

100 CLASS ART



This 100 Class Cash Register was photographed by Chris Ring, cemented into 'Arno's Wall' in Winton, Queensland, Australia and posted on www.Flickr.com. It may be not everybody's idea of 'art' but at least we know this register was saved from the scrap-yard. The wall is about 70 metres long, surrounding the house of its creator, Arno Grotjahn. He is an opal miner who created this concretion of hundreds of everyday objects as his interpretation of the "History of Mankind".

Les Clarke

Marylebone HO Conservation

The article on the history of Marylebone H/O which appeared in the Summer [Post Script](#) 2007 Issue 36 was seen by the St Marylebone Society who asked for permission to use an extract of the article in their magazine. It was subsequently realized that the building was not listed in anyway and therefore was not protected from redevelopment. At very short notice the information in the article was submitted to the council and on the 5th March we received news from Sheila Monnet that the Marylebone office has been added to the Dorset Square Conservation Area protecting it from any redevelopment.

NEWS FROM THE REGIONS

Region 2W - Ian Ormerod

The Region continues to be very active with two lunches, Spring and October.

Both were held at our usual location The Grange in the Wirral which provides excellent facilities and a great value three course meal.

In October 2008 there were 45 members and guests attended and for our Spring lunch on the 7th April we had 61 attendees.

Sadly three of our members died during the last twelve months and our oldest member **George Laurence** who is now 98 missed both reunions due to illness; however we are hopeful that he will be able to join us again in the future.

Region 2W - 'The Grange'



Region 3 – Eric Grace

The Fellowship Lunch was held again at the George Hotel in Litchfield on 16th April 2009 and was another happy occasion.

There were 26 members and guests who enjoyed the usual good three course carvery meal. We were to be 27 but **Ronnie Scott** was unable to make it at the last moment. We were fortunate to have **Stephen Swinbank** with us and who gave us a thorough update on pension matters. This was well received by all.

Pleasing was to have **Alistair Gilmour** and his wife who were visiting from Glenrothes and who had been trying to come to our lunch for some time. There were several members who sent best wishes but were unable to attend. **Duncan McCondochie** and **Harry Ridge** to name but two were at the NCR Golf Society meeting in Stevenage.

Ian Ormerod had unfortunately already accepted an invitation to the Cambridge lunch which fell on the same day. There also seems to be a run on hip problems at the present time; both **Doreen Butterfield** and **John Phillips** had such problems which prevented their attendance. **Jill McPhail** had to give it a miss as her brother was arriving on the day for a visit and **Tom Aubrey** telephoned to say that he had become tied up with a family matter. Finally, **Lucy Tilley** was intending to come but a hospital appointment came up and you can't afford to give those up!

On another note, **Cecil Staite** has not renewed his membership but I have been told that both he and Joan are now in a residential home. We must end on a sad note by telling you that several have left for a better place namely, **David Teasdale**, **Frank White**, **Brian Cox** and **Stan Gater**.

Eric

Region 3 - 'The George'



Region 3 - 'The George' continued



Region 5 – Peter Bodley

We again held our annual luncheon at the excellent George and Dragon Inn, Headcorn in the heart of the Weald of Kent on 22nd October. The weather was again kind to us being warm and sunny. 23 of us sat down to the lunch including our chief guest **Lin Sandell** who updated us on the developments regarding NCR and the Pension Plan.

It was particularly pleasant to welcome newcomers to our lunch, **Ray Howes** and his wife **Carol**, **Bob** and **Sue Chilton** and **Estelle Sillett** who bravely joined us at the last minute having lost **Gordon** 3 weeks earlier.

Arrangements have been made to return to the George and Dragon on Wednesday 14th October, details will be sent to members nearer the time..

Region 7– John Jones

Lunch 29th October 2008

Officially the region's membership is 29 but I sent out 34 invitations not all by letter, some by Email and a couple by telephone. I had 30 replies and a total of 27 people attended our get together at the Carvery Company, Cribbs Causeway, about the same as last year. Once again the staff made us very welcome although I think 27 people arriving for lunch at the same time must be a bit stressful. We all enjoy the food and the relaxed atmosphere.

Jim Kembery, accompanied by his daughter **Sue** and all the usual regulars were there **Bill** and **Eileen Park**, **Dave** and **Jean Jones**, **Alan** and **Stella Wall**, **Maurice** and **Pat Keene**, **Roy Back**, **Bill Hudson**, **Ian** and **Mary Leader**, **Keith** and **Margaret Ponting** and **Paul** and **Angela Bryant**.

The Welsh contingent was well represented by, **Ken Bloxham**, **Dave Calford**, **Wayne Edmond** and **Geoff Batcup** all the way from Swansea. Unfortunately **Elwyn Davies**, **Dickie Keitch** and **John Watts** couldn't make it but **Tony Churchman** arrived just as we were having our "Pension Fund Chat" by **Dennis Pearce**, who did a good job of reassuring us of the pension fund's stability.

Betty Vickery having survived Poland and **Anne Cunningham (Weekes)** who was on holiday last time were there as was **Peter Bodley** taking notes as usual.

Chris Mumford, **Graham Watt**, **Maurice Davis**, **Dave Robinson** and our esteemed Editor **Geoff Jackson** were among several members who were unable to attend, and had prior engagements **Maurice Chivers** was in Nice this time. They all sent their best wishes as did **Dorothy Davies**, **Bill Garbutt** and **John Cooper** who all have problems travelling.

Dave Jones and I had our cameras and between us managed to get a few pictures of the occasion.

We are due for another get-together in June next year which I hope will be as successful as this one.

If you recognise any names in this report or faces in the photographs and wish to get in touch, email me or phone me and I'll pass on your address to them.



Left to Right **Eileen Park**, **Mary Leader**, **Ian Leader**, **Jean Jones**, **Paul Bryant**, **Roy Back**, **Angela Bryant**, **Stella Wall**, **Anne Cunningham**, **Dave Jones**, **Margaret Ponting**, **Alan Wall**, **Tony Churchman**.



Tony Churchman (again), **Geoff Batcup**, **Wayne Edmond**, **Dave Calford**, **Maurice Keene**, **Peter Bodley**, **Pat Keene**, **Bill Hudson**.

Region 8 – Richard Craigie

We had our Spring luncheon on 16th April at a new venue. The Rosery Hotel at Exning near Newmarket, Suffolk provided excellent food and was good value at £6.99 for two courses plus tea or coffee. The staff arranged the tables in a big square so that everyone felt that they were at the same lunch. We were 22 in number and welcomed **Ian** and **Sheila Ormerod** as guests. We missed several of our regulars for one reason or another and hope to see them at the Autumn lunch which is booked for the 22nd October again at the Rosery Hotel

Region 9 – Jessie Wallace

On December 1st 2008 we met at the Exeter Toby Carvery for our Annual Lunch. This date being chosen as most suitable by the majority of our members. On the day, 19 members and guests were able to attend and an excellent Carvery lunch at reasonable cost was enjoyed by all. Unfortunately three members were unable to join us through illness at the last moment.

This was our first lunch experience at the Exeter Toby and I am pleased to say everyone enjoyed both the food and company. Our next lunch will be held there with everybody's approval at a date to be announced. Sadly, two of our members have died, **Ken Haines** and **Vic James** neither of whom have been able to come to lunches of late because of ill health. Best wishes to all our members.



Jessie Wallace, Region 9 organiser



From David McIntosh

I came across this photo recently. It was taken at the Dundee factory around 1969 and shows the management team of the EDP Commercial Division.



*From left to right:: Front Row Dennis Bonnet, Graham Miller, Mike Anderson, Peter Wright
Centre Row Steve Willins, Peter Pruden, Alan Debenham, Chris Christmas, David McIntosh, Charlie Webb
Back Row Bert Fensome, Eric Hampton, ????????, Owen Moore, Bill Read*

THE PERKS OF BEING OVER SIXTY

- 1 Kidnappers are not very interested in you.
- 2 In a hostage situation you are likely to be released first.
- 3 No one expects you to run – anywhere
- 4 People call at 9pm and ask, "Did I wake you?"
- 5 People no longer view you as a hypochondriac.
- 6 There is nothing left to learn the hard way.
- 7 Things you buy now won't wear out.
- 8 You can eat supper at 4pm.
- 9 You can live without sex but not your glasses.
- 10 You get into heated arguments about pension plans.
- 11 You no longer think of speed limits as a challenge.
- 12 You quit trying to hold your stomach in no matter who walks into the room.
- 13 You sing along with lift music.
- 14 Your eyes won't get much worse
- 15 Your investment in health insurance is finally paying off.
- 16 Your knee joints are more accurate meteorologists than the national weather service.
- 17 Your secrets are safe with your friends because they can't remember them either.
- 18 Your supply of brain cells is finally down to a manageable size.
- 19 You can't remember who sent you this list.
- 20 BUT I KNOW! - IT WAS DAVID McINTOSH!!!

Cash Register Receipts

One thing that we all expect when shopping is a receipt from the cash register, not only to list the items bought, as a check that we have been charged correctly, but also as proof of having paid for the items.

Although early cash registers had the option of a detail roll it was not until the Class 70 and 80 models manufactured in 1892 that receipts could be printed and the feature became a major selling feature (these models later became the 400 and 500 models)



The thin cardboard ticket produced by these registers showed the amount of the transaction, a consecutive number and date, the name and address of the shop, a message to the customer and space for advertising. After printing had taken place the cardboard tickets were cut off by a guillotine and ejected automatically into a holder from where the assistant would present it to the customer in the same manner as though they were presenting a visiting card.

142 JUL 16

C. H. YOUNG.
Fine Groceries and
Delicatessen.
Old Flushing Road, near
Flushing Avenue.
MASPETH, L. I.
Tel. 536 W. Williamsburg.

★ B 2.00

To any child returning 60c. in
checks I will give a cake
of chocolate free.

"SWEETS TO THE SWEET."

0 09 APR 14
11 45 AM

★ E -1.00

This Check is
VALUABLE

Ask Us Why

W.H. & J.J. Downey
GROCERS
MARLBORO, - MASS

Our line of goods is
always fresh & the best
that money can buy.

Try our

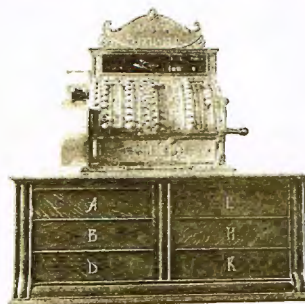


and be convinced.

Fresh Eggs
Fresh Roasted Coffees
and Delicious Tea.

Unique Advertising.

Having just adopted the very latest type of **NATIONAL CASH REGISTER** in my business, I wish to draw your attention to this medium as one of the most valuable forms of Advertising in existence.



The machine is an automatic printer, and every time a purchase is made a check is handed to each customer, thus ensuring attention to your goods by the class of people who can buy them.

The space on the back of these checks has been proved to be a direct and continuous appeal to consumers.

It has paid others handsomely, and results will equally please you. I offer the right to have your Advertisement printed thereon one day each week for the moderate sum of Five Pounds per annum.

WALTER BASS' BAKERIES,
65 & 94 BRIDGE ROAD,
HAMMERSMITH, W.

WALTER BASS' BAKERIES,
65 & 94
BRIDGE ROAD,
HAMMERSMITH.

£1.12.6½.

Call and see the
machine cashier
printing your
receipt.

OVER.

Facsimile of Check issued by the National Cash Register.

With the release of a wider printer on the Class 500 in 1908 and the 900 in 1916 more information could be printed as the tickets became larger. The wide printer option provided standard tickets of 3 5/8 x 2 5/16 inches.

£ s. d. ORDER NUMBER Date
★A-.3.5- -0001 JUN-2-26

MORRISON BROS.,
General Stores,
HIGH STREET, DONCASTLE.
'Phone No. 145.

Sales Agents ordered electros to print the customer's details and messages. Sample printouts in the Electro order book showed a suggested layout and the number of characters permitted depending on the font chosen.

The following two drawings show the electro's required to print the Morrison Bros. receipt, the small circles showing where holes are provided to screw the electro to the print drum.

PLEASE PAY CASHIER
THIS AMOUNT
JOHN HURR, THE GROCER

Ex - 10.00 -4635 SEP 20-23

Clerk Amount Trans. No. Date

JOHN HURR
THE GROCER

Main Store: 2012 Wellington Avenue
Where the dollar does its full duty

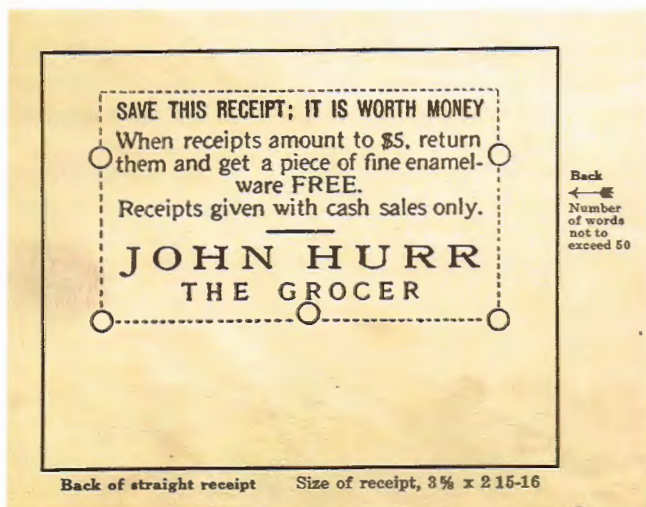
Upper front
← Number of words not to exceed 15

1-line Lower front
←

Lower front
← Number of words not to exceed 35

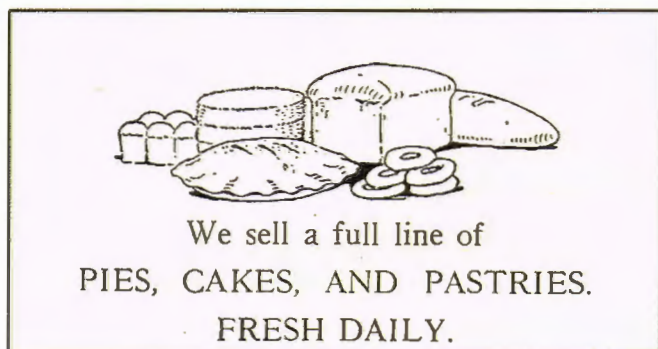
Front of straight receipt Size of receipt, 3 5/8 x 2 5/16

By 1904 these registers were also able to print on the back of the receipt providing business opportunities for people like Walter Bass of Hammersmith who produced the following leaflet offering other businesses the opportunity to advertise on his till receipts.

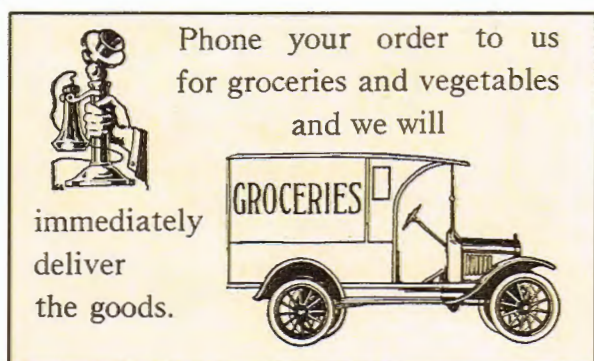


Receipts became even larger in order to accommodate not only advertising but to act as vouchers to reclaim money rewards or to obtain gifts in customer loyalty programs. The release of the 2000 class in the 1920's enabled receipts measuring an impressive 5 5/8 x 3 inches to be issued.

A catalogue of Standard Advertisements for designs on the back of the tickets was supplied. Many types of businesses were covered enabling customers to be advised that:-



and



And then !



The last electro-mechanical cash registers of the 1950's and 60's reverted to more modestly sized receipts on paper rather than the card of the 19th century registers. The original card guillotine having been replaced by paper tear-off serration blades with the exception of the German designed Class 3 which featured a cut-off knife.

A few examples of printing blocks from the period show that smaller fonts and graphics could be produced and while many electros were still metal plastic was the material of choice for the new machines.

榮業行 WING YIP
COVENTRY ST. B'HAM
VAT NO. III 7659 81 C

A&N
House of Fraser

Food Hall
GUILDFORD

for value

CENTRAL STORES
LLANABY-LLYNGWYLL
GOGERTYNYRHOSSILL
LLANTYLUOGOODROCH

CASA PUPO
Tel 45761 VAT No. 238 4534 52
NOTTINGHAM

Wales
Theatre Club

BRIGHTON & HOVE HERALD
PAVILION BUILDINGS
TELEPHONE BRIGHTON 28001

000-0-01 I
000-0-01 II
000-10-01 III
099-9-9 IV
088-8-8 I
077-7-7 II
066-6-6 III
055-5-5 IV
044-4-4 I
033-3-3 II
022-2-2 III
011-1-1 IV
498-8-75 *
TELEPHONE 229
THANK YOU
002 1 HRY 61

One of the most memorable electros produced by the London Electro Department in 1961 was that featured on the Class 51 ticket of the Central Store in the Welsh village with the longest name.

Obituaries

We extend our sincere sympathy to the families of the following fellow employees:

Fellowship Members

Mr LB Ingham	04/01/09
Mr AB Cox	05/12/08
Mr SR Gater	31/12/08
Mr I Leader	01/02/09
Mr FE White	

Other Pensioners

Mr D Ashworth	16/12/08
Mr LG Ball	05/01/09
Mr M Boland	15/01/09
Mr TC Brown	14/11/08
Mrs VM Campbell	19/11/08
Mrs MM Hanley	02/01/09
Mr BW Jenner	20/12/08
Mrs MA Lee	28/11/08
Mrs A McPaul	14/01/09
Mrs J Somerville	01/12/08
Mr DM Sturgeon	28/11/08
Mr M Williams	13/12/08

Alfie Hurlock 5/1/26 – 30/9/08

Norman Bowen remembers a dear friend and colleague:

It with great sadness that I must advise you of the demise of Alfie Hurlock. He was well known to a great number of both London and Watford technicians. He had a great sense of humour and delighted us all. Alf was a great sportsman and valued member of the Brent Service Centre football team which played most Sundays at Cool Oak Lane, Hendon. Cricket was also a great pleasure to Alf. May we pay our respects to you Alf and remember your dear wife Lyn and family. God bless.

Gordon Sillett

I could not let the passing of Gordon Sillett, who died on 1st October last year go by without a mention. He was a good friend, and will be sorely missed.

Gordon started his career with NCR in the factory in Marylebone Road working on the class 2000. He later decided to leave London and Move to Bristol as a Field Engineer in 1966, and that is where I met him upon my return from Canada. He was then working on the class 29 "Postronic" machines used mainly by Lloyds Bank, and lived with his wife Estelle and children Gary, Nicola and Vincent in the beautiful village of Berrow near Burnham on Sea in Somerset. I think it was in 1972 when he was promoted to Depot Manager of Swansea in West Wales and then he moved to Kent and became Service Manager in Sittingbourne. I was, by then working in Oxford as Service Manager and Gordon and I and our respective families kept in touch, and we were able to continue to spend many splendid holidays together.

After I retired in 1988 Gordon carried on as manager of Sittingbourne until this depot was closed later that year, and then he worked in various capacities for **Alan Chard** in Crawley until his retirement in 1994. He was a no nonsense type of manager and he did not suffer fools gladly but he was always fair and straight in his dealings with those who worked above and below him. I will always remember him for his great sense of fun, albeit sometimes a bit quirky! He was a good footballer in his younger days, and a very good golfer. He could play the trumpet, he was not a bad tap-dancer and his handling of two ball point hammers in gun play was pretty impressive.

Gordon was cremated in the Garden of England Crematorium in Bobbing, near Sittingbourne and later his family and friends welcomed everyone back at Gordon's golf club nearby. There were many ex-NCR friends there including **Don Ladd**, who worked with Gordon in the factory a half century ago! Also there was **Peter Shipp** from Brent, **Alan Chard**, **Paul Williams**, **Rod Nash** and many others including one of Gordon's closest friends, **Bernard Wagland**, who was the manager of Luton for many years and his wife Barbara. Many other ex-NCR colleagues from Bristol and Swansea, including **Jimmy Kembery**, Gordon's old manager in Bristol and **Frank Robinson**, ex Brighton

Depot Manager, who could not attend the funeral for various reasons sent their condolences to Estelle and family. As one of the ex Bristol engineers said; "It was a privilege to know Gordon Sillett, and he will be greatly missed by all of us".

Dave Jones



The photo above is to remind you all what Gordon looked like (right) together with Bernard Wagland and myself. As Frank Robinson said, "You wouldn't buy a used car from any of these guys, would you?"

Trevor Smith

It is with the most profound sadness that I have learned that the professional, skilled and courteous Trevor Smith has taken his own life.

Trevor supported the Foreign Office Project I managed for a long period in the 90's. Several times he was willing to go to relatively hostile countries where the required structured cabling design and installation services were virtually unobtainable. In Nigeria, very dangerous at the time, Trevor took charge of a local NCR "team" made up with men from various tribes and who sometimes turned up for work and sometimes disappeared!

Trevor loved his work and couldn't do enough for those who needed help. I cannot imagine the anguish from which Trevor must have been suffering. A great privilege to have worked with and been a colleague of Trevor.

Noel Shaw

THE RAF MUSEUM

(continued – five years later)

John Wellington

It is now more than five years since I wrote about being a volunteer at the RAF Museum. I go in one day a week from about 10.45 until 4pm and conduct parties of visitors around the exhibits. There are ten different tours, each one lasting about 45 minutes and it is usual for each of us to take two in the morning and another two in the afternoon (which keeps you fit as you cover a lot of ground!).

The tours are quite varied; Bomber Command, American Command, Coastal Command, Battle of Britain etc. We also do a lecture with demonstrations lasting about 45 minutes explaining how aircraft fly.

The visitors you get are from all over the world; Norway, Finland and obviously lots of Americans. The strangest nationality was a man from Siberia, needless to say, he found it quite warm over here! They all delight in asking you lots of questions and I sometimes wonder if they are trying to catch you out!

The Museum also ran birthday parties for children on Saturdays and Sundays. I would take 10 to 15 around for some two hours but keeping their interest and amused was not easy. I did over 50 of these but they have now been discontinued.

Quite often you are asked to take special groups and I have taken a lot of people from PROBUS. They are retired professional business people like Bank Managers, Lawyers and Doctors etc. They are all very pleasant and we try to make their visits as pleasant as possible.

Some time ago I was asked to take a party of "Tuskagee" airmen around, they were coloured American pilots who flew in the last war. They are called Tuskagee Airmen as that is where they were trained but they were not allowed to fly in combat until Mrs Roosevelt asked why. The result was that they were shipped to England to fly P51 Mustangs and escort the B17's over Europe. They painted the rudders of their planes red and the squadron became the "Redtails"

All the gentlemen I took round had Congressional Medals of Honour and they all gave me cards containing their details. Incidentally, a film was made called "The Tuskagee Airmen" which occurs on TV regularly, it is well worth a viewing.

It is also very interesting to see aircraft stripped down. They recently did this to a Valiant bomber so as to take it to Cosford (our sister museum and written about some little time ago by **Bryan Turner**). In return we received a B24 Liberator which was huge. Incidentally more B24's were made than any other aircraft. Apropos to this the following small statistic may interest you. At the height of the war Boeings in Seattle were rolling out one B17 Flying Fortress every hour and total fighter production in America equalled one fighter every 300 seconds!

The Museum has offered each volunteer the chance to get a full City and Guilds Certificate in "National Aviation Heritage Skills". This is in six parts, the course is free and each part takes a day, conducted at the museum. Passing the exam, 80% is pass rate, results in a certificate. I have completed two so far and find it most interesting and keeps your mind alert.

I hope that you have found parts of this interesting and would love to see any of you at the Museum if you feel like visiting us. It is free and I am there each Tuesday.

OPERATION MARYPORT

Bryan Turner's comment in the Winter 2007/2008 edition of *Post Script* about Maryport brought back some memories which I thought I would share with you.

It began one sunny afternoon in August 1969 at Head Office when I was called into the office of my manager, **Harry Thornhill**.

Apparently the first UK Century Computer System customer installation at a Childrens Clothing Manufacturer in Maryport, was not living up to expectation and the customer's business was in jeopardy. My role was to immediately visit the site to assess the situation and report to management.

The plan was for me to go home to collect an overnight bag, return to Head Office, and then to be driven to Maryport by an NCR chauffeur. (NCR then had drivers and cars to ferry staff around in those far off days whatever happened to NCR1?). A reservation had been made for me at a local hotel and told to expect me in the late evening. The local Sales and Support team were scheduled to meet me at breakfast to brief me. So far so good!

For those who don't know, as I didn't at the time, Maryport is a small coastal town west of Carlisle and north of Workington.

Thus, the driver and I set off up the M1 stopping for a coffee break at the Watford Gap Services. On returning to the car the battery was found to be flat, not a good start ...! A call to a local breakdown service eventually brought at around midnight a brusque young man in a flat bed truck who determined the only solution was for him to tow us to his workshop and put the battery on "fast charge". He attached our car to his truck with a towrope, NOT a rigid bar, and set off in the dark at breakneck speed for what seemed an eternity through country lanes to his workshop. My poor driver manfully struggled to control the car for without engine power the power steering and servo brakes were pretty useless.

We eventually got on our way in the early hours. The M6 had not been completed then and much of our journey was on slow A roads. I struggled to stay awake in the hope I could keep the driver awake, and we eventually arrived at the hotel in time for a late breakfast.

The local Sales and Support team anxiously hovered around me as I ate a hurried breakfast. Such was the urgency I apparently didn't need a shower or a shave and I could get a second coffee at the customer's office.

Thus, rather bleary eyed I began to assess the critical situation. It became apparent that no NCR product was at fault. However, the customer's "Customer Management Application" was flawed and needed to be revamped. Also the customer's previous system had been abandoned making the situation critical.

NCR management decided that every thing possible should be done to resolve the customer's dilemma and two teams would be assembled to work on site. One to immediately resurrect the old system in order to allow the customer's business to continue, the second team would redevelop the proposed new "Customer Management Application". This became known as "Operation Maryport".

For the next three months staff from various NCR Offices travelled by road, rail and air to Maryport every Monday morning, returning home on Fridays. I became part of the team for the duration.

My first impression of Maryport was of a town where the clocks had stopped in the thirties. The two large docks where local mined coal used to be loaded into colliers looked forlorn and deserted. The town's buildings looked tired and drab. A pungent sickly odour from a local factory pervaded everywhere.

However, in the local private hotel where we stayed we were well fed and watered in spite of the eccentricities of the elderly building and the proprietors. They must have thought Christmas had come early to have a regular group of paying guests for three months.

There was insufficient space at the customer's premises to accommodate us all so we were accommodated on the first floor of an old musty church hall. We sat at trestle tables formed in a horseshoe facing the single door, and decorated the walls with flip charts. Unfortunately, the ground floor was home to a Bingo Hall and from 2pm every afternoon we had to endure the monotonous drone of the Bingo Caller drifting up through the floor.

It was not just the town infrastructure that was old, so were the prices! Many took advantage and had cars serviced, dry cleaning and haircuts at cheaper prices than they were used to paying. A young naive Computer Operator announced that he was to visit a very cheap hairdresser in his lunch break. His return was greeted with a stunned silence, only to be broken by stifled laughs when a young wag from the Manchester Office said "did you 'ave gas then!". Obviously the hairdresser had to seek alternative employment on failing the Sheep Shearers entrance examination!

In the evenings those not needing to use the customer's computer could sit in the hotel bar and listen to the colourful local characters, but kept a discrete silence when visiting product salesmen (reps), boasted of their financial successes. Alternatively we visited the local cinema where for 2/6 (12½p) we could sit in the circle and watch fairly recent films such as the Pink Panther series. One evening a colleague invited me to accompany him to the cinema in the neighbouring town of Aspatria which was showing a film he had missed London. We arrived shortly after 7pm to be told that had we arrived before 7pm we could have got in for 1/- (5p). There was only ground floor seating and we sat, largely alone, at the rear. Either the local youths had yet to realise the advantage of sitting in the back row or, didn't

think the local girls were worthy! They congregated at the front near the entrance, and there was a continuous flow of patrons nipping in and out to the Fish & Chip shop next door. The cinema reeked of heavily vinegared fish and chips. It was the same colleague who was momentarily stunned when on asking the local newsagent for the "Times", was presented with the "Cumberland Times". We all had to make adjustments, Maryport was not a metropolis.

One Monday morning those having driven up from Manchester announced that the first winter snowfall had capped the Cumberland Hills. The curious southerners drove the seven miles, southeast, to Cockermouth in their lunch break to view this phenomenon. The locals assured us that it never snowed in Maryport. Of course, it did that December, much to their consternation. No doubt many thought it was the result of allowing so many strangers in their midst.

However, all ended well, the customer's business was saved, as was NCR's reputation. So, if you are asked to pack an overnight bag ...beware! There were some thirty people involved in Operation Maryport at various stages. I can only remember the names of a few ...it was forty years ago!

Sadly some are no longer with us. **Reg Andre, Stan Armstrong, Jim Bell, Maurice Chivers, Chris Christmas, Tony Fellows, John Hill, Bryan Turner, George Wallace, Alan Walton, Don Ward, Guy Wareham and Stuart Widows.**

I have never had the opportunity to revisit Maryport but their official website declares; "Maryport is an attractive coastal town on the Solway estuary, with sweeping views, shoreline walks, golf links, coastal sailing, lively pubs and memorable summer festivals. Here you can experience a maritime history of two thousand years of the sea, visit the many attractions and unique shops, and discover a Lake District experience with definite difference." It was certainly different forty years ago!

Brian Passingham

The Experiences of a New Boy

For the past three years I had been at the Brixton School of Building learning to draw and never really expected such a job as I have now.

It was during the Christmas holidays that I came across an advertisement requiring a boy with the ability to draw to work in the National Cash register Company's Advertising Department. Having made my application I received an invitation to be interviewed. I felt very queasy and hot as I pushed those great swing doors of the Head Office and a few moments later I was answering questions on a form that seemed to ask everything except my grandmother's age! At last, with the aid of a very crossed nib, I filled in the last question.

After handing it back to Mr **Payton** I had time to look round that awe-inspiring showroom. Everyone seemed to be rushing around with a very busy expression on their faces. Above, on the balcony, it seemed one big hive of industry. I was interrupted in my gazing to be told that Mr **Eckel** was ready to see me. To say that I was frightened is an understatement.

After what seemed an age, my interview was over and, feeling very relieved, I was led to the biggest thrill of that day; the most impressive lift I had ever seen. I arrived at the fifth floor, leaving my stomach on the third, and was surprised by the very ordinary office atmosphere after that elite showroom.

In the Advertising Department I met Mr **Butlin** who showed me round the office. I noticed particularly that none of the advertisements "blared out" about the NCR but just quietly told of the machines capabilities and power. I was surprised when shown the Photographic Studio that a firm, which I thought in my ignorance only dealt in cash registers, should maintain a studio of its own.

After this I was free to go home, and at that moment needed those four friendly walls. It was the following Saturday that I received a letter saying that I would start work on January 12th 1948 with a medical examination on the previous Thursday. Though I racked my brains I could not work out why such an examination was necessary. Turning up as requested I had to wait half an hour in the showroom and at last the doctor was ready. I went in, was asked three questions then was off home again.

Monday the twelfth dawned dull and miserable, very similar to my feelings! I once again walked through those doors, with a little more boldness than last time, reporting to Mr **Payton** with the knowledge of what a displaced person feels like. The morning was passed with filling up more forms.

The biggest bugbear during the first week was finding different people when delivering messages and photographs, but everyone was most helpful and I always managed to deliver the goods. The next two weeks were one vast influx of knowledge as to how an advertisement is produced. I had never realised the effort that goes into the making of any one brochure or advertisement. I now knew the importance of that Photographic Studio. I've never seen so many photographs in my life!

As the weeks go by and I get to know more and more people, the pattern of my work becomes clearer, but there are still "ghosts" of people whom I hear of but never see, certain men called Mr **P A Brown**, Mr **B S Capps** and Mr **D A F Donald**. However, after four months I now feel that I am part and parcel of the firm, albeit still a very small cog in a very big wheel.

From Michael Croneen (aged 17) Advertising Department (Published May 1948 NCR POST)

NCR – A PERSONAL PERSPECTIVE

When Geoff asked me to pen a reminiscence of my NCR years for *Post Script*, I could not imagine that anyone would want to read it. Those who knew me and goodness knows where they are now, are aware of the events and those who don't, well so what?

However, perhaps reminiscences are a series of personal perspectives for one's own satisfaction, if so, I write this secure in the knowledge that no one will read my meanderings and, at the same time, satisfy Geoff's need for copy! Perhaps this approach is itself typical of NCR! In any event, this is a personal diary and, no doubt, not all the revelations reflect the experience of others.

The first thing I should make clear is that because NCR changed over the years, I feel that I worked for perhaps three different NCRs at different times. Not a bad thing in itself, however, in order to do so and maintain reasonable sanity, or even continuity of employment, it was necessary to be three different people at different times! Not every personal change of spots was comfortable and not every new NCR was an improvement.

I joined NCR with a back-ground, of 2-years National Service with the RAF, 5-years as a Business Trainee with de Havilland, concurrently studying Cost Accounting, later working as Cost Accountant at their missile factory near Bolton and later still working in a similar capacity with a toffee manufacturer.

It was from my boss at the time, the Company Secretary of de Havilland Aircraft, Hatfield, that I learnt the first of four morals that I carried through my NCR life. The first was : "In business, the decision is easy, it's getting the facts that's difficult!" I think it was this remark that prompted my interest in Cost Accounting and, ultimately, to move into data processing.

1965 saw me join NCR Liverpool, attracted by the chance to work as Systems Analyst in a variety of different industries. The District Manager was **George Daniels**, one of the most professional of managers, with the dynamic **Ted Barclay**, Territory Manager and an immediate boss **Pat Anderson**, Head of Support. Pat's husband was the District FED Manager, **Sid**. Sid and I followed each other over the years, both finishing at Sheldon and both retiring to Stratford-upon-Avon!

Other Liverpool colleagues included **Don Shaw**, **Tom Brown**, **Alan Fenn**, **Jimmy Jones**, **Frank Gillan**, **Rita Holmes**, **Peter Cooper**, **John Balmer**, **Peter Bell**, **Frank Watson** and many others.

I remember installations at Royal Liver Insurance, Liverpool Grain Storage, Dunlop Flooring, North Wales Cold Store, Co-op Bank, Littlewoods, etc

Life in NCR Liverpool in the mid-60's was the most fulfilling of places, so very professional and represented the first of my three very satisfying periods with the Company. The teams worked in different businesses designing better systems for them.....or so we thought. The technical and personal skills training offered by NCR Greenford was an industry superlative, never bettered. Inspirational professionals like **Basil Garsed** and **Dennis Holden** come to mind with superb instructors like **Roy Gardener** and many others.

My role resulted in two new experiences, customer contact and systems surveys. These identified for me my second and third business morals! The second moral : "When you meet the Receptionist, you meet the MD!" Remember the sloppy Receptionist filing her nails, cigarette on the side, Daily Mirror on the desk and chatting to her friend! Why is she like that, when at the next customer's office, the Receptionist is smartly dressed, attentive and courteous? The answer, because the Receptionist reflects the MD's attitude!

Similarly, system survey work revealed the third moral: "Inefficiency can only start at the top!" If inefficiency does develop, an efficient management would stamp it out!

NCR Manchester from 1968, as Head of Support, with the NCR 500, District Manager **Ernie Giles** and in another office somewhere in the building, the dominant **Bob Thompson**!

I remember, Associated British Hats (I've still a few 40-column punched cards, from the replaced Powers Samas installation, in my garage somewhere!)

I remember, too, working with the very bright NCR programmer **Stuart Widdows** on a stock control system at a builder's hardware distributor in Trafford Park. Looking out of the computer room window Stuart saw a man in overalls furiously painting a large number of brass plumbing valves silver. "Why are those being painted silver?" he asked and the answer "because we only sell silver ones but as soon as we withdraw them from stock to paint them silver, the computer system orders more brass ones and the more we take out of stock, the more the computer orders!"

I remember **Bert Hayes**, **John Jenkin**, **Alan Schofield**, **Tom King**, **Noel Broadgate** and **Joan Thommason**

I suspect I was the only one in the area trained in NCR 406 sorter/comparator programming, because I recall visits to Star Paper, Blackburn to program their machine. I learnt only recently that the **Ian Ormerod** was the Manchester engineer for the site and it was there that he met his future wife!

Shortly after, the NCR Century under **Chris Christmas** offered improved opportunities for better systems and for me, the opportunity to work in an even wider range of

different businesses. Delyn Council. Kex Industrial Services, Blakes Motors Chesterfield, Galt Toys, Co-op Bank, etc. A team with **Jim Bell**, **Bill Thomasson**, **Stan MacIntosh** and others.

For about thirteen of my NCR Manchester years, I also worked about 9-hours a week as part-time lecturer at the then Salford College, an activity encouraged by the NCR Director. In fact, NCR donated a computer to Salford to assist with the training. Although I did teach IT subjects, as a change to my working day I preferred to teach accounting subjects in their various forms for the examinations of different Professional Institutes. A very satisfying experience, teaching well-motivated graduates for professional qualifications.

VAT was introduced in these years and I put together a presentation on the VAT Green Paper and presentations were held all over the country and in Belfast, to customers and to NCR staff. With an NCR Sales colleague we even made revenue-generating presentations through the Salford College!

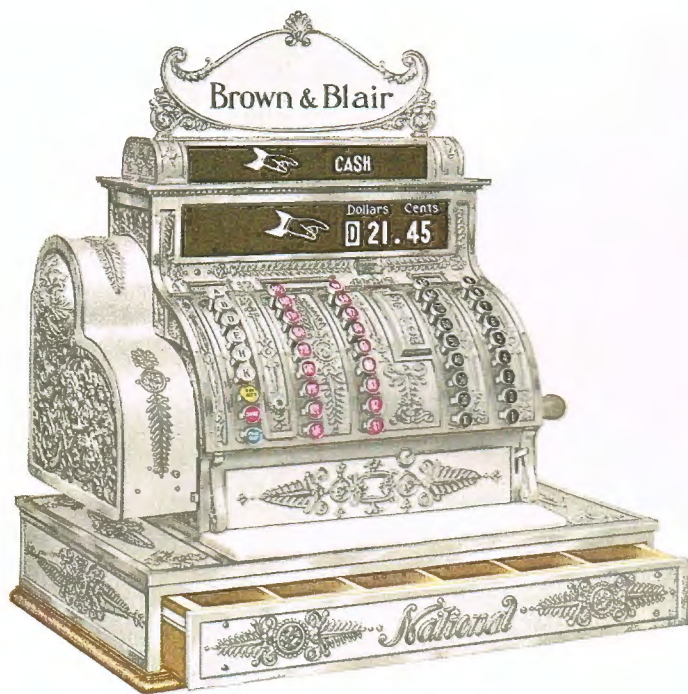
It was in Manchester that my second very satisfying and challenging period with NCR developed. **Chris Christmas** set up a small Retail Support Group for the North and I participated in this more specialised area. My introduction to retail systems was by spending several days with the very generous and knowledgeable Financial Director of Browns of Chester and their NCR 280 system. "Department stores are in the entertainment industry," he used to say, ".....people come to look and enjoy the experience!"

Working on many NCR 255/726 and NCR 280/725 installations provided the opportunity to work alongside such "stars" as **Pam Massey**, **Isabel MacKintosh** (nee **Watson**), **Betty Moreland**, **Cecily Medland** and **Pat Stanbury**. Head Office support coming from experts such as **Tom Gruenbaum**, **Teresa MacLagan**, **Margaret Proud**, **Peter Knight** and **Alan Perryman**. For a short time, I worked at the NCR factory in Augsburg on NCR 255/726 software.

NCR 255/726 installations included the "famous" ASDA Dundee installation with the revolutionary 2-stage check-outs.....a series of separate evaluation points and separate cash points, resulting in a disastrous opening day in front of the ASDA MD and our Director, **Jack Poole**! Exciting though!

Others installations included two for Aberdeen Co-op (a department store and a supermarket), FineFare, SELDA, Leicester Co-op (three stores, including Thurmaston and Syston). Some installations were NCR 2140s, I think, Wigfalls, Wilkinson's and John Collier. Some were NCR 8250s Bateman's Brewery, Sharps and many involved **Paul Bishop** and **Peter Compton** of Leeds Office.

USA 1909



No. 451. Price \$225

The NCR 280/725 installations were, mainly Co-op Retail Services, eg Huddersfield Co-op and Swansea Co-op. I remember in the Co-op Department Store Swansea, the computer room was next door to the Security Office which contained a young lady who all day watched a bank of video displays and, if necessary, taped the villainy in the various departments! When things were quiet in the Computer Room, I'd pop into the Security Office and reckoned to be able to go there any time, any day and watch thefts taking place in real-time....really awful, I thought! Three or four years ago I telephoned the Help Line of SWALEC in Swansea about my electricity bill and found myself talking to the same lady who had worked in that Security Office perhaps 30-years earlier! The Co-op Swansea had closed down....perhaps everything had been stolen!

It was during this work, involving so many varied NCR resources that my fourth business moral became clear : "The assumption is the enemy of the manager." A manager should never assume anything, ever!

I think that it was in Manchester that I seemed to collect so many Logic Flow Chart templates. We seemed to get a new one for every new product launch! Of course, now they're in my garage somewhere!

The closure of NCR Manchester resulted in a relocation to Sheldon with a short time under the impressive **John Back**, a strong, assertive, positive manager, particularly suitable for that enormously difficult-to-control activity, software development and alongside such greats as **Karen Malysz**.

Two-years as CASE Manager followed, wrestling with such problems as Libyan students, staying at the Holiday Inn breaking into their room's drinks cabinets and cooking over gas stoves on their bedroom floor, to presenting the NCR Financial Management Course and presenting the Professional Services' roll-out of the "Winning Through Customer Service" programme! "Remember me? I'm the customer!"

It was about now that NCR Dayton selected my daughter for an award resulting from her academic achievements, prior to university. The presentation by **Rex Fleet**, at Head Office, impressed Lesley enormously. I think the award itself and the trouble taken over the presentation was the sort of thoughtful loyalty-generating gesture carried out when NCR was at it's best.

When the Project Management Group was formed, I think a brain-child of **Malcolm Roberts**, I was fortunate enough to be able join it under the redoubtable, energetic, shrewd and much-respected **Teresa Maclagan**. The Group offered me the third very satisfying and interesting NCR experience. Several Group Managers, in turn, contributed to enable this Group to offer, in my opinion, a very competent and professional service. At last a single manager, a Project Manager, over all the different activities connected with a mixed-resource activity, like a complex installation..... superb concept!

I remember **John Mendil**, **Peter Heywood**, **Doug Rawkins** and others.

Under the very competent and professional **Louis Prastitis**, I was involved with many projects, including local authorities North Kesteven, Lichfield, Sedgefield, Blaby and Cleethorpes.

The local Council Tax roll-out was not helped by the sub-contracted developers of the NCR package, AT&T ISEL (remember AT&T?) abdicating the development at a rather late date. NCR had to switch their customers to the Oracle data-base product, the package offered by our competitors ICL and with whom we had been in competition! All par-for-the-course for the Project Management Group!

However, the two most memorable projects included the training project for Debenhams's point-of-sale roll-out and the project for the FCO, Foreign and Commonwealth Office, for the installation of computers in their offices overseas.

The Debenhams training project necessitated me working from Head Office for six-months. I remember organising a professional, Wardour Street production of a video to introduce Debenhams's staff to the project and their role in it. I managed to persuade the Debenhams's MD to open the video in order to emphasise the project's importance and at the end of the project, I was given by Debenhams's Board a specially commissioned print, one of one hundred, to commemorate the project. I think I've still got it, you're right, in the garage somewhere!

The FCO project meant working with one of the smallest, but the most respected Government Department. Very professional, well qualified and experienced people. The installation sites being Embassies, Consulates and Trade Missions.....most High Commission installations being awarded to ICL.

The challenge of obtaining the co-operation of each overseas NCR organisation to assist with local issues, like structured cabling and the provision of annual FED maintenance services, not always easy when to them the project was relatively small. Telephone calls in the middle of the night were not infrequent and not easy to manage. I remember one that woke me up, Taiwan Embassy's installation had ceased to issue Visas and the queue to get into UK was getting restless! A number of very loyal colleagues shared their home-phone numbers with me and across-the-world conference calls soon removed us from our slumbers, in our efforts to understand the cryptic English! Remarkable work was carried out by various expert NCR colleagues, **Stuart Gilkes**, **Simon Smith**, with **Trevor Smith** on structured cabling design, **Doug Rawkins** and good gracious, not forgetting **Gerry Howden**!

The Project earned me an award from NCR.....a Nikon pro camera, well above my social station and technical competence! It served me well until years later, during some three or four years photo work for Stratford District Council (yep, paying work!), my tripod fell over and no more Nikon!

Then retirement!

I enjoy **Eric Grace's** well organised Fellowship lunches and the resulting re-unions. I am very mindful of the great debt we owe the Pension Fund Trustees, particularly **Stephen Swinbank**, for their work maintaining the security and value of all our pensions. My local Fellowship lunch does not seem to attract many from outside the old FED and it's good to remember some of the people with whom I worked. All ghosts now, to be set aside once again to their own reminiscences.

If you had to work, NCR was a good place to be. However, nothing beats retirement. My world is walking the Cotswolds, enjoying magnificent Royal Shakespeare Company productions, occasional concerts at the wonderful Concert Hall, Birmingham, reading and photography.....a really great hobby! I don't even mind being the Administrator/Treasurer of the Royal Photographic Society's Midlands Digital Imaging Group, a group that attracts nearly 100-members to their regular meetings....although if anyone is looking for an interesting and fulfilling job....!

Whilst it would be nice to enjoy the index-linked pension of a Civil Servant, life is good....post-NCR!

.....I told you that no one would read it, Geoff!

ncr@nsashaw.co.uk

COLOSSUS

John Hughes

During World War II, Hitler's correspondence to senior staff and orders to his generals, were judged to be of the utmost secrecy to Germany. To protect this confidentiality, a new coding machine, the Lorentz, was developed. It was based on Enigma but had twelve coding disks instead of the three of the standard Enigma.

This development put it beyond the power of the Bletchley Park bombes to decode. So initially, decoding had to be done manually and this took so much time that when the plaintext was found, the detail of the message was out of date.

Much time was spent developing mechanical systems for decoding Lorentz messages and a Bletchley Park mathematician called Max Newman produced a scheme for the task based on Alan Turing's ideas. Unfortunately, when reviewed by the Bletchley Park senior officials, they decided that it was too complex and turned it down.



One member of the reviewing group was Dr Tommy Flowers, a senior engineer at the Post Office's research establishment at Dollis Hill. Flowers was inspired by Newman's proposal and on returning to his own laboratory began to develop an electronic system along the lines of Newman's scheme. Using

existing Post Office equipment and electronic parts, he spent some ten months designing and building an electronic computer which came to be called Colossus.

Colossus was completed and delivered to Bletchley in December, 1943 and went into operation a few months later. It had 1,500 valves and was extremely fast. In normal operation, it was reliable but valve failure often occurred at power up, so it was never switched off.

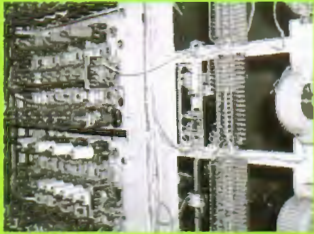
One of the major advantages of Colossus was that it could be programmed and that made it the first of its kind and led the advance of computing systems.

After the first Colossus was put to work, Flowers and his team designed Colossus 2 a 2,400 valve machine. It was faster and easier to operate than Colossus 1. Before the end of the war, ten Colossus 2 computers were in operation and they contributed greatly to the early end of hostilities. After the war, all of Bletchley and its systems were covered by a blanket of official secrecy. The Colossus computers were destroyed and Flowers was ordered to destroy his plans to prevent them falling into unauthorised hands. This secrecy was not lifted until 1970. Because of the secrecy, Colossus never gained the rightful reputation of being the world's first programmable computer and that accolade went to others.

TOP SECRET ULTRA

Bletchley Park, once Britain's best kept secret, is now a heritage site and museum. Visit the exhibitions to understand how the Park's breathtaking WW2 codebreaking successes are believed to have shortened the War by around two years, saving countless lives.

OPENING SUMMER 08 - Computers from Colossus to modern times.



Colossus, the world's first semi-programmable electronic computer, was developed for Bletchley Park. It used over 2,500 valves. The recently completed Colossus rebuild is now fully operational.

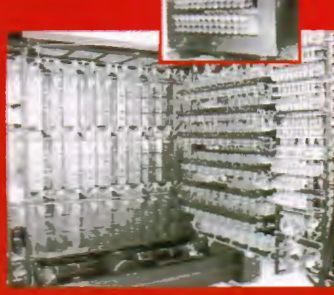


German Signals Unit - Fully equipped bunker.



Y Station Outpost.

Bombe Rebuild and replicas in Block B.



Enigma cipher machine.



Alan Turing statue.

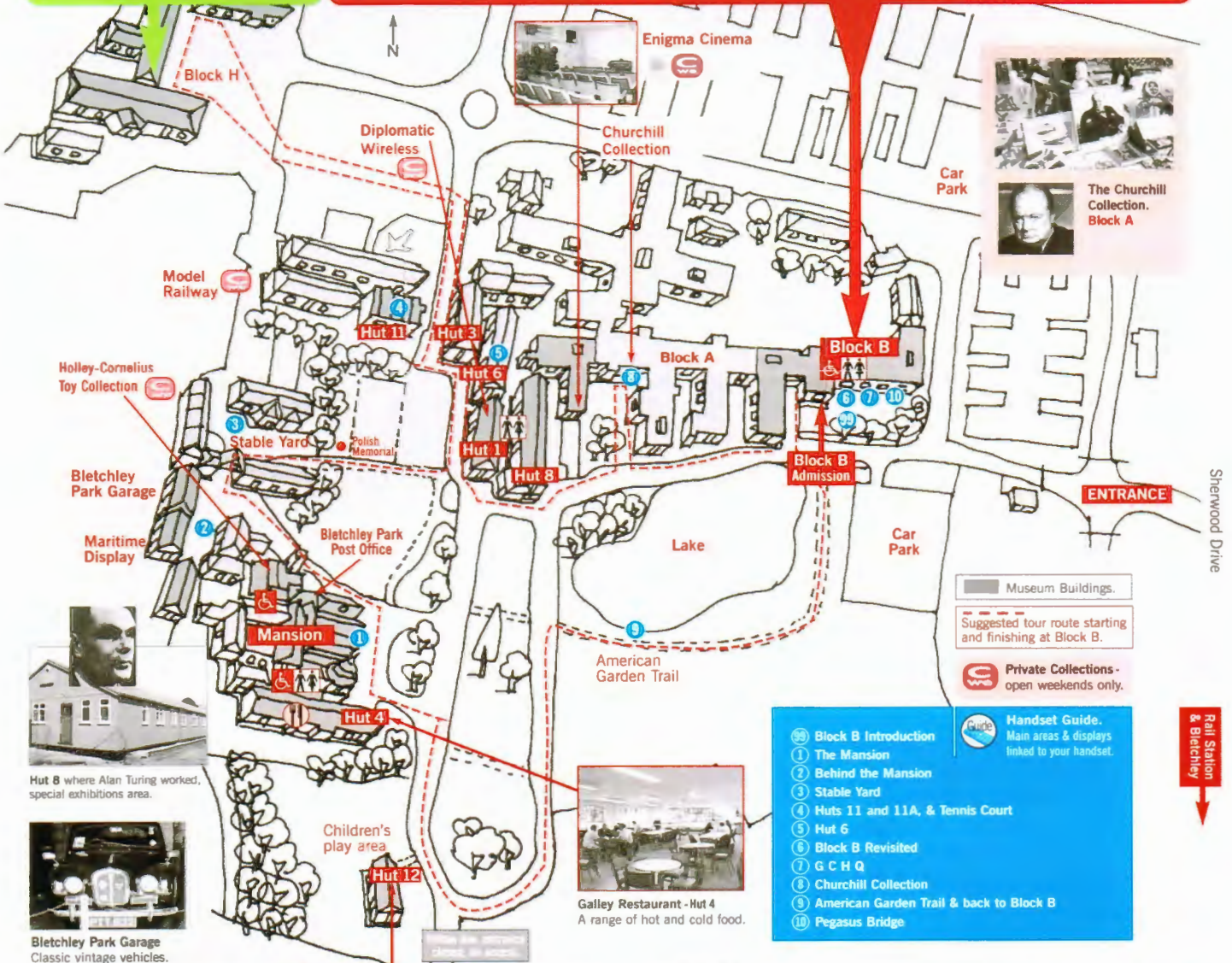


Wartime toys & Home Front display.



School visits at Bletchley Park.

Block B is the main Exhibition Centre displaying the full Bletchley Park story, its vital role during WW2 and its lasting legacy.



Hut 8 where Alan Turing worked, special exhibitions area.



Bletchley Park Garage Classic vintage vehicles.



Maritime Display. Extensive model collection.



Bletchley Park Spies & Double Agents an exhibition including the war time exploits of Ian Fleming.



Galley Restaurant - Hut 4 A range of hot and cold food.

Block B Introduction

- 1 The Mansion
- 2 Behind the Mansion
- 3 Stable Yard
- 4 Huts 11 and 11A, & Tennis Court
- 5 Hut 6
- 6 Block B Revisited
- 7 G.C.H.Q.
- 8 Churchill Collection
- 9 American Garden Trail & back to Block B
- 10 Pegasus Bridge

Handset Guide. Main areas & displays linked to your handset.



The Mansion with a Spitfire and Lancaster flypast. Each year there are regular flypasts by 'The Battle of Britain Memorial Flight'.

Discover the hidden secrets of Bletchley Park Today!



John Hughes (whose work appears elsewhere in this issue) receiving his bachelor of applied arts (creative writing) degree in Wellington N.Z. It took nearly three years and included the writing of a book on aircraft which is currently being published.

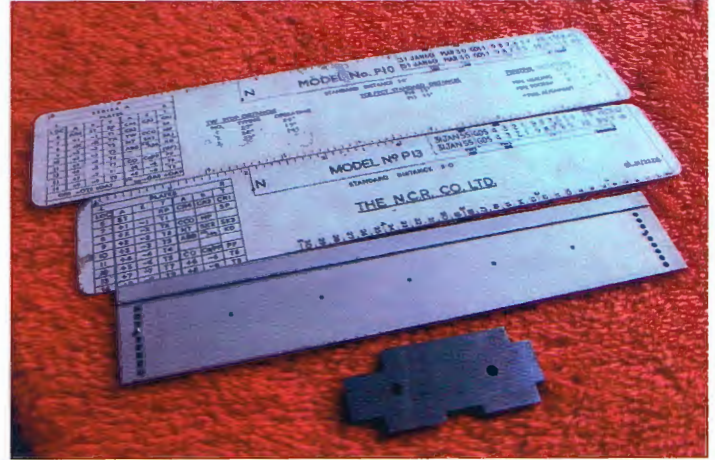
Fault Finding Then and Now

Jim Kembery

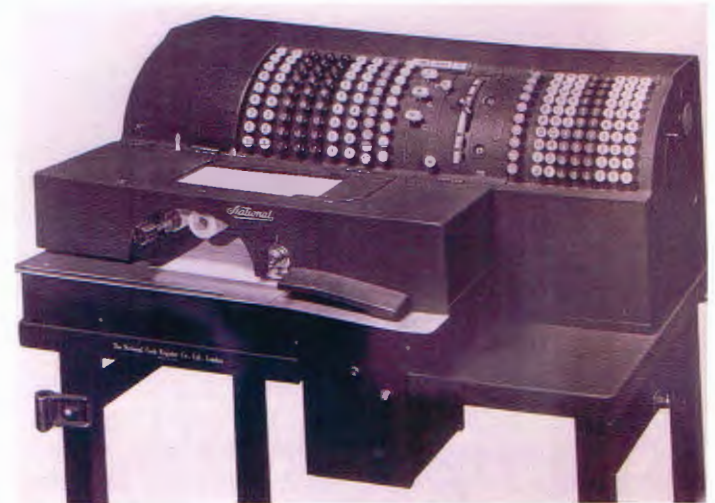
In today's businesses in both commerce and industry all have to have an IT operation which, ideally, is required to be up and running at all times. But that, technically, is not always possible. The setup these days is not just one supplier – the hardware is probably from one supplier where the communications system comes from another when the whole system is driven by software from a third. When things go wrong each supplier tends to blame the others but it usually comes down to software. This was borne out when we installed a system known as CHAPS (Cash handling automated process) for Lloyds Bank. What went in at our end did not come out at Lloyds Head Office! Alan Wall may remember this one; the fault lay with BT's communication link in between. Situations like this makes fault finding much more complex than it was in our day when only NCR and the users staff would sort it out. The diagnostic aids in the form of program tapes and disks together with PCB's assist the engineer to check that the hardware is not at fault. In our days of valve and relay technology fault finding had to be by use of circuit drawings combined with Avometers and Oscilloscopes. Then perhaps the use of a soldering iron!

From Jim Kembery

Stan Harrison's programme rulers shown in the winter edition of *Post Script* reminded me of my mementos. The picture below shows not only the Class 31 rulers but also a paper tape gauge for Class 461 paper tape punch. How many of you out there keep mementos of your working days?



And how many of you remember this machine, the R2000 (214) billing machine.



We attended a school back in 1951 and were photographed as a group:



From l to r are: Stan Flack – Reading; Fred Lovell – Swansea; Jack Wright – Instructor; Cyril Ainsworth – Manchester; Stuart Pickard – Edinburgh; myself; Syd Anderson – Liverpool

Pension Trustee Update – Spring 2009

In January 2009 the Corporation announced a worldwide cost reduction review of all its Pension Plans. One immediate effect of this has been the announcement in the UK of its intention to close the current UK Defined Benefit (DB) Final Salary plan to future accrual for the remaining 500 employees still participating in the scheme from the 1st July.09. They will then be transferred into the UK Defined Contribution (DC) plan for the rest of their employment with the Company. Note: This decision does not affect current or deferred Pensioners.

As you are aware the Corporation has yet to agree to release the outstanding discretionary pension increases explained in the Winter 2008 edition of *Post Script*.

In summary these increase requests covered the 2 year period since the award of the last increase on 1st April 2006 and a further increase submission will shortly be made to bring the Cost of Living Allowance (COLA) increases up to-date to April.09.

The Trustees have had repeated and extensive conversations with the Corporation but the Corporation has stated that in the current economic environment it is not prepared to consider adding further to its Pension liabilities. Further, it has stated that it has a worldwide pay freeze in place and this includes 'discretionary' pension increase elements. However, the Corporation is honouring and paying 'Statutory' pension increases, where mandated by law.

In the UK this means that some of you will have received a small increase in April each year covering the statutory increase element of your post 1997 pension element. But the vast majority of our pensioners are dependent upon the 'discretionary' increase element for all or most of their pension increase.

The Corporation has not ruled out a review later in 2009, but has forewarned the Trustees that it needs to see a sustained period of economic recovery before adding any discretionary liabilities to its balance sheet. It also expects any increases to be 'self-funding' i.e., without a requirement for the Corporation to have to inject any further funds into the plan. The Trustees therefore have to work with what we have.

In April 2009 a Statutory Valuation of our Scheme is due – the result of this will be known in September when the Actuary will certify the strength of the fund to the Trustees and Corporation.

In the meantime the Trustee's priority is to continue to work closely with our professional Investment Consultants to preserve, guard and where possible to grow the investment returns through careful investment decisions.

At the end of 2008 the Scheme actuary estimated the strength of the fund at £484m
(In April 2006 the Statutory Valuation certified the assets of the fund to be £491m).

Given the 35% fall in markets last year alone the fund has 'survived' well, this was due to a major change in investment strategy made by the Trustees early in 2008.

NCR Retirement Fellowship May 2008 – December 2008

Membership summary:

UK members	540
08 New members	21
Total membership 08	561
Deceased members	11
Duplicates and non renewals	37
Starting membership 09	513

Membership by region

Region 1	22
2E	45
2W	43
3	41
4	193
5	38
6	25
7	29
8A	20
9	29
10	12
11 (overseas)	16
Total	513

Financial Summary

Income

Total b/f 07-08	616.03
Membership fees	4920.00
New members	160.00
Donation	665.00
Early payments 06-07	40.00
Total	6401.03

Outgoings

Expenses	1807.30
Postscript/diaries	3900.45
Total	5707.75

Balance	693.28
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NB. Subject to audit planned June 09
Expenses covers all administrative costs (eg. postage, copying)

NCR RETIREMENT FELLOWSHIP

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT FOR THE YEAR 2008

2008 was a 'short' year for the Fellowship due to the implementation of the revised Fellowship year. However we still received 21 new members, held the usual regional lunches and issued two excellent versions of *Post Script* - for which we thank all those who submitted interesting articles and of course **Ian Ormerod**, our historian and **Geoff Jackson**, our editor, for their continued time and effort.

As for the change of year itself, it would appear that this has helped to clarify renewals for our members and by the beginning of March some 410 had been received. However, in order to reduce costs we have, this year included a renewal reminder with this edition of *Post Script* for all members who have not yet renewed. Please could I encourage all those receiving this reminder and form to renew your membership as you, and your continued support, are very important to us.

You will remember that **Roger Whelan** took on the responsibility for Region 4 early last year and therefore had the responsibility of organising his first London lunch for October last. This is quite a task due to the size of the region and also as there are quite a few regulars who like to attend from other regions. Whilst Roger endeavoured to include all the relevant people, we apologise if any regulars were missed. Fortunately Roger now has a definitive list for this year. I would like to express my thanks to Roger for the success of the event, and to say how much we all enjoyed welcoming **Rex Fleet** for the occasion.

As is customary I will now report on the annual meeting of the Fellowship Committee held on April 22nd 2009 in the Century Suite at Head Office. All the Committee members were in attendance, with the exception of **Des Woodall** and **Richard Craigie**, who both sent their apologies. We were joined by **Stephen Swinbank**, Chairman of the Trustees, **Dennis Pearce**, Trustee, and **Keith Pyle**, Secretary NCR Pension Plan, who were invited to address the meeting. The Chairman's report for the year 2008 was presented by **Lin Sandell** and was accepted by the Committee. The Treasurers report was also presented and accepted and it was agreed that both should be published in the next edition of *Post Script*.

There was an in depth discussion regarding the on-going costs of running the Fellowship, which we endeavour to keep to a minimum. I have included a description of all the Fellowship activities as a separate article in this magazine, and you will be able to see from this the types of expenditure which are incurred. We refined some of the procedures which should help to reduce costs and based upon these discussions it was agreed that the membership fee for 2010 would remain at £10. We hope that this will ensure that most of our members can continue to be part of the Fellowship. However, if you feel that you would like to make a voluntary contribution to further support the organisation this would be most welcome.

From a financial viewpoint 2008 was a very volatile period. As the year progressed concern grew for the 'health' of the Plan fund and by the time of the October round of lunches the

focus was "Is the plan stable and will my pension continue to be paid?" Due to the sterling work done by the Plan Trustees, together with their investment Managers, the fund weathered the initial storm fairly well and in October they were able to state that the value of the plan would support c37.5 years of pension payments even if no further interest were accrued. The Fellowship Committee did as much as possible to publicise this fact in order to reassure everyone. Also at this time the Trustees were still hopeful that the two pension increase submissions which had been submitted to the Corporation would receive a favourable response and that some increases would be granted. Unfortunately as the global financial situation worsened by the end of the year it was becoming clear that NCR would not agree to increasing liabilities of any kind and it has now been stated that no increases will be granted in the short term.

The value of the fund also reduced further by the end of the year, however I understand that by more prudent asset management by the Trustees and their advisors the fund value has increased in the early part of 2009. For further details and the latest updates re both the funding position and the increase situation please refer to the Trustees report included within this issue of *Post Script*.

On behalf of the Fellowship I extend our sincere thanks to The Trustees for all their efforts on our behalf.

Prompted by several sets of circumstances I have again discussed with **Stephen Swinbank**, Chairman of the Trustees, how the Fellowship can help with the distribution of information when changes occur which may affect our pensioners, so that concern can be minimised. Whilst the Fellowship can only reach some 25% of the retired population and is not funded to be a formal NCR communication channel, I have agreed that any relevant information should be passed to me and that I will send it to the Committee members who will then be in a position to answer any questions which may arise around the country. Also you will have recently noticed the use of the comments box on the payslip to send out information which is an excellent way of getting out a short message to all our pensioners.

Any questions and answers which have arisen during discussions will also be included in *Post Script*.

However I should like to point out that we cannot address questions which relate to any changes being made by NCR which affect future pension contributions or benefit accruals for active members. The Fellowship is not privy to such discussions and cannot therefore comment, and these queries must be directed to the Trustees or NCR directly.

Finally I thank all our members for their continued support, without you there would be no Fellowship and that would be a great loss. Also my thanks to all the members of the Committee for their support and continuing time and effort during 2008, it is a pleasure working with you all.

Lin Sandell
Chairman

NCR NOW!



The end of an era! Portrayed are Dundee Factory personnel with the last ever ATM produced there on 20th May 2009 - the conclusion of some 63 years of manufacturing at NCR Dundee

HOW DO WE SPEND YOUR MONEY

Often we are asked what the Fellowship membership fees are spent on other than **Post Script**. Whilst the production and distribution of the magazine is our largest cost, accounting for some 70% of income, there are many other activities all of which incur administrative costs i.e. paper, envelopes, printing, copying, postage and telephone calls. I have listed below a summary of these activities.

a. Our regional Organisers, who provide a focal point in each region, arrange one or two lunches per year per region, selecting suitable venues which offer good food at a reasonable price. Invitations are sent out, monies collected and the requirements discussed with the restaurants both before and on the day.

b. Our Secretary contacts NCR Pensions Department every two/three months to request details of all new retirees and pensioners who have sadly died. Invitations to join the Fellowship are then sent out to the new retirees and the spouses of the deceased members. Details of the deaths are also sent to the Treasurer and the Organisers so that the Fellowship records can be updated. New members are sent a copy of the latest magazine.

c. Our Treasurer maintains the database of members. Records are updated when renewal forms are received, new members join, members die and annually those who do not renew are deleted. All renewal cheques are batched and paid into the fellowship bank account. A financial

spreadsheet is maintained monthly showing income and expenditure and this is balanced annually with the final bank statement. Expense claims are submitted to the Treasurer accompanied by the relevant receipts and cheques, which require two authorised signatures, are issued in payment. The final accounts are audited annually.

d. Our Chairman acts as the co-ordinator of the Committee, liaises with the Trustees and NCR, sending out relevant information to the other Committee members and/or Fellowship members as is relevant.

All Committee members attend the annual meeting held in Head Office and whilst travelling costs are incurred these are kept to an absolute minimum by prudent booking of train tickets etc.

All of the above activities are reviewed annually and revisions made where possible to reduce or eliminate costs. Finally 95% of the communications between Committee members is conducted by email utilising their personal facilities which are given freely, as is all of their time.

I trust that this helps to demonstrate how we spend your money and our commitment to keeping costs as low as possible and thus maintaining the lowest level of membership fee.

Lin Sandell

The NCR Retirement Fellowship

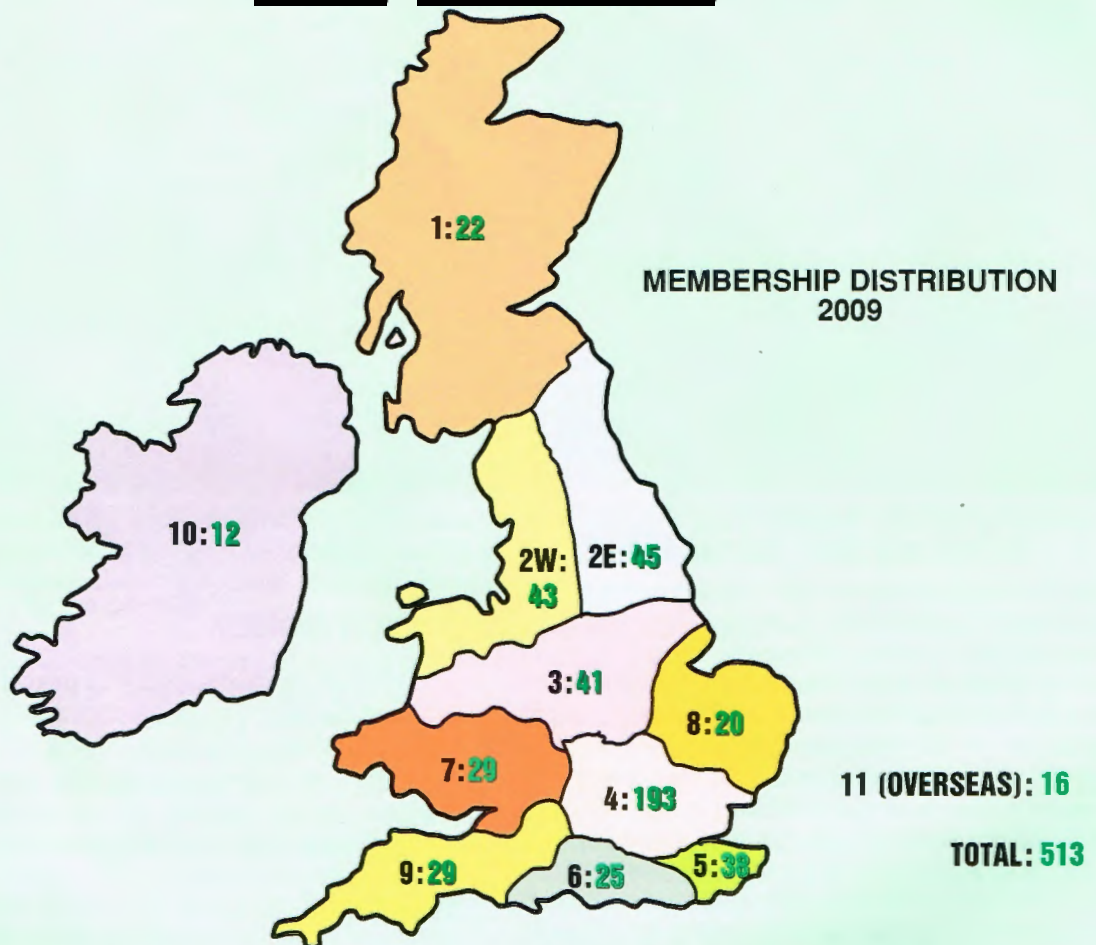
PRESIDENT: Harry Redington

ORGANISING COMMITTEE

CHAIRMAN & TREASURER: Lin Sandell

SECRETARY: John Atkins

EDITOR "POSTSCRIPT": Geoff Jackson



REGIONAL ORGANISERS

Region 1: Wallace Hay

Region 6: Alan Hutchins

Region 2E: Pat Keogh

Region 7: John Jones

Region 2W: Ian Ormerod

Region 8: Richard Craigie

Region 3: Eric Grace

Region 9: Jessie Wallace

Region 4: Roger Whelan

Region 10: Ronnie McGowan

Region 5 (Kent): Peter Bodley

Regional Adviser: Des Woodall