both speak very good English" - "Of course we bloody do we're from Hong Kong". They were both smashing kids and we got on famously. I was most impressed by the dedication that all the Japanese felt towards their work and especially towards their team leaders and the Company which they revered like their father. "Loss of face" is still a big thing there and it was my misfortune to be the cause of loss of face on two occasions. The most trivial of things, which fortunately were soon forgotten. One has to be so careful!!! Towards the end of my stay there all the instructors from the school together with the American and myself were entertained at a geisha house where we sat in the traditional fashion on the floor. The table was laden with all manner of dishes none of which I recognised. I am an adventurous person where unusual food is concerned so I followed the lead of the instructors and dug in. It was very enjoyable, especially when two geishas came in and started to assist us to select the special dishes. The one who had been at my side had introduced herself and had asked my name, she then turned to the American she asked his name and he replied—Lloyd. "Oh that's a nice name" she responded. I said jokingly. "Isn't mine a nice name then"? —with that she let out a little cry, covered her face with her hands and beat the floor with her forehead. As I said before, you had to be so careful. She soon regained her composure and it was forgotten. The saki flowed and I think I had a great time...

Before we left Japan, Lloyd and I were entertained at the American Club by Paul Danset (who was of Dutch/Indonesian heritage) and his lovely Japanese wife, together with his handsome young son who was about 13 yrs old and his most beautiful very young daughter. After dinner we returned to Paul's home for drinks. Here was a family whom I would love to have entertained at my home had circumstances allowed. When it came time to leave I felt a twinge of regret that would probably never again meet the many friends I had made, though I was summoned to H.O. to meet **Joe Nakakoshi**, who was the driving force for the whole project, in London some weeks later. Joe was a real character and a good friend, and I believe quite well known throughout the company at that time. He adopted the name Joe since I believe that his given name was unpronounceable and in Japan one never, never, never uses a person's given name, always the family name and Mr. Any familiarity is treated with suspicion and the handshake is very strange to them, never used by them amongst themselves. When it came time to leave I felt like royalty since all the staff were lined up outside the offices to wave us good bye. Even the little old ladies who used to cut the lawns with a pair of outsize scissors.



The one highlight of the return journey was when a fellow passenger came to join me on my seat to which I had sole occupancy and asked if I would do him a favour..... I wondered what on earth he was going to ask..... In Japan the giving of gifts is a big thing, as I had already found out and he explained that he had been delivered to the airport by six directors and officers of the company that he had visited, and each had given him a bottle of whiskey. He explained that there was no way that he expected that he was going to be allowed into the U.K. with all that spirit SO... would I help him out and accept one of the bottles, and further assist by helping him drink some of the rest. I agreed since I am a little partial to a dram. With that he went off to the galley and returned with a stack of plastic beakers. He poured a generous shot into two beakers and sat back.. We had been talking for a few moments when he let out Gees!! What's happened? The plastic cups were visibly collapsing, melted



by the whiskey. He quickly swept the cup with its contents into another cup and said cheers and downed the lot. I didn't see the expression on his face since mine was already contorted. We both then read the label which assured the purchaser that the bottle contained pure whiskey blended and bottled in Japan. We tried it with water, we tried it with soda, and we tried it with Coke but gave it up as a bad job... I don't think he even took it off the plane. Shortly after my return I was at a function where a number of the Co. Directors were in attendance. One in particular took me aside in the company of his wife and asked me about the trip. I exclaimed that it was enjoyable but demanding. "My word you are very blasé about it" said the lady. I pointed out that I was there to do a job of work and that it was not a holiday trip. The director then said that I should have taken time out on the return trip and visited some of the other exotic places. NOW YOU TELL ME !!! was my answer. The subsequent field trials of the machine were a success, but the product was never marketed in the UK. Never mind ! It gave me an experience of a lifetime and some lovely memories



Blackburn office circa 1965.

I thought the following may be worthy of publication in PostScript.

The European Union Commissioners have announced that agreement has been reached to adopt English as the preferred language for European communications, rather than German, which was the other possibility. As part of the negotiations, the British Government conceded that English spelling had some room for improvement and has accepted a five year phased plan for what will be known as EuroEnglish (ERO for short).

In the first year, "s" will be used instead of the soft "c". Certainly Sivil Servants will resieve this news with joy. Also the hard "c" will be replased with "k". Not only will this klear up konfusion, but typewriters kan have one less letter.

There will be growing publik enthusiasm in the sekond year, when the troublesome "ph" will be replased by "f". This will make words like "fotograf" 20% shorter.

In the third year, publik akseptanse of the new spelling kan be expekted to reach the stage where more komplikated changes are possible. Governments will enkorage the removal of double letters, which have always ben a deterent to akurate speling. Also al wil agre that the horrible mes of silent "e's" in the languag is disgrasful, and they would go.

By the forth year, peopl wil be reseptiv to steps such as replasing "th" by "z" and "w" by "v".

During ze fifz year, ve vil hav a reli sensibl riten styl. Zer vil be no mor trubls or difikultis and evrivun vil find it ezi tu understand ech uzer.

Ze drem vil finali kum tru.

P. S. Rumour has it that Microsoft has been commissioned to produce a "Spell checker" for the above. By the Germans of course.

Bill Walbourn

(Bill, you realise that our WP Spellchecker suffered a double hernia trying to check the above piece! Ed.)

NCR 100 King Street Blackburn Lancashire



Closed Blackburn Office down Date 1965.?

Opened new offices at Preston & Burnley, Jim Eccles became manager at Burnley and Cliff Westwell became manager at Preston.

I took over as Service manager in Burnley in 1970/71 when Jim Eccles took over as Service manager Manchester. Jim Wallace was Supervisor for the Northwest at that time.

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 K	Beasley	1976	25yrs 7mths	80	20-Sep-99	Manager - Brent	
Mr D	Brown	1983	27yrs 8mths	81	14-Jun-99	*Information Required*	*
Mr A B	Clark	1975	10yrs 4mths	83	25-Aug-99	Porter - Southampton	
Mrs I G	Copland	1969	28yrs 1mth	90	15-Jul-99	*Information Required*	*
Mr G	Cushnie	1999	15yrs 11mths	63	7-Jun-99	Dundee	
Mr P J	Dolan	1982	34yrs 11 mths	76	25-Oct-99	Field Engineer - Dublin	
Mrs I M	Gee	1980	15yrs 4mths	79	12-Oct-99	Secretary - Marylebone	
Mr C O	Green	1990	39yrs 11mths	71	11-Jun-99	Divisional Director -Field Engineering	
Mr A E	Iago	1988	28yrs 5mths	69	18-Sep-99	Field Engineer - Manchester	
Mr V R	Jones	1984	26yrs 9 mths	79	2-Nov-99	Storekeeper - Brent	
Mr E H	Lowen	1992	47yrs 5mths	68	12-Jul-99	Admin Manager - Data Centres	
Mr F W	Main	1980	32yrs 11mths	83	6-Oct-99	Field Engineer - Romford	
Mrs J C	O'Dwyer	1996	24yrs 3mths	53	25-Oct-99	Systemedia - London	
Mr P O	Peacock	1984	37yrs 7mths	77	29-Sep-99	Storekeeper	
Mr J	Powell	1984	15yrs 4mths	80	11-Jul-99	Plant Manager	
Mr W E	Roberts	1977	41yrs 9mths	84	19-Jun-99	District Field Engineer - Birmingham	
Mrs D A	Selby	1992	17yrs 9mths	52	28-Oct-99	Distribution - Express Boyd	
Mr D M	Sherrey	1999	16yrs 2mths	62	12-Jun-99	*Information Required*	*
Mr R S	Simpson	1992	27yr 7mths	68	11-Jul-99	Dundee	
Mr S J	Stroud	1983	13yrs 5mths	72	14-Sep-99	Correspondence Clerk - Borehamwood	
Mr L G	Wells	1979	22yrs 9mths	86	26-Jul-99	Compositor - Borehamwood	
Mrs O M	Whapshott	1972		85	8-Nov-99	*Information Required*	*
Mr H L	Wheatcroft	1978	24yrs 1mth	85	11-Sep-99	Section Costing - Borehamwood	

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

INFORMATION REQUIRED

It always saddens me when scanning the Obituary columns to find that our company records are incomplete to the point that there is no record of some employees who have given much of their working lives to our company and that I have to appeal to you, the membership, for details.

I am equally delighted to receive such information from you, enabling me to fill in some of the gaps and thus honour those concerned, albeit it posthumously. Following the last issue I have received information regarding both Jimmy Stirrup and Marguerita Home which I give below:

Jimmy Stirrup

Frank Ellison writes: In the obituary column PS Summer 1999 you asked for information regarding Jimmy Stirrup. I joined NCR in March 1955 and this was when I first met Jimmy, he was a technical Field engineer servicing and repairing adding and accounting machines out of 100 King Street, Blackburn Office. Left is a picture of the Blackburn Office which closed down in 1965 together with a little further history of organisation in that area at that time.

Ian Ormerod writes: In your obituary column you listed a J Stirrup. There was a Jimmy Stirrup who worked from the Blackburn Office and then the Burnley Office until about 1968. The age and length of service are about right and he would have been pensionable from 1989.

Marguerita Home

Charles Southall writes:- A great many people in NCR were saddened to hear of the death, earlier this year, of Marguerita Home of Crosby, Merseyside. Rita, who never married, lived and worked in Liverpool all her life. She was the first NCR Accounting Machine Operator, having joined the company from Ellis Sterling accounting machine agents in Liverpool in 1929. NCR then changed the name to Class 3000, having taken over the manufacturing and marketing of their first AMD product. Rita trained customers and her own staff from the AMD Sales Office in Fenwick Street, Liverpool and later in Norton Street. It is hard to say just how many installation staff she must have trained over the years. It seems that everyone in NCR and customer offices knew Rita Home; she was admired and respected by all; her appearance and manner could never be faulted - a perfect lady.



Rita Home (left) at her retirement party in 1972, pictured with her friend and colleague, Audrey Pye who also died recently.

MORE MEMORIES FROM THE 6TH FLOOR!

from Derek Seamon

Having just browsed through the latest **PS**, containing, amongst other things, memories of past days in NCR, I thought that I would have a go at recalling my own experiences.

Like so many of us, I also started on the 6th floor at Marylebone Road, this would have been in 1953 having just finished three years in the RAF. I remember **Percy Townsend** and was warned not to do anything that would warrant my appearing in front of that imposing figure! I remember that he sat at a desk on a raised dais well above everyone else.

I was introduced to **Freddy Weston**, handed the obligatory lid counter to strip down and find out how it worked, this followed by a filing test. I was then taken on at £3.10s a week with the encouragement that top engineers could command up to £8.0.0 a week after 10 years. Training consisted of repairing customer machines; Class 700s, 40D's, 5000's etc. Who was it who used to test each machine after repair following which you would wait to hear the dread words "Still adding wrong!"-was it **Dusty** someone?

My benchmate at the time was **Harry Humphries** who lived opposite HO in an old terrace house about where the staff restaurant used to be, and Lord help him if he was late in. He would receive a right dressing down from Percy. Harry later became a salesman and we met up again when I transferred to Canterbury depot, he had left NCR and kept a tobacconist shop in that fair city.

Alf Collingham mentioned in his article the block of flats opposite the back stairs and the "view" that could be secured of a lady at her ablutions in 1939, well I can assure him that the glass was still the wrong way round in 1953, and frequent visits were still paid to the stores on the fourth floor!! (no doubt by then it was the daughter?)

After a few weeks I was given my own toolbox and told to report to the basement which was the HO depot, under **George Attle** and **Bert Tarling**. For the first month I went out with **Larry Cooper** around Holborn and Fleet Street. I was keen on photography and there was a very good camera shop in High Holborn which was a must for both of us. It was here that Larry got me interested in cine and I still have that first 8mm camera although I have upgraded through video and digital. I keep promising myself to work out how much, listening to Larry, must have cost me over the years!

Working round Fleet Street had its own problems; I had been called to the Daily Mirror canteen in Geraldine House to reink the print roller on a class 400 when a chap came up and asked me if I had "a ticket". I thought that he wanted to sell me a raffle ticket, I didn't realise at the time that I had walked in on a union dispute, and he was asking me if I was in a union. He explained that I would have to take the whole machine out of the building if I wanted to work on it. I didn't but that is another story!

Les Branch was the depot electrician, he would be seen going out to a job with his megger over one shoulder, meter over the other and a motor and toolbag in his hands. Poor old Les was a stickler for routine and when he came into the workshop the first thing he would do was to tap the thermometer and switch on the ceiling fan if it was above a certain temperature. This routine was well known to all and one hot morning it was decided to play a joke on him. Someone loosened the thermometer clips and slid it down to show a lower temperature, someone else turned the fan blades so that the flow was reduced. We were all working calmly when he returned, he checked the temperature but, although hot, wouldn't turn on the fan at first. He eventually did so and, after a time, said that he must be getting a fever as the rest of us seemed so cool. When told the truth several expletives emerged including one questioning our parentage!

I remember **Charlie Green** was one of the top troubleshooters at the depot, he went on to become an Instructor at Brent, Factory Manager and finally, UK Manager. I was on a 51 course he was taking when the Sputnik landed and the morning was spent debating whether it was all a big con - funny how these things stick in your memory.

I later became one of the team that went round servicing all the big West End stores; Selfridges, Swan & Edgar, Dickens & Jones and Hamleys. Members of this team included **Wally Akers**, **Bill Thomas** and **Ken Thorne**, some sadly now gone. The machines were nearly all 6000 class, we would do four a day which doesn't seem a lot but many machines had to be read and cleared of cash first, type wheels removed, often resoldered or swaged.

Typing this has brought back many more memories ~ perhaps more in a later edition? And, finally, we would all like to know what NCR is producing these days and know whether NCR Post is still published. After all, although we are retired, not all of us, thank goodness, find adverts for Stannah Stairlifts, walk in baths or electric scooters prime reading yet!!

(Sorry! NCR Post is no more and we do try to publish in PS anything we can glean about current products and financial results - Ed)

FOOD FOR THOUGHT – Reg Cullen

A young man saw an elderly couple sitting down to lunch at McDonald's. He noticed that they had ordered one meal, and an extra drink cup. As he watched, the old gentleman carefully divided the hamburger in half, then counted out the fries, one for him, one for her, until each had half of them. Then the old man poured half of the soft drink into the extra cup and set that in front of his wife. The old man then began to eat, and his wife sat watching, with her hands folded in her lap. The young man decided to ask if they would allow him to purchase another meal for them so that they didn't have to split theirs. The old gentleman said, "Oh, no, we've been married 50 years, and everything has always been and will always be shared, 50/50. The young man then asked the wife if she was going to eat, and she replied. "No, not yet. You see it's his turn with the teeth"

1938

The New

“Follow Up” Section.

The new Follow Up Section of the S.P.D. was inaugurated on September the 5th, with the object of providing still further co-operation and assistance to the man in the field. Here are the first photographs of this branch of the Sales Promotion Department.



Above: A section of the offices showing members of the Follow Up Section at work.

Personnel: Reading left to right. (Clerk and District No.)

Seated: D. Barnett (15), A. W. Arnall (8).

Standing: M. Isow (6), R. G. Watts (3), S. Scorer (7), H. Hills (5), E. A. Turner (13), L. E. Way (16), J. L. Lane (2), R. J. Travener (12), R. D. Thomas (18), R. Cooke, A. G. Eckel.

On Desks: W. F. Jared (17), E. S. J. Farmer (10), H. W. Kensett (11), E. Gimson (14), B. Henderson (4), R. S. Butcher (1), D. F. Taylor (9).

Alf Collingham writes:

Spot the Cash Register (see issue 23)

A very strange photograph, even with a magnifying glass I could not be sure if it had a printer hood, if it was a hood it appeared to have a smooth finish and not filigree like the rest of the cabinet, so if it had a printer it was possibly a 95. In newsletter 22 there was a 56 cash register, so I would imagine NCR had a range of machines 0-99. I have never seen but vaguely remember hearing of a machine that operated with just one turn of the handle, perhaps we have a reader in New Zealand who could help us out?

When I returned to Brighton after World War 2 **Bert Tilson** had arrived as Depot Manager, who eventually went to America, then to Holland and NCR1000. Also **Bill Milliard** from Tottenham Court Road. **Cecil Ray** joined shortly afterwards and you could say we grew up together. Cecil was certainly one of the saddest memories of my life when he passed away. **Mr. Hardy**, Office Manager from Guildford was in Brighton for the day, and Cecil ran him back to Brighton Station. Shortly afterwards, the phone rang and the police asked me to go to the station; on arrival I identified Cecil, he had had a massive heart attack. The Police gave me his car keys and I drove back to the office and then to his home to tell his wife **Joyce**. A very sad occasion. A collection from the lads and we were able to purchase a tablet and this was placed on the crematorium wall.

Apart from this my NCR life was very happy, I think one of the reasons was that, having left the office in the mornings, you were on your own with different machines to repair, and nobody breathing down your neck. My last depot manager was **Frank Robinson** - a great character.

From Ian Ormerod:

I received a copy of the Spring edition from **Dave Maberley** who, although officially retired, works on a temporary post with my Nat West account team in Watford.

I was surprised to find myself mentioned in **Gerry Cole's** memoirs. I don't remember the incident with the young lady at all, perhaps I am getting old or perhaps I was young and innocent in those days !! A few years ago I used to attend the Region 3 meetings held in Sheldon and was privileged to be asked by **Jim Kembury** to speak at the Bristol meeting.

You and your readers may not be aware that I have a collection of NCR machines dating back to the 1890s. For the past fifteen years or more I have been collecting and restoring examples of the different classes of machines we have produced.

My collection includes the patent model of the Dial register of 1879 and the class 3 Wooden Detail Adder of 1890 which incidentally was the first cash register ever to be used in Europe. This event occurred at the Liverpool Exposition of

1886 when J.W. Allinson got around the restriction of "only exhibits manufactured in Britain to be displayed" by installing them in the bars on the exhibition site. It probably helped that a relation was in charge of security !!

The register that I have, was bought by a company in Northampton in 1890, and I bought it from them in 1991 when they were closing down. The register was still in use on the counter after 101 years. Apart from the usual press down key machines and the 400 and 500 press in key models I have the "Black Night" register referred to in **Alf Collingham's** column in the Summer **PostScript**.

More modern machines which many of your readers will remember include the "Silent 51" 6000 and the 1900 bus ticket machine which **Elwyn Davies** got working for me for an exhibition in Sheldon a few years ago. Two of the Remington models are also in the collection but waiting to be restored. Among the bigger items in the collection are a class 3000 accounting machine, 31 32 and 33 machines and to bring the collection up to date a 299.



Ian Ormerod

I have a collection of books and memorabilia thanks to several members of the Retirement Fellowship including **Jim Kembury** who had preserved a set of mechanical instruction books for the early machines. Among my collection are the early NCR Posts from the first British newsletter of 1898 to American magazines of 1906. I also have a set of NCR Posts from 1947 onwards.

I have copies of **Alan Holman's** "How it all Began" and "NCR in Great Britain" films and am happy to bring them and any machines, except the big ones, along to any of the group meetings. If any of your readers remember articles or photographs from the old NCR Posts I will be happy to research and provide copies.

The cash register on page 6 of the summer issue (23) could be a class 79 but is more likely to be the Class 83 Sterling keyboard register. The serial number indicates that it was manufactured in May 1901.

THE NEW ZEALAND C/R from Cecil Staite

Further to our recent telephone conversation and a letter you have received from **Ian Ormerod** dated 16th August, I can confirm in conjunction with Ian the machine is a Class 83 and was shipped from Dayton in May 1901.

Whilst the machine is still in use, it will only be used as a receptacle for cash. The currency in New Zealand was changed to Dollars some 6 years ago. You will note they have blanked the rear indication out so it cannot be seen.

As a matter of interest, the oldest Cash Registers in the UK is a Class 3 wooden Detail Adder, of which Ian has one. I was present with him when he purchased the machine in Northampton. Another is owned by **John Shelley** in Birmingham, who is still in the cash register business and many will know. We have in Birmingham **Rob Davies** ex Birmingham FED, who still overhauls brass cash registers and is able to provide keys.

For those of your readers who are on Internet, you can tune in to NCR and find who sells them, you can even join a brass cash register club.

May I say how much I enjoy the magazine which is always interesting, and also send my best wishes to anyone who knows me.



"The way things were"

THE RAMBLERS ASSOCIATION

From Jo Leighton

You will know that one of my interests, aside from the NCR Retirement Fellowship, is active involvement with and membership of the Ramblers Association. The involvement includes the activities of the Carlisle & North Cumbria Group - producing walks, books, leading weekly walks, and maintenance of the local footpath network - and the Lake District Area, which is more representative and administrative in nature. I recently had the pleasure of being a R A representative at the National Conference of the European Ramblers Association, held in the UK this year to celebrate the opening of the Great Britain section of E2, the European Long Distance Footpath.

The AGM was held at Ambleside in the Lake District but, for the opening of the extension of E2, we travelled to Kirk Yetholm, some 70 miles north of Carlisle.

Kirk Yetholm is a quiet village, only just inside the Scottish border, made famous by Alf Wainwright's offer of a pint of beer at the Border Arms pub to anyone who has survived the Pennine Way journey - it is now only a half pint, and you have to sign the book! (Alf Wainwright is a world famous author of illustrated guide books to the Lakeland Fells, the Scottish Munro's, The Pennine Way and the Coast to Coast Walk).

On Wednesday 15th September, untypically in glorious sunshine, the village saw its peace disturbed by the arrival, on foot, by car and 3 coaches, long distance walking enthusiasts from all parts of Europe, a sprinkling of local walkers, representatives of the Scottish and English RA's and the Long Distance Walkers Association (LWA), some 300 in all, to witness the opening of the GB section of the European Long Distance Footpath, E2.

The E2 in Britain runs from Dover to Stranraer via Kent and Surrey, Oxfordshire, Gloucestershire, the Midlands, Staffordshire, the Pennine Way, St Cuthberts Way and the Southern Uplands Way. The British extension of E2, one of 11 such routes planned to run from the west coast of Ireland to the Crimea, was inaugurated with the unveiling of a plaque on the village green at Kirk Yetholm by Sir John Johnson, President of the LDWA and Jan Havelka, President of the European Ramblers Association (ERA.).

A German contingent, 50 strong, joined with a large party of Italians and made a colourful picture on the green when they combined in an unusual rendition of Scottish Songs "We'll take the high road....!" And Geoffrey Williams, an exuberant Welsh member of the RA Executive Committee, made certain, with his Welsh RA banner held high, that Wales would not be forgotten in this Euro Jamboree and, amidst all of this high excitement a local resident, overjoyed at seeing such unusual numbers in the village, took advantage of the occasion to publicise, and ask all to sign a petition against, the closure of the local public toilets. We all did!

To round off the occasion in walkers style, and in celebration of the glorious sunshine as much as anything else, all 300 were led on a 6km walk to where the Pennine Way joins with St Cuthberts Way on the English/Scottish Border. Reaching the high point of the walk on a hill, cairned in remembrance of the crew of a German bomber which crashed there in the early days of the war, it was remarkable to see, almost as far as the eye could see, this long trail of walkers from all parts of Europe, in colourful clothing and talking animatedly, usually in the common language, English, meandering in long, serpentine fashion down the hill.

Freda and I had a lovely day, made more so by an unexpected meeting with old walking friends, staying in a cottage in Town Yetholm, who invited us in for tea. A perfect end to the day.

NEWS of SEVERAL "OLD BOYS" from Alan Bowley

Greetings all! Twenty-six years ago I left NCR after 26 years service. I had begun in the CRD Sales Promotion Department under the 'mysterious' Marius Bang, moving briefly to the Provincial Office Clerks Department under the sprightly **Mr. Singer**, and then into the Advertising & Public Relations Department under the unforgettable **Denis Butlin**. Later I worked with **Peter Spooner** and **RJ McCulloch**.

Leaving the company, I can recall, was a mixture of regret, a sense of relief to be free from a job, which had become too stressful, and apprehension at going out into the world of public relations without the protection of the big company supporting me.

It so happened that I had made the right decision, supported valiantly by my wife Pam, and I have had another 26 years of interesting and varied work and mixed with many people in all walks of business life.

For nearly 38 years we have been living in the same house in the Surrey village of West Horsley, between Leatherhead and Guildford, and in the last year or so, have discovered that there are other ex-NCR men living in the area. In our village is **RON TARLING**, now aged 84, who served the company for many years and was Accounting Machine Instructor at Brent. Also in West Horsley is **ALAN HUTCHINS** who spent 41 years with NCR in the Field Engineering Division and who is Region 6 organiser.

My wife and I attend St. Mary's Church in West Horsley. Our Rector is **PETER ROBINSON** who, in the 1960s, joined the NCR Century team at Greenford. One of his memories is a week at Smith's Industries, working all hours, to save the installation. Peter later joined the Church, following in his father's footsteps.

Tucked away in a delightful old house in the village is **COLIN JARMAN** who worked for the Company from 1957-1969, beginning in the Sales Promotion Department under **Richard Ingram** and joining Banks Department selling punched paper tape class 32's to, mainly, the National Provincial and Westminster Bank. He is currently chairman of BancTec Ltd., a subsidiary of an American company, selling encoders to some of his old NCR customers. Colin retires in a year or so. He and his wife **Julie** have three daughters, one of whom, **Sarah**, is making a name for herself as co-founder of care centres for street children in Brazil where she lives with her husband and children. Colin sends best wishes to all his old friends.

Over the hill from us is **HERBERT DANCE**, still going strong in his 80s although a little unsteady on his feet these days (more water with it?) Herbert lives in the little village of Gomshall and sends best wishes to his many old friends in NCR especially those in 'supporting services'.

Herbert's experiences with NCR would make a very interesting book. Joining the Accounting Machine Division under **Bill Hart** from HM Treasury in the 1940s he was in Manchester until in 1946 he went to Ireland as DM selling

NCR 3000s until 1948 when he joined the Company's Government Sales Division selling to the British Government and American Forces in Western Europe. In 1960 he was invited to take over the managership of West Africa where he survived several military coups. In 1970 he resigned and set up his own business in Ireland until, bombed out in Belfast, he returned to this country. He and his wife **Peggy** have three sons, two of whom have followed Herbert into the computer business.

And lastly, while writing this, I heard of another well-known NCR man - **FRANK FOXWELL** who lives in the village of Westcott near Dorking. Frank is well and enjoying his retirement and also wishes to be remembered to his many old friends.

So there you are - it proves that wherever you are you are never alone. For around the corner, living near at hand, is an old NCR employee. Here's to us!

MY BELGIAN EXPERIENCE from Stan Gater

This story has been retold entirely from memory without the aid of a diary or notes made at the time, so if occurrences are a little vague or dates not precise, you must put it down to old age!

It began in 1944 when the break through in Normandy enabled us to sweep through Northern France, first to Brussels and then onto Antwerp.

We enjoyed staying in a large town with all its amenities, when our previous site was a large field way out in the countryside, where the only recreation was playing football!!

As the fall of V1's and V2's became uncomfortable on Antwerp, it was decided to disperse all units over a larger area and we found ourselves taking over a Roman Catholic School in Lier, a lovely town just South East of Antwerp on the banks of the Nete River.

Officers and Senior N.C.O.'s were billeted with local families and that began my close friendships with the **Wuyt** family.

We shared their family life and their welcome was genuine and warm. What little they had at that time they shared with us and we in return were able to help them. I recall coming back off leave with a pair of bicycle tyres which they could not buy locally. On my frequent trips into Holland and subsequently into Germany, with the aid of cigarettes as currency, I was able to bring back bales of silk and cameras etc!

I also brought back a parachute from the Rhine Crossing, part of which was made into a pair of pyjamas!

The social life in Lier was, of course, limited but we enjoyed dances and the cinema, and our unit also gave an impromptu concert for our local Belgium friends. They too organised a supper for us which was enjoyed and very much appreciated, but we did not ask where they got all the rationed food from! Eventually, after some months when the threat of V1's and

V2's had passed, the unit returned to Antwerp but I took every opportunity to go back to Lier whenever I could, and never failed to be warmly welcomed.

As the war ended and my demob No. 21 came due, we said our sad farewells and I returned to my home.

We kept up a correspondence for sometime but inevitably in taking up our respective lives, that drifted away and we were left with our memories.

Then in 1996, I received a postcard signed by the son and daughter with whose family I had stayed those 52 years before. It was extraordinary that I was still alive (being 82 then) and that the address that the card came to was the one I returned to when demobbed!

Letters were exchanged and we got up to date with all that had happened, and then in February 1997 I went to Lier to see them all again. My wife was, of course, included in the invitation but unfortunately was not and still is not well enough to travel.

You can imagine the joy I had in meeting once again all the sons, daughters, aunts, uncles, nieces and nephews who in 1945 were still children and now with families of their own, and in some cases, retired themselves.

I was wined and dined by all the family, either in their homes or at local restaurants, and was not allowed to pay for anything.

Adelin (son-in-law) has been my chauffeur (and incidentally drove the Pope on his visit to Belgium), and together with members of the family, has taken me all over Belgium and once to Holland, where I saw the wonderful barriers built to keep out the North Sea and stop the flooding in low lying parts of Holland.

One enduring memory is the visit we made to lepers (Ypres). The sadness and pride I felt when viewing the Menin Gate (which incidentally I had always imagined as part of an allied cemetery, not in the centre of Ypres), bearing in mind that on that memorial some 54,000 names are recorded of allied soldiers who fell locally in the First World War and who have no known grave. The immense feeling I had in the English Church of St George's in Ypres, where on three sides were brass plaques naming allied units who had taken part in the local battles reduced me to whispering quite involuntary while standing in the central aisle.

I have now revisited my Belgium friends five times, the last in October this year, and have received on each occasion a warm and outstanding welcome. Also, on each occasion, have been loaded with gifts, Belgian chocolates (they are delicious!) for **Janet**, and I make the joke that this enables me to come again! However, this is not so, as it is entirely due to my two daughters, **Anne** and **Pauline**, who come to stay with their mother while I am away.

I hope you find this account interesting, as for me it has been a miracle, and perhaps some of you, particularly those who were in the Forces, have similar stories to tell.

Thank you Stan, for such a wonderful story – so appropriate so soon after Remembrance Day! – **Ed**

CANADIAN HOLE-in-the-WALL MODIFICATION

George Bradley spotted the following article in the Winnipeg Sun whilst on a recent trip to Canada;

Nine million Canadians have trouble reading print and that is why the Royal Bank yesterday (29/9/99) unveiled Canada's first audio banking machine at two of its Winnipeg branches. The US is only just moving into this field a spokeswoman said. Citibank and Wells Fargo will be the first in October and have consulted with Royal Bank.

Although talking machines clearly benefit the blind or visually impaired they are also of benefit to both the illiterate and immigrants, all of who have trouble using traditional ABMs. Over one third of all Canadians will be over 55 by 2001, many of those will find that reading becomes more difficult but who will want to be independent and use new technologies available.

A standard ABM costs in excess of \$60,000 but this machine developed by NCR Canada and T-Base R&D costs well in excess of that. It has a very friendly voice system that provides full banking services without any external intervention. Fifteen machines have now been installed across Canada.

Users are given a free headset which plugs into the ABM, simple instructions being given in a clear slowly modulated male voice. "To blank screen press 3" the voice said to Shep Shell, a past Chairman of the Canadian National Institute for the Blind, who was depositing \$20. "Please wait, we are retrieving your account details" said the voice. He waited but nothing happened. "Speak to me!" Shep said. The machine did, telling him to re-enter his command on the keyboard, which has raised graphics for commands like OK and cancel.

Users are provided with a guide, in Braille, large print, or on computer disk to explain how to use the system. "I don't have to ask a stranger now for help or trust anyone else, I can pay bills, get cashit's wonderful said Shep. "Hopefully, this is a catalyst for other manufacturers to rethink their technology" he said, adding that he would like an audible call display on his telephone for starters! Gerry Richard, who has some sight but finds reading difficult, said that he always has to bring someone with him to the bank "Now I can just come in and away I go. It makes me feel so much more independent".

Report by Wendy Stephenson Business Editor - Winnipeg Sun.



Shep Shell hopes other major corporations will follow Royal Bank's lead

MY CURRENT LIST OF EMAIL ADDRESSES IS AS FOLLOWS:

Dave O'Connel – daveocon@lineone.net
 Eric Hampton – eric@iafrica.com
 Frank Ellison – frank_ellison@hotmail.com
 Geoff Jackson – geoff@megalops.freemove.co.uk
 George Hawkins – georgeh@penn45.freemove.co.uk
 Gerry Cole – GeraldandBabs@compuserve.com
 Geoff Griffiths – gsgriiff@mcomail.com
 Ian Ormerod –
 io516970@exchange.UnitedKingdom.NCR.COM
 Jo Leighton – joleight@callnetuk.com
 Keith Lambert – Keith.Lambert@tesco.net
 Keith Pyle –
 kp163600@exchange.UnitedKingdom.NCR.COM
 Noel Shaw – nsa.shaw@virgin.net
 Paul Glynn – P.Glynn@btinternet.com
 Roger Hill – rogerhill@kelsotravel.com
 Ken Umney – umney@globalnet.co.uk
 Vic Davies – vixco@globalnet.co.uk

If anyone else would like to be added to the list please let me know - **Ed**.

SOFTWARE SUPPORT

Dear Technical Support - Last year I upgraded my system from Girlfriend rev 7.0 to Wife rev 1.0 and noticed that the new program began unexpected child processing that took up a lot of space and valuable resources. No mention of this was included in the manual.

In addition, Wife 1.0 installs itself into all other programs and launches during system initialisation, where it monitors all other system activity. Applications such as Poker Night 10.3, Drunken Boys Night Out 2.5 and Saturday Football 5.0 no longer run. I cannot seem to keep Wife 1.0 in the background while trying to run some of my other favourite applications.

I am thinking about reverting to Girlfriend 7.0 but uninstall does not work on this program. Can you help please?

Thanks – Joe.

Dear Joe – This is a very common problem, but is mostly due to a primary misconception. Many men upgrade from Girlfriend 7.0 to Wife 1.0 with the idea that the latter is merely a "Utilities & Entertainment" program.

Wife 1.0 is an operating system and designed by its creator to run everything. It is unlikely that you would be able to

purge Wife 1.0 and still convert back to Girlfriend 7.0. Hidden operating files within your system would cause Girlfriend 7.0 to emulate Wife 1.0 so nothing is gained. It is impossible to uninstall, delete or purge the program files from the system once installed.

You cannot go back to Girlfriend 7.0 because Wife 1.0 is not designed to do this. Some have tried to install Girlfriend 8.0 or Wife 2.0 but end up with more problems than on the original system. Look in your manual under "Warnings - Maintenance/Child Support.") I recommend that you use Wife 1.0 and just deal with the situation.

Having Wife 1.0 installed myself, I suggest that you read the section regarding "General Partnership Faults". The best course of action is to enter the command: C:/apologise. In any case avoid excessive use of the "Escape" key because you will have to give the "apologise" command before the operating system will return to normal. The system will run smoothly as long as you take the blame for all the GPFs. Wife 1.0 is a great program but very high maintenance; consider buying additional software to improve performance of Wife 1.0, I recommend Flowers 2.1 and Chocolates 9.0. Do not under any circumstances install Secretary With Short Skirt 3.3, this is not a supported application for Wife 1.0 and is likely to cause irreversible damage to the operating system.

Some people prefer to install Partner 1.0 or Companion 1.0, these being equivalent programs. These more modern operating systems permit everything that Wife 1.0 offers, but without having to commit to a licence agreement. It also frees the user from some of the restrictions on input/output ports and can, in certain circumstances, free the user to install A Bit On The Side 1.1 or variants such as Toy Boy 2.0.

This is inline with modern open systems, but does require more vigilance on the part of the user to ensure that viruses and other unwelcome intrusions do not occur. Generally this means the installation of some anti-viral software such as Johnny 3.2. None of this was generally necessary when using Wife 1.0 except for the possibility of expansion of the motherboard. All sorts of problems could then ensue.

Trust that this advice helps.

Best of luck, **Technical Support**.

Stan Scorer

It was good to see Stan at the recent London luncheon in Caledonian Road. He was gratified with the response to his article and, on being told the reaction, said that he would be pleased to hear from anyone who would like to get in touch with him.

Stan's address is:-

41, Edgeborough Way, Bromley, Kent. BR1 2UA

COMPANY NEWS.

A quick trawl of the NCR web site reveals that the third quarter results have just been announced; without getting too technical, significant facts are as follows:

Worldwide revenues were down 2% due to decline in commodity hardware but revenues in core business increased 3%.

Retail Store Automation Solutions	up 32%
Financial Self Service Solutions	up 10%
Data Warehousing Solutions	down 4%
Customer Services Maintenance	down 8%
Systemedia Revenues	flat (sic)

Gross Margin

An increase to 30.3% compared to 3rd qtr last year of 29.6. 6th consec qtr had an increase in gross as % of revenue.

Operating and Net Income

Operating income up 58% to \$52 million this qtr from \$33 a year ago.

Net income of \$53 million more than double the \$25 million reported a year ago,

Balance Sheet

NCR ended the 3rd qtr with \$595 million in cash and short term investments.

At 30th September 1999 NCR had a debt of 95 million and shareholders equity of \$1.5 billion.

There are now 33,100 employees worldwide.

Detailed accounts can be found on the NCR website www.ncr.com



The NCR Centenary Clock

Like many of you, I have been the proud owner of a Centenary Clock which has given good service, day in, day out since 1984. The only problem was the renewal of a new battery but this was achieved once the knack was learned. Now, calamity! - the contact in the base of the battery compartment has come adrift, I suspect as a result of slow corrosion. I have dismantled the works as far as I dare but cannot find a way of rectifying the problem. I suspect that, if it has happened to me, others must be in the same boat. Has anyone found a solution to the problem and would they share their experience with the rest of us? There are few things more useless than a clock that doesn't work especially one that brings back so many memories! ED.

The NCR Retirement Fellowship



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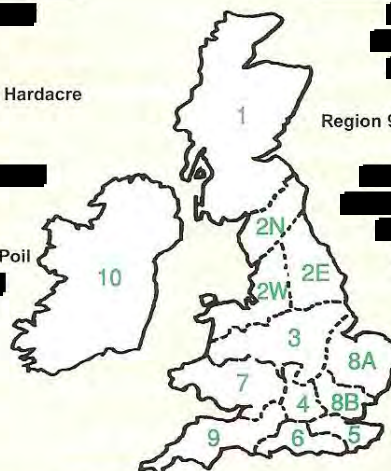
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FIELD ENGINEERING MANAGEMENT & GUESTS 1981



THE XMAS QUIZ

Ian Ormerod has kindly supplied the above picture for use in our Xmas Quiz. There are 78 faces featured and the task is to identify as many as possible. Please submit your answers, names against numbers in ascending numerical order on a plain piece of paper and send it to the Editor. The competition closes on 31st January and the answers will appear in the next edition of PostScript. Ian has kindly donated a book token which will be awarded for the best entry. Good luck!

