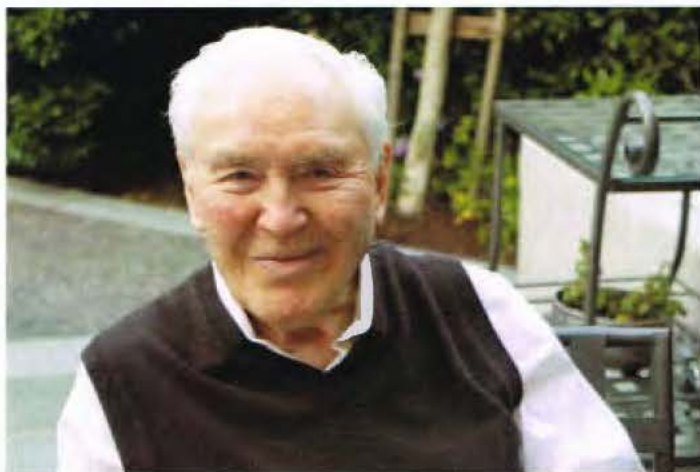


## BILL ANDERSON TRIBUTE EDITION

*William S. Anderson, who is universally recognised as the man who turned NCR round in the 1970s, died at the age of 102, in June 2021. This edition of NCR Postscript is a tribute to the work he did, his character, and his achievements.*



William S. Anderson was starving in a prisoner-of-war camp during World War II when he received career advice that sounded promising. At the time, subsisting on small amounts of rice, occasional scraps of meat and a spinach-like vegetable the prisoners dubbed “green horror,” he wasn’t certain he would survive long enough to have a career.

When the Japanese military released him in 1945 after nearly four years, however, he took the suggestion of a fellow prisoner and applied for work at National Cash Register Co., later known as NCR Corp.

Mr. Anderson, who died June 29 at the age of 102, impressed his bosses by managing rapid growth in Asia, making NCR Japan one of the company’s most

profitable off shoots. In 1972, NCR’s board, alarmed by deteriorating results elsewhere, reached across the Pacific to name him president of the parent company, based in Dayton, Ohio. He soon rose to chief executive and chairman, even though he had made his career entirely outside the U.S.

The same self-belief that kept Mr. Anderson alive as a POW gave him confidence he could save NCR. “The most important message I try to get across to our managers all over the world is that we are in trouble but we will overcome it,” he told Business Week, which reported that he had the “stance and mien of a middleweight boxer.”

Founded in 1884, NCR was comfortably entrenched as a dominant supplier of mechanical cash registers and machines used in accounting and banking. It underestimated the speed at which microelectronics and computers would wipe out its legacy product line. By the early 1970s, NCR was losing sales to more nimble rivals.

A factory complex covering 55 acres in Dayton made hundreds of exceedingly complicated machines rapidly becoming obsolete. Mr. Anderson found that NCR was using about 130,000 different parts, including more than 9,000 types and

sizes of screws. For 1972, his first year as president, NCR took a \$70 million charge, largely to write down the value of parts and inventory and replace outdated production equipment. Mr. Anderson slashed the payroll and invested in new products, including automated teller machines and computers. Profitability recovered, and NCR reported record revenue of \$4.07 billion for 1984, the year he retired as chairman.

William Summers Anderson was born March 29, 1919, in Hankow, China, now part of Wuhan. His father, an engineer born in Edinburgh, designed and operated an ice-making plant in Hankow. His mother, the daughter of a tea merchant, was Eurasian. When William was 6, his father died. As a teenager, he was sent to a British-style school in Shanghai.

As Japanese troops advanced deeper into China in 1937, he and his mother fled by train to Hong Kong. He found work as an internal auditor at a hotel company and enrolled in night school to study accounting. That led to a job at an accounting firm.

When Japanese troops invaded Hong Kong in December 1941, he was a member of the Hong Kong volunteer defense corps, backing up regular British troops. After the Japanese snuffed out the British resistance, Mr. Anderson and others were imprisoned. Among their chores was improving an airport runway with picks and shovels.

Undernourished, Mr. Anderson suffered from swollen feet, fevers and chronic skin sores. He passed part of his time talking about business with a gregarious British prisoner, George Haynes, who had been NCR’s Hong Kong representative and urged Mr. Anderson to consider a career with the company.

In late 1943, Mr. Anderson and other prisoners were shipped to a camp in Japan. The passage was difficult. “With many cases of dysentery, almost universal seasickness and no toilet facilities, it was a nightmarish scene,” Mr. Anderson wrote in a 1991 memoir, “Corporate Crisis.” In Japan, the prisoners worked in a factory making steam locomotives and were often beaten by their minders. One assault left Mr. Anderson’s left eye swollen shut for three days.

At one point, the Red Cross delivered packages including tubes of shaving cream. Some of the famished prisoners promptly ate it.

In September 1945, after Japan surrendered, Mr. Anderson was treated on a U.S. hospital ship, where he found the showers “indescribably refreshing.” He eventually made his way to London, joined NCR and received sales training before being sent to head the company’s business in Hong Kong.

During a visit to Japan, he met an American, Janice Robb, working as a civilian at the Pacific Stars and Stripes newspaper. After their first date, she recalled later, “he grabbed my datebook and crossed off the names of everyone in there for the next two weeks.” They were married within six weeks.

*Continues on page 3*



## CONTENTS

Welcome to this special Bill Anderson tribute edition in honour of our British ex-President, who passed away at the age of 102 in June. The tribute covers pages 1, and 3-6, and is largely drawn from US press coverage, and input from Ian Ormerod.

2 Obituaries, Chairman's winter message.

6-8 Tom Boles supernovae. Whatever you do, do not miss this – you will find Tom's story fascinating!

8 Marylebone Road.

9-10 The Story of the C31 – Ian Ormerod.

11-15 More of your careers in NCR – Roy Constantine, Jill McPhail, David Radcliffe, plus Mike Jonkheere's first day.

16-23 Regional Reports are back in full.

*For reasons of space, the second part of the Link 1988 article, is held over to our next edition*

23 Winter Quiz.

### WINTER MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN

As another year closes it is good that some of the regions were able to hold a regional lunch, there is something comforting to see the reports and photos again. Hopefully next year we will be able to reinstate lunches for all the regions. I was very sorry not to be able to attend the London lunch, for the first time, due to health problems but happily not Covid related.

We were saddened to hear the news about Rex Fleet's wife Pat, and I sent condolences from us all.

I wish you and your families a very Merry Christmas and a happy and healthy 2022.

Lin

### OBITUARIES

PIC have advised regarding the following deceased Pensioners in the past 6 months.

#### Fellowship Members

JSM (Scott) Caldw	07.08.21	Region 1
R Fraser	10.06.21	10
John Limn	17.09.21	8
Stuart Osme	06.10.21	
B Pleasants	16.06.21	11
Gordon Trow	12.08.21	6

#### Non Members

R M Allen	11.07.21
C B Anthony	18.05.21
Ms D M Davies	21.05.21
Ms L A Downey	24.08.21
J Fowle	14.10.21
P N Hughes	17.07.21
E McMahon	30.09.21
Ms M Mahon	04.07.21
M Martin	08.05.21
Ms B Moreland	05.06.21
H C Mason	10.09.21
J P O'Connor	24.06.21
C J Pike	02.06.21
J M Rosser	31.07.21
M J Simpson	25.08.21
A Walker	25.06.21
T W Watkins	11.08.21

### MRS PAT FLEET

Brian Briggs has advised us that Pat Fleet, wife of Rex, sadly passed away in her sleep on 5 October 2021. Brian had a brief email exchange with Neil, their son. Rex is bearing up but is obviously heartbroken.

Our condolences to Rex and the family.

### GORDON TROW

1933-2001

Gordon was born 21st July 1933 and grew up in Friern Barnet, attending local schools before going on to Tottenham School Building to learn about construction.

His first job was at Simplex Concrete Piles, South Kensington at the age of 15. In 1952, Gordon was called up to do his National Service in the Royal Army Service Corps. After basic training, he was assigned to drive an Austin K2 ambulance, affectionately known as Katy. He was based in Norfolk, and would commute back to London on his motorbike when granted leave. On being demobbed, he was unsure what he wanted to do, so signed up for a typewriter mechanics course in 1954. This eventually led him to join NCR as an accounting machine engineer in 1955. He would go on to work at Brent for 6 happy years on the benches. This is where he made long term friendships with Arthur Searle and Peter Allen. Incidentally, both retired to the New Milton area. Sadly, Arthur dies last year, but Peter Allen still lives close by.

In 1961, Gordon moved up to Head Office (Order & Technical Dept, AAM), responsible for processing orders and preparing Building Instructions for 31/32 Accounting Machines. In 1965, Janet (nee Clowes) joined NCR Marylebone Road. After a year, they started courting, and a year after that they were married. In the following year, Alison was born, followed by Simon in 1969. Gordon continued to work in various locations before taking early retirement in 1992.

On taking retirement, Gordon and Janet decided to move from Potter's Bar to New Milton, which is close to the sea. They purchased a 1930's bungalow which needed doing up, which suited Gordon down to the ground. His workshop was his happy place making toys for his children and friends of the family. Gordon had every tool you could imagine, and all extremely well organised in military style. You could ask him for something, a tin of tartan paint, a left handed screwdriver, a sky-hook, and he would be able to tell you which drawer or shelf to look. Sadly, towards the end poor health took its toll and he rightly became frustrated that he could not do the things he loved – making things out of wood and metal.

Gordon was a family man through and through. He will be sorely missed by Janet and his immediate family and friends. I will personally remember Gordon as a loyal colleague and friend, with a happy persona, and a dry sense of humour. It was a privilege to have been counted as of his friends.

**Peter Bodley**



## JOHN LIMN

I started my May Regional report with the good news of John Limn's 100th birthday celebrations but now have to report that John passed away on Friday 17th of September. He was taken into hospital for treatment of an infection and caught Covid. At his age he didn't stand much of a chance.

His son David and his daughter Janet were with him on the Friday night when he passed away peacefully, they both then had to isolate for ten days. John's funeral was on 13th October and was streamed live so that we could all take part. I am very grateful to John's son David for organising this and keeping us in touch.

**Pat Keogh**

Regions 2E & 2W



*Continued from page 1*

Though many Hong Kong merchants still used abacuses rather than cash registers, Mr. Anderson persuaded local banks to buy NCR machines. He was promoted to run NCR Japan and the rest of Asia in 1959.

Hailed as a saviour when he became president of the parent company in 1972, he warned employees that some of his decisions would be unpopular. The company's manufacturing employment fell to 18,000 in 1974 from 37,000 in 1970.

He found an NCR maxim—"We Progress Through Change"—on the wall of one of the soon-to-be-demolished brick factories. "No rational person could deny its truth," he wrote in his memoir. "But no compassionate person could help regretting the fact

that progress often exacts a high price."

He found that U.S. corporations had too few managers brave enough to openly question the boss's views. Big companies also tended to pile on costs carelessly during good times, then panic in downturns. Dependence on consultants, he added, "borders on the ludicrous."

Mr. Anderson is survived by his wife, three daughters and five grandchildren. He lived in a retirement home in Palo Alto, Calif., in recent years. A man of strong habits, he followed a daily regime of All-Bran cereal for breakfast, swimming, brisk walks and a glass of Dewar's whisky on the rocks at 7 pm.

## William Anderson's speech at the Dayton Rotary Club

*October 2, 2006*



**William and Janice Anderson**

I am happy to be back here in Dayton at my home club. Dayton was my home for 23 years, which is longer than any other place where I have lived. Thank you for making me an honorary member of your club, which enables me to have had continuous membership in Rotary for 57 years.

I think this is the third time I have addressed our club so those of -you who are old-timers in Dayton will know my background at NCR, but for the benefit of newer members, let me give you a brief outline of my early days in China, my experience as a POW of the Japanese and my NCR experience in Asia and finally here in Dayton.

I was born in Central China and went to school in Wuhan and Shanghai. Just as I was about to receive my matriculation from high school, the Sino-Japanese war broke out in Shanghai. I was on holiday and could not return, as the school was closed. After Japan took Shanghai they advanced up the Yangtze River and invaded Nanjing which was then the capital of China. Some of you may have heard of the Rape of Nanjing where over 300,000 Chinese civilians were executed. Then they proceeded up river to take Wuhan. The 'international community was advised to leave and organized a special train to travel on the newly opened Wuhan Canton Hong Kong railway. Because of all the fighting along the way, we had to get clearance not only from the Japanese but from the Chinese Nationalist Army, as well as the Communist Chinese Army to allow the train to go through.

My mother and I lost our home and decided to make Hong Kong our new home. As my mother was a widow and had limited capital, I refused to go to university in Scotland, but instead took a job as internal auditor at the Peninsula Hotel Group while studying accountancy in the evenings. Two years later, when I got the British equivalent of the CPA, I joined an auditing firm.

On December 8, 1941, which was December 7 in the United States, Pearl Harbor and Hong Kong were attacked -by the Japanese. Since 1939, all British men had to join the Hong Kong Volunteer Defense Corps, similar to your National Guard. We had training one evening a week and two weeks every summer. So, I put on my uniform and joined about 1,500 other volunteers and 9,500 regular troops to fight the invading force of 30,000 Japanese with 30,000 in reserve. The war lasted 17 days and the fighting was very bitter. Most people in this 'country did not even know about it because everyone here was



so shook up by Pearl Harbor. Casualties on both sides were very heavy, with the Japanese having 15,000 casualties and the British 4,000 casualties, a very high ratio you will agree.

Naturally the Japanese were not very happy, as they thought they could just take the colony in a couple of days in their first land battle against Britain. Because of this they took no prisoners during the fighting and many of my friends were executed when captured. The Japanese also committed other atrocities such as killing wounded soldiers in hospitals and raping and killing British nurses.

So, on Christmas Day 1945, exactly four years after I had escaped from the Japanese in China, I became a POW and lost my second home. For the first two years, we were in a prison camp in Hong Kong. We were not mistreated physically but suffered terribly from starvation, and lack of medical supplies. About 10 percent of our camp died of malnutrition, dysentery, and other problems.

Almost exactly two years later, the Japanese decided to move 400 POWs to Japan. Two other groups had been sent before us, the first being on a Japanese ship called the Lisbon Maru which was torpedoed outside Shanghai by a U.S. submarine. Half the POWs died because they were locked in the hold and those who managed to escape were machine gunned in the water by the Japanese.

Fortunately our ship was not torpedoed and we were sent to a camp in Nagoya, the third largest city in Japan, to work in a railway locomotive factory. Here the work was very hard. We worked as slave laborers doing manual work with very poor food of about 1,000 calories a day, with little or no fat or protein. We were also beaten occasionally. We had to work 13 days before we had a day off to wash our clothing, cut our hair, etc.

Towards the end of 1944, Japan was being bombed regularly but usually by relatively small number of planes. In May, 1945 a large air raid over Nagoya - knocked out factory - and we literally had to run for the hills to our camp. As we could not go back to work in Nagoya, we were sent across the country to Toyama on the west coast to work at a branch of the locomotive factory. Toyama was almost totally destroyed in a fire bomb raid on August 1, 1945 and once again we had to run from camp because the heat of the fires was so fierce. However, the camp survived but we no longer had to go to work.

On August 15, 1945 we were told to stay in our barracks and close all shutters so we could not see outside. We peeked and saw the Camp Commandant and all the guards dressed in their best uniforms with white gloves standing to attention listening to a radio broadcast. This was the emperor telling the country to surrender. Days went by and we were still not told, so one day we sent representatives to the Commandant who confessed that he had not told us because he had not received orders. When we told him we were concerned for our safety from local citizens and we wanted to guard ourselves, he had no objections so we went to all the guards and took their guns and guarded the camp ourselves.

As a matter of fact, we had nothing to fear from the civilians who were so glad the war had ended that they came bringing gifts. These were the same people who worked in our factory making on the side, knives, swords, hatchets and spears with any metal they could find. When asked, they told us these were to kill us if Japan was invaded and then they would use these crude weapons to defend the country. Needless to say, the entire country was prepared to do this so you can imagine

how many millions of Japanese and thousands of Americans would have been killed if there was an invasion. Fortunately, the two atomic bombs saved them and us. We were evacuated from Japan to the Philippines and the British were sent back to England via Canada. During our two weeks in Canada, we were fattened up so that we would not be too much of a shock to the people back in England when we returned.

Of course I now had to think of making a living again. I was offered a job back at my old firm with the opportunity of becoming partner but my best friend and fellow campmate and former Rotarian of this club, George Haynes, who many of you remember, persuaded me to join NCR saying that my income would be commensurate with my ability and that I could go as high as I wanted. After four years of no income, I decided to give it a try, not dreaming that I would eventually be Chairman of the company.

In 1947, I was asked by the British War Crimes Commission to be a witness at the Minor War Crimes Trials in Japan. The Commandant and 17 of our guards were to be tried for their brutality at our camp. The trial lasted several weeks and they were eventually sentenced to various terms ranging from 30 years to 3. It is interesting to note that all the defense lawyers were sent from the U.S. to do the job. They were very aggressive and tried hard to convince the judges that the evidence presented by the prosecution and supported by witnesses like myself were exaggerated or false. At one point a defence counsel asked me to identify one of the guards by name and I said his name was Fishface. The counsel then said "how is it that you were with this guard for nearly 2 years and you don't know his name is Tanaka?" I replied "because we were never formally introduced" which made the 3 judges and everyone else other than the defence laugh. This incident was reported in all the foreign newspapers.

My first job was manager of NCR Hong Kong, working under George Haynes, who was manager of China based in Shanghai. Those were wonderful years for NCR Hong Kong and myself. Being as Brer Rabbit says: "Firstist with the mostest" and knowing many of the managers and accountants, I succeeded in selling accounting machines to all the banks and utility companies, and many commercial and industrial companies. By 1960, we had 97% of the market.

At that time George Haynes was promoted from Japan to Dayton and I reluctantly left Hong Kong to be Chairman of the Japanese company and vice president for the Far East region.

In 1971 NCR was in serious trouble and was in danger of going out of business. The company had been slow to move from mechanical to electronic products. The Board of Directors with unusual vision of those times decided that there was no one among the 30 officers of the parent company that could do the job of saving the company and I was asked. As happy as I was in Japan, which was at that time the most profitable of all NCR's operations worldwide, I loved and owed the company and accepted.

So in June 1972, I started the transformation of NCR to be a full electronic data processing (EDP) company. Many of you will remember those difficult days and the problems I had. Not only did we have to change the hardware aspects of a mechanical machine business to one making things that worked with bits and bytes, but we had to change the mentality of everyone in the company to do things differently.



I also had problems with an unsympathetic media and the UAW. As this is still a large UAW city, you may be interested to know that NCR was the first company to force the UAW to agree to a two-tier wage system. Against my wishes, I was persuaded to meet with Leonard Woodcock, the head of the UAW at the Dayton Airport Inn. I showed him all our financial statements and told him that we had no alternative but close all our manufacturing in Dayton unless he agreed to a two-tier wage where we would freeze all existing wages but new employees would be paid just a little more than the minimum wage. I must have been convincing enough because he reluctantly agreed. Interestingly, after over 30 years, GM management has finally bitten the bullet and have negotiated a similar contract. One has to ask why it took them so long.

Well as the story goes, "all's well that end's well" and NCR staged a wonderful recovery so that when I retired on the 100th anniversary of our company in 1984, we were in the best shape ever. I stayed on the Board of Directors until 1989 and was not involved in the acquisition of the company by AT&T in 1991.

As all of you know, the so-called merger was a disaster and Bob Allen, the Chairman of AT&T, has been written up as the man who made the worst acquisition in history. He paid \$7.4 billion for NCR which was profitable and lost \$4 billion in the next four years. In 1996, he announced that there was no synergism between the two companies and split AT&T into

three companies, namely: AT&T, Lucent and NCR. As you know, Lucent stock has collapsed since then, and AT&T has been bought by one of the Babybells, SBC. The market cap of NCR after the split was only \$3.4 billion. This, added to the \$4 billion in losses, cost the shareholders \$8 billion in four years. One has to work hard to do that.

There are various reasons given for this failure. First, the danger for all successful companies, especially those who have a dominant market share, is the arrogance that it breeds. Prior to 1972, NCR had some of this problem also. Although AT&T was a younger company than NCR, their people felt that their culture and name were better than ours. Neither our customers nor our managers felt the same way, so 90 percent of our senior officers and mid-managers left the company. New managers at all levels were hired and fired in rapid succession. Our longtime customers also left us. From annual reports of many companies you read "our people are "our most-important asset." But do companies remember this and practice what they preach? For over 100 years, NCR believed and practiced the principle that all employees were members of our family."

Bill Anderson

*(There is more of this speech on <http://www.geocities.ws/NCR605/page6.html> covering Bill's life after retiring from NCR)*

## WILLIAM S. ANDERSON

March 29, 1919 - June 29, 2021

Palo Alto CA

Submitted by Stephanie Anderson



William S. Anderson was born in Hankow, China (now Wuhan) on March 29, 1919, and lived his early life in the Far East, the latter part of which was in a prisoner of war camps.

When the Japanese surrendered to Allied Forces in August 1945, Anderson was repatriated to England, where he joined the National Cash Register Company in London for a brief period of training before being assigned to start up the company's new Hong Kong office.

In 1947, Anderson was a witness at the War Crimes trials in Tokyo for the officers and soldiers at the POW camps. During the trials, he met an American woman, Janice Robb, who was working as a civilian in the Occupation government. After a whirlwind courtship, they married in Tokyo and returned to settle in Hong Kong.

In 1960, Anderson was promoted to Vice-President of NCR for the Far East and Chairman of NCR Japan, and moved with his family to Tokyo, where they lived until 1972. That year, the parent company in Dayton, Ohio was in serious trouble, and Anderson was asked to take over the company as President and later as Chairman of the Board. He had never worked in the United States and was promoted over 30 officers of the parent company. He was the first non-American to head up a Fortune 100 company in the U.S. He transformed an 88 year-old company manufacturing mechanical cash registers and accounting machines into an electronics manufacturer of computers, information processing machines and automated

teller machines. Anderson was widely termed "The man who saved NCR". He retired in 1984 and continued as Chairman of the Executive Committee of NCR's Board of Directors until 1989. His autobiography, "Corporate Crisis - NCR and the Computer Revolution" was published in 1991.

During his long career at NCR, Anderson served on the boards of RJR Nabisco, Consolidated Natural Gas Company, Phillips Industries and an early Silicon Valley company, Conner Peripherals. He served on the Special Committee when RJR Nabisco was sold and was written about in the best-selling book "Barbarians at the Gate", which told the story of the largest buyout in American history to date.

William Anderson's many public service and charitable contributions included being the Chairman of the Smithsonian National Board, Chairman of the National Foreign Trade Council, President of the Air Force Museum Foundation, member of the Boards of the University of Dayton, the Asia Foundation, Japan Society, Asian Institute of Management and the Monterey Institute of International Studies. He also served on the Business Council and the U.S./Japan Business Council and the U.S./China Business Council. He received an Honorary Doctor of Humanities degree from the University of Dayton in 1985.

He is survived by his wife Janice and his daughters Stephanie in Palo Alto, CA (daughters Gillian Maguire & Fiona Maguire and her husband Aaron Abelson), Irene in Los Angeles (husband Jamie Somes and children Gavin & Caroline Somes) and Hope in Los Angeles (son Ian Anderson & daughter-in-law Julie). The family is grateful for the loving care extended to our husband and father during his long illness by Marcela Montalvo, Ana Leyva, Mirna Funes, Martha Trejo, Elizabeth Younkman, Noli Sevileno and Ernesto Galang.

*This article has been edited to avoid duplications of stories and periods which feature in other articles in this edition of Postscript.*



## BILL ANDERSON AND THE WAR CRIMES TRIAL

### *Bill Anderson, as told to Ian Ormerod*

Bill had been a prisoner of the Japanese during the second world war, and after his release became a witness at the war crimes trial held in Yokohama and tells the following story.

"The trial, which followed American judicial rules and procedures, was held before a U. S. Eighth Army Military Commission consisting of five judges. There were two prosecuting attorneys and three defence attorneys who had spent a year in Japan in preparation.

Although the prosecution witnesses had been advised not to talk with the defence attorneys, the latter were constantly trying to get us to soften our testimony. They waylaid us at every opportunity to tell us that the defendants were very sorry for their past transgressions and that their families were so shame-ridden they would like to present us with token gifts that would be symbolic of their remorse.

Most of the defendants had been given nicknames by their captives because of their physical characteristics, their

resemblance to well-known people or their behaviour.

These nicknames included not only Fishface, Dempsey and Harold Lloyd but Mussolini, Joe Louis, Ruby Lips and Weary Willie. During the trial identification of some of the defendants was often made by their nickname, despite an early attempt by the defence to challenge the validity of such identification.

When my turn came to take the witness stand it was immediately apparent that this point still rankled. One of the defence counsellors pointed to one of the defendants and asked me, "What is his name?" "Fishface," I replied. The counsellor then suggested my memory may have suffered and asked, "If you were with this defendant for 32 months why don't you know his proper name?" "Well," I replied quickly, "You see, we were never formally introduced!"

This brought a roar of laughter throughout the courtroom and it was some time before order was restored and the trial could resume."

## TOM BOLES AND THE DISCOVERY OF 155 SUPERNOVAE

In the late 1950s I went to school in Glasgow. In my class at that time was John McElroy (ex-FED field Engineer, Aberdeen). John brought an ex-naval telescope to school. Through his telescope I saw the moons of Jupiter the Rings of Saturn and the Pleiades. (The Seven Sisters). I was hooked. I wanted a telescope. In the months that followed, I made several out of used toilet rolls and postal tubes. In 1960, I left school and joined Charles Frank of Saltmarket, an optical and photographic company where I served an apprenticeship manufacturing astronomical telescopes. At that time, the choices of available telescopes were limited so the company had a large percentage of the UK market. Arthur Frank, the then owner, allowed me to borrow telescopes from his private collection for use at home. In return I help design and manufacture a range of astronomical reflecting telescopes (telescopes used magnifying mirrors rather than lenses).

The company ran into financial trouble in 1966. I left and joined NCR as a field engineer in Glasgow under Mike Clancy. I married Rita in 1968 and astronomy went onto the back burner as I focussed on earning enough money to bring up a young family. The rest of my career with NCR is history.

On the return of Halley's comet in 1986, my interest was renewed. I bought a telescope and joined the British Astronomical Association (BAA).

When I left NCR and subsequently retired, I had time to study my old passion more seriously. I set up a small observatory in Wellingborough, in Northants. A telescope's size is measured by the diameter of its light collecting aperture. My telescope was ten inch in diameter, a size I could only have dreamt about when I was younger.

My main interest in astronomy was Cosmology. That is the study of the large-scale structure of the Universe. Edwin Hubble (after whom the Hubble Space Telescope is named)

discovered in 1929 that all the galaxies in the Universe were travelling away from each other. The Universe was expanding. All the galaxies were moving away from us. Which made us appear to be at the centre. This of course isn't the case. Imagine a balloon with spots drawn on it. Blow up the balloon and the spots move apart. Every spot sees every other spot moving away from it. The Panacea of modern astronomy was to measure how fast that the space in which the galaxies sat was expanding.

One was to do this by observing supernovae. Supernovae are dying stars. They are bright enough to be seen many millions of light years away with the right equipment. A light year is the distance that light travels in a year. The speed of light is 186,000 miles per second. That means in a year it travels 186,000 x 31557600 seconds in miles since there are of course 365.25 days in a year. Anyway, it's a long way. I decided to study supernovae. I needed to find them first so I started searching.

With my first telescope the process was slow. The technology was relatively primitive. I was using one of the very first Charge Coupled Device (CCD) cameras designed for astronomical use. It was slow and inefficient. After several false starts, it took me just under a year to discover my first supernovae. This was in a galaxy known as NGC3451. NGC stands for the New General Catalogue of galaxies. I made the discovery on 10th October 1997. We sat at the back of the BAA's lecture room while its AGM was taking place discussing whether this was a real discover or not. After all the hunting, you'd think I'd be delighted. I was terrified. Here I was about to make a claim of a discovery of a relatively rare event. This would necessitate one of the world's largest telescope breaking off from what it was doing to go and investigate. Time on large telescopes is precious. Astronomer have to fight to get every hour of observing time. If I were right, I'd receive accolades, if I were wrong, I wouldn't





be taken seriously ever again. With encouragement from some of my astronomical colleagues, I decided to report it to CBAT, the Central Bureau for Astronomical Telegrams. This is the world centre for reporting astronomical discoveries. The waiting then began. There were other things that it could have been other than a supernova. It could have been an asteroid; it could have been a cosmic ray hitting the camera. Some stars vary in brightness. It could have been one of them. I had done all the checks and taken several hours to ensure I had double checked everything. I was sure. Time passed slowly, with it went my confidence. I went back over several nights and re-photographed the area. It was still there. Still...

Three days later I received a telegram (nowadays delivered by email). It was confirmed as a type II supernova. (see fig 1) That means it was the death of a giant star. During a star's life there is a constant fight between gravity trying to make the star collapse in on itself and the nuclear fusion in its core that turns hydrogen atoms into helium atoms. The nuclear fusion produces enough energy to combat the crushing force of gravity. This is fine until the star has used up all its hydrogen. When this happens, gravity takes over and the star collapses. The force of the collapse caused the infalling gases to bounce and, along with a burst of neutrinos, it causes the star to blow up.

I had discovered a supernova. And I had done it from the badly light polluted skies of Wellingborough. Wellingborough had the lowest household rates in the UK. The council achieved this by surrounding the town with distribution warehouses and collecting their business rates. The result was that the sky was permanent orange colour from sodium street light and security lighting from the businesses. Things had to improve. I moved to Suffolk. I found a nice little village with only two street lights and a house of a hill.

I set about building a better observatory. The technology had also improved. Astronomical cameras had got better. I moved my observatory and telescope to Coddensham. I wanted an observatory with a run off roof. When I approached builders about taking the job on, they laughed. They said that it would never stay up. An architect friend in the village said likewise. I decided to build it myself. After planning permission etc., I started the work mid-2000 finished it before the winter began. (Fig 2 - Telescopes 1 & 2)

We had a party at the observatory to celebrate its opening on the 19th August 2001 and nearly all the villagers attended. The late Sir Patrick Moore of BBC Sky at Night fame, and past President of the BAA attended and did the official



Fig. 2

opening. I cheated really, the observatory had been working since the end of the previous year and had started making discoveries. (Fig 3 – Telescope 3)

In the meanwhile, I was getting more and more involved in astronomical life. I had become a member of the Council of the BAA. In 2003, I was elected President of the BAA. I also became a Fellow of the Royal Astronomical Society. (FRAS)

I had finally perfected the software to control the telescopes automatically. It would point the telescopes to target galaxies and take a n image the store it on the hard drive. I was imaging an area of the sky about one ninth the size of the full moon. Being able to point the telescopes accurately was essential. The two-inch steel shafts of the telescope mounts would bend, by only a few microns, depending where in the sky it was pointing. Even this small amount was enough to cause the telescopes to miss targets. It needed to point to sub-arcminute accuracy. The final solution was a little program that would train the telescopes to remember its



Fig. 3





Fig. 4

mistakes and to compensate the next time it visited the same area of sky. This speeded up the search process immensely.

By 3 April 2006, I had discovered my 100th supernova. (fig 4) Coddenham Observatory was becoming famous amongst astronomers worldwide. It was featured on the Sky at Night. I was asked the question, 'What did it feel like to discover 100 supernovae?' The question couldn't be asked of any other living individual.

I would enjoy opening my email in the morning and reading that either the Hubble Space telescope or one of the Keck Telescopes (the biggest on earth) had followed up on my reported discovery.

The highest number was discovered by an eccentric Swiss astronomer called Fritz Zwicky working at the Mount Palomar Observatories in California. He discovered 132. On 19 July 2010, I discovered my 132nd supernovae in a little-known galaxy called MCG 7-36-25. By 3 May 2014, I had discovered 155. (fig 5)

Some kind person has made an entry for me on Wikipedia. In it, they say I have discovered 149 supernovae. This number is wrong. Details of the additional six can be seen on my website



Fig. 5

along with the others. ([www.coddenhamobservatories.org](http://www.coddenhamobservatories.org))

Out of the 155 discoveries, 52 were type 1a supernovae. These are special types. They explode when a white dwarf star steals gas from a companion star that is orbiting it. It always explodes when it gets 1.44 times more massive than the Sun. That means it always explodes with the same brightness. If you know the brightness and compare it with how bright it looks you can work out how far away it is. It is what is known as a standard candle. These are used to work out the expansion rate of the Universe and my real reason for searching. Some of my type Ia's were used to calibrate the Hubble Space Telescope in its search for DARK ENERGY. This is the energy suspected of causing the expansion of the Universe to accelerate. It contradicts the law of conservation of energy. It appears from nowhere. The more that appears the more gets made. It looks like it's energy for nothing. Really odd.

In 2014 my life changed. I was diagnosed with leukaemia. My astronomical activities came to a sudden stop. Thanks to an anonymous German male aged 40, I had a successful bone marrow transplant. I now celebrate two birthdays, my actual birthday and 3 September the date of my transplant and the start of my new life. Five years have passed and I'm told by my clever consultant that it a significant milestone. The future looks bright.

I have been in lockdown since February 2020. That's earlier than everyone else and was on the recommendation of my consultant. I have kept myself busy. I have written a novel called DARK ENERGY. (it's available on Amazon - he says unashamedly) It's about an astronomer who gets involved in murder and sabotage investigations in scientific establishments and involves supernovae, worldwide. John McElroy teases me that I am fantasising about my alter ego. He could well be right.

*Tom Boles – ex-Divisional Director FED, Astronomer and discoverer of Supernovae.*

*DARK ENERGY – search for Tom Boles under books.*

*Observatory website – [www.coddenhamobservatories.org](http://www.coddenhamobservatories.org)*

## 206 MARYLEBONE ROAD

The many NCR staff who have fond memories of working in our old Head Office building will be pleased to hear that the office is now being redeveloped by the ASTREA company and has been renamed "Patterson Building".

The developer's website [www.pattersonbuilding.london](http://www.pattersonbuilding.london) gives the following information:-

*Patterson Building at 206 Marylebone Road is an office building in Marylebone, London NW1. The 120,000 sq ft of office building is expected to complete in 2023. The Grade A office building will have a new and prominent reception plus significant outside/ amenity space.*

*The 135,000 sq ft (12,541m<sup>2</sup>) building was once purpose-built as a headquarters building for NCR (National Cash Registers) in the 1930's. It is now undergoing a comprehensive refurbishment to reinstate the office building into its former glory, whilst being fit for modern-day occupiers.*

**Ian Ormerod**



## THE STORY OF THE C31

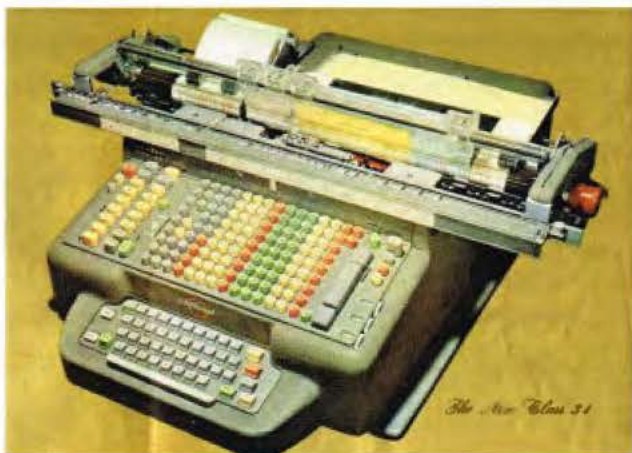
By Ian Ormerod

The new National 'Class 31' direct entry accounting machine became the latest addition to the National family in 1951 as a replacement for the long-lived class 3000 accounting machine which was still favoured and in use in many banks and companies until decimalization made the 3000 obsolete.

The range of business machines was designed primarily to simplify the carrying out of those more complex forms of accounting and statistical work which modern conditions had made essential to scientific management. The original machine colour was grey but later changed to the NCR Tan in the early 60's.



The basic design of the new "31" bore a certain resemblance to the "class 3000", it had a full adding machine keyboard (but with greater capacity), a typewriter for unlimited narrative description, and a fully visible printing point, which allowed the operator to maintain a visual check along the whole length of entry. There was also an interchangeable control bar which allowed the machine to be switched from one job to another in a very few seconds.



### FLUID DRIVE

From here on, the similarity between the "class 31" and the "Class 3000" disappeared; the typewriter of the "Class 31" was fully electrified and specially designed for high-speed touch typing; the paper carriage and platen is moved, smoothly and silently in both directions, by a unique fluid drive mechanism controlled by *oil pressure*. An extraordinarily flexible system of carriage movement control enabled column selection to be carried out entirely automatically in either direction of travel; the front feed opens and closes automatically at any predetermined position; there is direct subtraction in all its ten registers, and all balances, both negative and positive, are computed automatically.

Another new and unique feature of the "Class 31" was that addition and subtraction could occur simultaneously in any combination of registers-and a total extracted from any one of the registers could be transferred automatically and directly into any combination of those remaining-the transfer being affected either as a negative or a positive quantity, whichever was required. Should it be necessary, all the ten registers, in fact, could be effective simultaneously, adding or subtracting in any desired combination.

The control bar on the front of the carriage, programming the complete sequence of operation, was the key to the machine. Secured to the front of the moving carriage by two locking studs, the bar can be removed and changed in the matter of a few seconds. With the clipping on of a different bar, the machine could be re-programmed at a moment's notice to carry out whatever job was required.

The control bar was composed of a slotted bar to which were clipped a variety of "stops" - each stop differing from the other in the arrangement of the "selector plates" which project downward from its under surface. As the bar traverses with the moving of the paper carriage, these "selector plates" are contacted by "selector levers" which caused the machine to operate as required, spacing and tabulating to the correct positions, selecting the required registers for addition, subtraction, total taking, etc., opening and shutting the paper carriage at the desired intervals, and returning the carriage to its starting position at the completion of each sequence.

Each stop was built up from individual selector plates, the depth of each plate and its position in the stop determining what operation shall ensue from its contact with the corresponding selector lever.

The production of the Class 31 Accounting Machine in Dundee aroused much interest among N.C.R. employees. All that anyone knew was that the Class 31 was of greater complexity than any other previously made in Dundee; embodying far-reaching developments in mechanical accountancy.

In 1952, the Class 31 made its debut in Camperdown and, shortly afterwards, Mr. Charles Dalton, chief inspector, Mr. J. Coutts, job foreman, class 31 inspection, Mr. F. Mallows, foreman, class 31 and class 3000, and Mr. S. Berry, job foreman, class 3000, went to America.

In Dayton they studied at first-hand, production of the class 31. Interest in the machine was very marked and Johnny Coutts worked on the assembly line, quickly assimilating knowledge. While working in Dayton Johnny discovered that on Tuesday and Thursday evenings there were classes on the Class 31 and these were attended by all branches of the Organisation anxious to add to their knowledge of the product. With Charlie Dalton's consent, he commenced attending.

On his return to Dundee, Mr Dalton found that the Class 31 had aroused that same overall interest and, when it was agreed that classes be arranged for inspectors working on the line, he suggested that they be made open to all N.C.R. people, irrespective of their departments. A series of twenty-five lectures on the Class 31 machine started in Block 4 Canteen with Mr. Coutts as lecturer.

These, Mr. Coutts assures us, are being run on lines similar to those attended in Dayton with lantern slides and a Class 31 machine. With over 15,000 parts, the Class 31 machine is most intricate, but in a manner which would become any university lecturer, Johnny Coutts, week by week, took his audience through the mechanical functions of the machine.

The series closed in the Spring of 1954 with some demonstrations of actual applications to commerce and industry which served as a fitting climax to a most interesting winter session. When that date came around there were men and women in all departments of the Dundee Organisation for whom Class 31 was no longer just a name but an accounting machine with almost limitless possibilities and also a machine of which they had knowledge and appreciation.



**CLASS 32**

A reduced function machine, without the register control keys was available with 4 to 10 counters was known as the Class 32.

In February 1953 another two variations were introduced: a four-register version of the Class 31 with a 16-inch carriage, and a non-typewriter version.



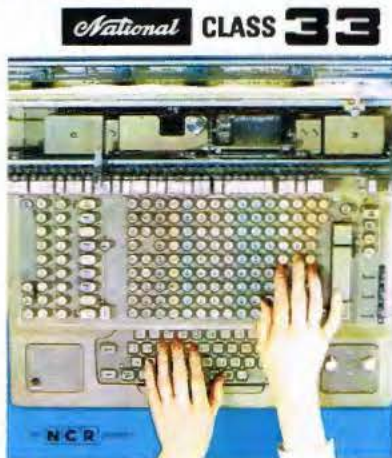
An additional model the **NCR 31 DX7** made its appearance in the mid 1960's. This was a reduced feature machine with a maximum of four totals. It was rumoured, amongst the engineers, that Add machines salesmen received 10% commission on these models, but AMD salesmen only received 5% if they sold the same machine.

**The Class 33**

This model could have 13, 17, 21 or 25 registers with a keyboard capacity of up to £999,999,999.99. The machine attracted a large audience at the Seattle World Fair in 1962.

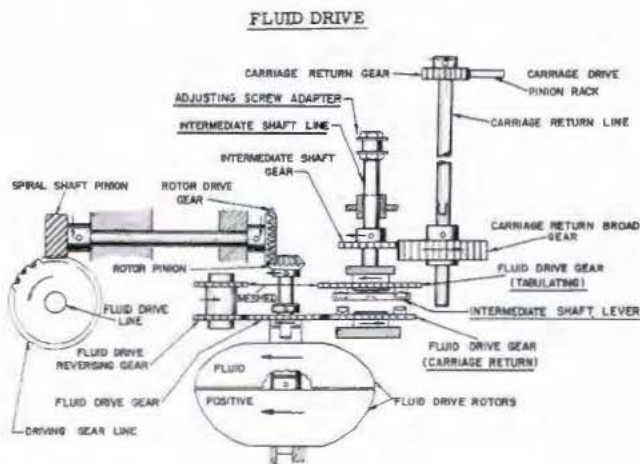


Class 34 machines were being sold in the UK in 1958 and a Class 36 was on sale in the USA but although I worked on a class 34 (I cannot recall what the features that differentiated it from the class 33 were).



The **Fluid Drive** was the one feature that made this range of machines the industry leader all over the world.

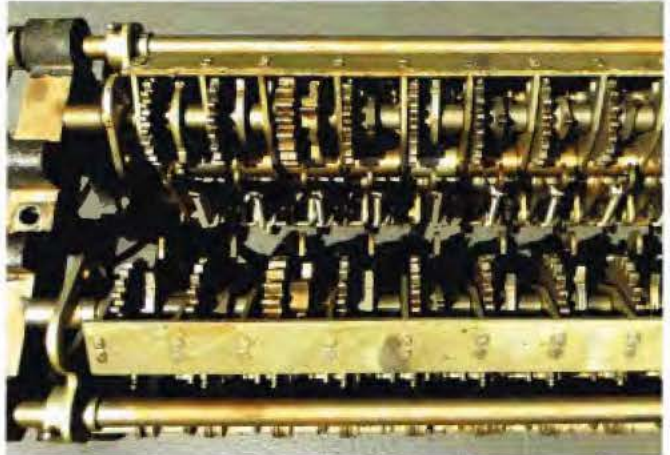
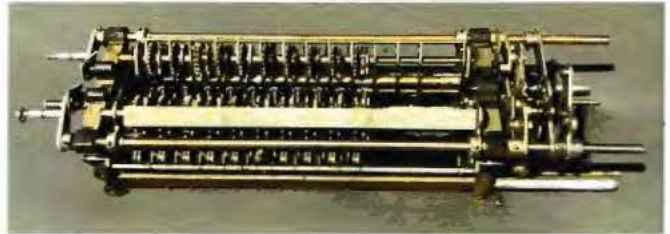
This is a line drawing of the mechanism.



**Counters**

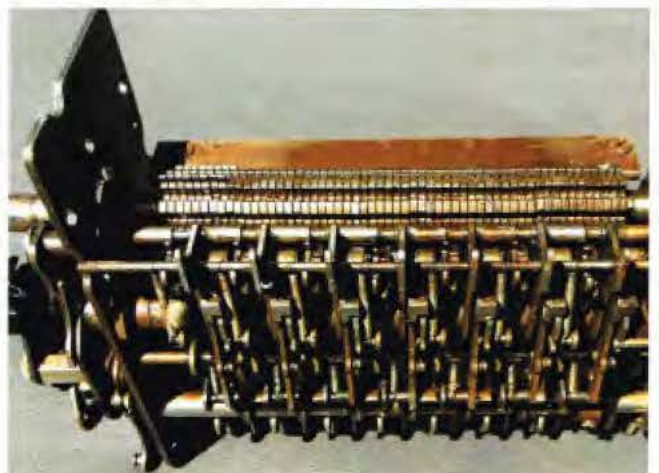
The class 31 and 32 had two counters or registers on each block and could have a maximum of 5 blocks of counters.

On each counter wheel was a wider tooth at the 9 to zero position to act as a trip for the carry over mechanism to add "1" to the next higher accumulator gear.



The designers of the Class 33 took a different approach with 8 counters on a stick in each block and with 3 blocks of counters available +1 this made the total of 25 available.

On this machine the eight counters were selected by the shaft being moved horizontally and the trip and transfer mechanism was selected by a higher tooth on the accumulator gear at position nine. These can be seen on the left hand 8 accumulator gears on the close-up photo.





## MY WORKING LIFE – FROM ST HELENA TO MARYLEBONE VIA AUSTRALIA

*Roy Contstantine*

My very first job was as an Office Clerk working for the Colonial Government of St Helena. I left school at the age of 15 and started work on my 15th birthday. The Island of St Helena is where I was born. It is a British Overseas Territory. A very tiny Island in the middle of the South Atlantic Ocean, it is so small that some world maps don't even show it. It is situated about 1500 miles from Brazil and 1200 miles from the East coast of Africa (Angola). Its area is roughly 10 miles x 6 miles. There are no beautiful beaches just sheer cliffs surrounding the Island, but the interior is beautifully green with lots of indigenous vegetation. The population of the Island is roughly 5,000. English is our only language, and we all have British citizenship. There is only one town, Jamestown, which is situated in a deep valley with one main street running from the harbour all the way to the other end of the town which is just over a mile long with Georgian Style buildings on either side, built by the British centuries ago. Jamestown is the only harbour for visiting ships. The administration and economy of the Island is run by Britain. All the top positions on the Island are held by British Ex-Pats who work for the British Overseas Civil Service. They usually do a 2-year stint. Jobs like the Governor, the Government Secretary, the Colonial Treasurer, Auditor, Police Supt, Clerk of Works, Agriculture Officer, Doctors etc. I ended up working for the Colonial Treasury and I guess that started off my trend in accounting.

After four years working for the St Helena Government, I left the Island at the age of 19 and went to work on Ascension Island, another tiny British Overseas Territory (BOT), about 900 miles north of St Helena but still in the middle of the South Atlantic. It is a volcanic island and much of the land looks like the surface of the moon, but the beaches are fantastic, especially for beach parties. Ascension Island is on a hundred-year lease to USA, something to do with the war debt. The Americans have a big airfield there and although it is owned by the USAF, they had very little air force staff there as the whole air base was managed by Pan American Airways who were their sub-contractors. There were 3 major companies working on the US air base, they were Pan Am, RCA (an American Electronic Company) and NASA. There were two other British Companies on the Island, they were Cable & Wireless Ltd and the BBC who had a relay station there. It is a military island and not a residential Island as such. I was amazed when I arrived as all around the Island were huge radar antennas placed on strategic places on top of hills by the Americans. Ascension Island was also used by the Americans as one of their 'Down Range Missile Stations' from Florida. They would test their missiles by launching them from Florida and the US Navy would recover the nosecones in the South Atlantic Ocean where they came back to Earth by parachutes. The nosecones would then be brought ashore to Ascension Island and be flown back to Florida. It was the first time I had seen an aircraft land and take off. I worked for Pan American Airways in the Accounts Office. I did four years with Pan Am and one of my colleagues there was Sid Peters who worked in a different section of the company. We were not close friends at the time, but I knew of him. I was working on Ascension when the Moon landing took place in 1969. The Americans threw us a big party that night. While

I was on Ascension Island I manage, by correspondence, to get citizenship to live in Australia. I had saved enough money to travel and was booked to leave in January 1970 but unfortunately, I broke both bones in my right shin in a collision whilst playing football. I was in a wheelchair for 6 months and on crutches for a further 2 months, so I didn't leave until August 1970.

Getting from Ascension to Australia was not straight forward. We as civilians weren't allowed to fly on Military planes in those days. I had to catch a ship from Ascension to St Helena then another ship to Capetown, South Africa. It was the first time in my life whilst in Capetown that I had seen a train or a television, or traffic lights, escalators, shopping malls, etc. Pan Am was good because they allowed their employees 30 days after they leave to travel anywhere in the world at 90% discount on a stand-by ticket on their Planes. So, with 2 weeks accrued holiday and 30 days I had 6 weeks to get to Australia. I travelled on my own and got a flight from Capetown to Jo'burg then a flight to London. I had family in UK so I stayed for a month and actually attended my sister's wedding in Manchester. I flew from Heathrow to New York then to Los Angeles. From there I got another flight to Australia via Honolulu where I stayed overnight at the airport. I arrived in Sydney in September 1970 with a week to spare on my discounted ticket. I was lucky to land a job in the Bank of New South Wales, Sydney. Sydney is a beautiful city, and it was a joy to start work every morning at 9am as it had been a 07.30 start for four years with Pan Am. I worked there for a year. I have always admired the Australians for their dedication and hard work. I enjoyed working in the Bank and didn't realize how well I was being paid until after I left. Although I was in a big city I still felt far away from anywhere, like I did in St Helena and Ascension so I resigned from the Bank and travelled to UK where my siblings and friends had settled.

I arrived in London late 1971 and in early 1972 I managed to get an office job working for a Medical and Scientific Book Publishers called H K Lewis & Co, in Warren Street, London. I must have been doing something right because after two years they made me department manager. During this time, I got married. My wife is also from St Helena. After four years with H K Lewis & Co and surviving the 3-day work week which was imposed on the whole country, I was looking for a better job and it must have been fate because I had several interviews lined up and Sid Peters, whom I mentioned earlier that was on Ascension Island with me, had settled in UK and had been working for NCR Ltd. He managed to track me down in 1976 and advised me that there was a job vacancy in the Accounts Dept in NCR and I should apply for it. He had been working there since 1974. By this time was now the father of three children under 5 years old so I didn't hesitate as NCR offered much better prospects than what I already had.

I applied for the job and was successful and in October 1976 I started work with NCR Ltd whose parent company and headquarters is in Dayton, Ohio. It was the best decision I made during that time. I moved up the road from Warren Street to Marylebone Rd on the corner of Balcombe Street. It was several months after the Balcombe Street Siege, just



to throw in a bit of local history. The vacancy that I applied for was left by Roger Whelan who was on the up towards bigger prospects. He moved to a better job in Financial Planning. I worked alongside Sid and with several others in the office. Our line manager was Pat Stroudley. Looking back now we had a big office and a smaller room with huge computers that was used for all the data input. How technology has advanced over the years because what those computers did then we can now do with gadgets in our pockets. As we were the final office where all the accounts from all other sources were filtered into, every month we would have to work late evenings to consolidate all the Profit and Loss Accounts. Like all global NCR Companies every quarter we would have to meet strict deadlines to send all the P&L and Balance Sheet account to Dayton, USA. for International & Domestic Accounting Consolidation. The IDAC Package we called it. We had to work extra time to complete the package and quite a lot of which were handwritten by our team. However, in those days we were on Flexi-time and four of us would save our unit points and take a day off during the not so busy time. It was a special day off as Sid Peters, Pat Stroudley, Jeff Russell and myself would take the day off together and go to Richmond in London for a game of Golf early in the morning, have lunch then go to the nearest Race Course in the afternoon. A few stories can be told about my bad golf as I hadn't played golf in my life. Several Racecourses were visited over the continuing years like Sandown, Kempton, Ascot, Windsor and Epsom. Besides our quarterly day out Pat Stroudley used to run sports competitions for anyone who wanted to participate which kept us entertained. Pat moved on to become Treasury Manager and a couple of years later Roger Whelan moved back to our department as the Financial Accountant, fast forward to the early 1990's, Roger became the Company's Financial Controller. Sid Peters moved to NCR Brent to work in Product Admin. A few years later he moved to NCR Saudi with his family for 2 years then returned to London to work in the Retail Division. Our department went through changes as well. The accounting system changed to MSA, (Management Services of America) I was promoted to Office Manager, and we moved from the 3rd floor to the 6th Floor in 1980. We were joined by the Treasury Dept, the Accounts Payable Dept and the Office Services Dept. The new MSA accounting system allowed us to electronically transmit all the data to NCR Birmingham for processing. The printed accounts came back to us in a day or two via a road courier-van down the M1. If traffic was bad or there was bad weather the turnaround would be longer. The printed data arrived in about 4 or 5 boxes with stacks of A3 sized music-ruled paper. We had to sort them and put them into binders. The A3 sized binders were heavy and cumbersome to use. There must have been many trees that were cut down to produce all the paper that we used over the years.

I stayed in that job as Office Manager for 13 years still doing late evenings at month ends and more so at quarter ends. Year-end accounting was the worse for late evening work and I survived 17 years of them, 4 years on the 3rd floor and 13 years on the 6th. In July 1982 we had the IRA bombing in Regents Park where they blew up the Bandstand whilst the Military Band was playing. We heard the blast on the 6th floor and felt the vibration. Within minutes there were police cars with their sirens screaming, racing from Paddington Police

Station pass our building to Regents Park. It was horrendous. Although I stayed in Financial Accounts for years, things were always changing with people moving out and new people arriving. I had no need to move anywhere as everything and everyone was moving around me. In 1984, thanks to working for NCR, I was able to secure a mortgage on a 3-bedroom terrace house in Camden, about 15mins walk from St Pancras International Station. In 1993 I was given the opportunity to spend a working fortnight in NCR France. It was in the South of France which was a nice little change for me. I was joined by two others, one from NCR Italy and one from NCR Spain. Our job was to input data into a new accounting system for testing. It was the Oracle system which was to replace MSA Accounting System.

Around this time, we had already been taken over by AT&T. It was a bad time for many employees as there were redundancies made left right and centre. People were marched off the premises without any warning. Ironically, as soon as the Oracle system replaced the old accounting system my job in Financial Accounts became redundant. Luckily, I was found another job working in the admin dept for one of the vocational divisions. AT&T had since moved the Central Administration to Southwest England in Chippenham. In early 1996 I was called for an interview, so to speak, and I was asked if I would like to work in Chippenham in the Cashiers Dept and I would be paid for living accommodation there or I could travel back and forth each day. I decided to take the job and travel each day, so I was up 05.30 every morning to catch the 07.30 train from Paddington every morning. I got a monthly season ticket which was cheaper for the Company than accommodation in Chippenham. Pat Stroudley also moved to Chippenham and sometimes travelled with me but later he got accommodation there. I started my new job in Chippenham in Feb 1996. I found out afterwards that the reason I was asked to go to Chippenham was because, going on in the background was the fact that AT&T no longer wanted NCR and was giving the company back, so I was there in a team to help bring the department back to London. I worked in Chippenham for 10 months They were a great bunch of people that I worked with in Chippenham and in November 1996 we were all shipped to NCR North Finchley. I liked NCR Finchley for the simple reason that they had a car park and I could drive there from door to door. Driving in the rush hour from Camden was testing though. My job in Treasury didn't last too long though as there was restructuring within the "new" NCR. The accounting centre for all of Europe was placed in Amsterdam and so was the Treasury Dept. Pat Stroudley was appointed UK Treasury Manager and he moved to Amsterdam. One thing I remember in Finchley was in 1999 one afternoon a lot of us went outside in the street to witness the Solar Eclipse which lasted about 10 mins or so. it did not go completely dark but eerily dull.

I was given the opportunity to work for NCR FSSC based in Finchley. In June 2000 our team had to go to Amsterdam for a fortnight to collect accounting processes from NCR Netherlands to bring to Finchley. It was during the 2000 Euro Football competition and that was an interesting experience. Our department was split into four teams and each team was responsible for certain country's revenue and inventory accounting. Each quarter the Team Leaders had to attend a



3-day conference in NCR Netherlands, Amsterdam and that was a break in the routine. We didn't have time to see very much of Amsterdam but in the evenings, we would go out for a meal and walk around the town. There were several departments in Finchley with employees on all 3 floors so there was always someone arranging social evenings and bonding sessions. In the summer when the evenings were long, every week four of us would play golf at a nearby Golf course until about 9pm. Another memory of Finchley was in September 2001 during our lunch break we were shocked to hear of the terrorist attack on the Twin Towers in New York. One of our colleagues had the live news on his PC and we watched in horror as the planes crashed into the Towers. Another piece of sad news while I was working in Finchley in 2003, my friend Sid Peters who introduced me to NCR passed away from a cardiac arrest at the age of 58. Sid had taken voluntary redundancy around 1991 and had started his own business.

In 2003 NCR decided to sell the lease on the Finchley building and we were all moved back to Head Office in Marylebone Road where I first started with NCR. I did 6 years in Finchley. After being back in Head Office for two years, in 2005 our work had been outsourced to different parts of the world to a company called Accenture. One of our Teams had to go to Prague to do the handover, another went to Bangalore and I had to go to do the handover to NCR Cyprus in Feb 2005. I stayed in the Hilton Hotel, Nicosia for two weeks. The second week my wife and daughter joined me. My daughter hired a car for the week and that weekend and evenings after work we spent touring the places of interest around Cyprus. Back in London a few months later we were all made redundant. I took the redundancy package and early retirement, I was 59. After almost 29 years' service I finally left NCR. During those years, although it was work there were fun times too and I learnt so much and met and became friends with many, many people whom I admired and respected, too many to mention, some are no longer with us. I will always be grateful to those who supported me throughout my employment with NCR especially those who supported me during the critical time when many people lost their jobs owing to the takeover of AT&T.

After leaving NCR and a long few months break I got a job working for the NHS at the Royal Free Hospital in Hampstead, London. One thing I learnt from working for the NHS is that if you work very hard you will get rewarded with additional work as opposed to a financial reward. My job among other things entailed inputting data into the computer system. During my time with the NHS in 2008, tragedy hit our family as our daughter was taken ill with cancer. We had 3 children, 2 girls and a boy in that order and she was the middle child. She was the one who joined us in Cyprus in 2005. Her baby daughter was only 4 months old when she was diagnosed with Non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma. She hardly ever came out of hospital and after 2 years of suffering she passed away on 23rd December 2010 at the age of 36. Her baby girl was the "Silver Lining" as we looked after her during her Mum's illness and most of her infancy along with her Dad. I think that is what kept me working at the Royal Free Hospital as the pay wasn't good, but I felt as if I was working for a good cause.

I had not gone back to St Helena since I left in 1970 mainly

because the only way to get to St Helena was by ship. It took almost two weeks from Bristol to St Helena or if you fly to Capetown and catch the same one and only ship, it will take about a week. Either way my time off from work would have been spent just on travelling. However, whilst working for the NHS I took a Sabbatical. Also, since the Falklands War in 1982, the RAF has been flying troops to and from the Falklands on a weekly basis from RAF Brize Norton in Oxford and they stop over at Ascension Island. The RAF allows 10 non-military personal to travel to Ascension if seats are available. Then from Ascension we would travel by ship to St Helena. This would've taken just over 3 days travel in all. So, after 45 years, in December 2015, we took the opportunity to go home to St Helena for Xmas. As mentioned earlier, my wife, Angela, is also from St Helena, so we were both equally excited. It was very emotional, and I felt a lump in my throat when the ship drew nearer and I saw the Island appear on the horizon. Both my parents had long since passed on also some of my friends who I grew up with in my teens had gone, along with all my Peers. Naturally almost everyone who were in their mid-forties when I left were now dead. Besides my brother who still lived there, only people of and around my generation remembered me. Jamestown, where I was born, hadn't changed because all the buildings are Listed as they are centuries old. However, outside of the only town, there is a huge expansion of new houses since we left in 1970. Young people would leave the Island for more money by going to work in the Falklands, Ascension Island and on the Royal Mail Ship that was owned by the Island. This would give them enough savings to build houses back in St Helena, hence the property boom. Almost every family on the Island now owned a car and the only major street in Jamestown was crammed on each side with parked cars. Too many for a small Island I thought. Television was introduced to the Island about 30 years ago and almost every household owned a TV. That was never heard of when I left in 1970. Somethings were expensive as the Island is not self-sufficient and everything has to be imported from UK or South Africa. Another thing we noticed was that the population had decreased from just over 5000 to just over 4000 because most families nowadays only have about 2 or 3 offspring. I am one of 8 children and that was normal in the 1940's (The Baby Boom) However, the people were still very friendly and hospitable and every day we were invited somewhere. We stayed in St Helena for almost 3 months which we enjoyed. The following year, in 2017 the Airport that they were building on the Island was completed and operational. So, you can now fly to St Helena within hours as opposed to 2 weeks by ship during my working life. The idea of the Airport was to attract tourism to help make the Island self-sufficient given time, but the world pandemic has thrown everything backwards for them in this regard. We could easily settle in St Helena, but we feel that our home is here in UK with our family and 3 grandchildren also, both my wife and I have all our siblings who have settled here and scattered over UK.

After we came back from St Helena, I returned to work at the Royal Free Hospital for a further six months and after 10 years' service with them in all, I decided to retire in June 2016. Both me and my wife are now happily retired.

That was a glimpse of my working life.



## MY LIFE IN NCR – JILL McPHAIL

First of all, may I say how very sorry I am to hear of the death of Joy Wright. She will be sadly missed at our Region 3 lunches. I, and my daughter Fiona who takes me to the lunches, always looked forward to meeting Joy at these events.

I joined NCR Head Office Marylebone Road on the 1st January 1950 (no New Year Day bank holidays in those days), and as I celebrated my 95th birthday in September this year, it is quite possible that names and dates have become confused and may not be completely accurate.

I think the lady who interviewed me and offered me the job as a temporary operator was Mrs. McLellan. I was sent to Swan and Edgar and operated a 3,000-class machine there for a couple of days and on my return to Head Office I remember Mr. Norman Bergin almost pleading with Mrs. McLellan for a demonstrator to help install machines at a bank. As I was the only person there, I was given a couple of screwdrivers and shown how to adjust debit and credit return blocks and sent to the Royal Bank of Scotland (?) in Lower Regent Street. I met NCR man Patsy Fagin (a charming man, ex-Navy Lieutenant) and confessed to him that this was my very first installation. He told me not to worry as it was also his first. Between the two of us we managed to successfully install the machines. From that day on I was a permanent employee of NCR and was assigned to the Banks Department at Head Office. I went on to install many class 3,000 machines in banks in the City and West End of London and also in other parts of the country. I loved the job.

But now to remember some of the people I worked with. I wonder how many of them are still with us. I hope there are some. Starting at the top – as I remember, was Mrs Elsa Buckner, Mr. W. B. Woods, Mr. W.R. Hart, Mr. Harold Cox, Mr. Jimmy Walker, Mr. Norman Bergin, Miss. Phil Elston, Jean Adams, Pat Yorath and me. (Jean, Pat and I were the demonstrators) On the team also was Pat Willis, she was secretary to Mr Harold Cox and later became Mrs. Rex Fleet. In 1952 I married Alastair MacPhail. Rex and Alastair were both in S.P.D. and I think it was a Mrs. Wiltshire who was head at that department.

Next to the Banks Department Office at Marylebone Road, was the Department Store Office. I can remember the people in that office but cannot remember their names. I met so many lovely people – both NCR employees and customers.

Alastair was moved from NCR Head Office to Liverpool office – his first job as salesman. We married in March 1952 and I also then worked in the Liverpool Office. Again, the names of the people we worked with escape me, but I do remember we had lots of fun alongside the work. One name that I think I remember was Rita Holmes.

In June 1952 we flew to West Africa where Alastair would continue his sales career and I would be his installation operator and demonstrator. It was a wonderful experience.

The NCR contingent whose names I can remember (I think!) were Don Bolton – Manager, Alec Manson – Service Manager and Dickie Keitch who, as I remember looked after all the office work. That was the Gold Coast (now Ghana). In Lagos, Nigeria, there was Graham ? and Paul Rasmussen.

We returned to London in 1955 and were both posted to Newcastle-Upon-Tyne. Before going to Newcastle, we attended a course in Glasgow to learn about the intricacies of the 31's and 32's. I wished my memory served me better, I can only recall the names of three of the folk in the Newcastle office – Ron Rapley, Andrew Berry and Margaret Bell. We attended a couple of conventions in Leeds – the domain of N.E. Woods (brother of W.B. Woods) and Joy Booker. Margaret Shaw also worked there, and she turned up at our next destination.

I resigned from NCR in September 1957 as I was expecting our daughter -Fiona. In December Alastair had a call from Head Office asking us to go to Trinidad in the West Indies. So, we packed up once again and by the end of January 1958 we were on our way to the sunny Caribbean. What a journey that was. We had to fly North from London due to bad weather and spent the night in Keflavik as there was a problem with the aeroplane. Then to Gander and then to Bermuda where we spent another night, more problems with the aircraft. Our next stop was Barbados and at last Trinidad. Fiona made an appearance on 14th April 1958.

Dick Shannon was the NCR agent in the West Indies and the names I remember are Roy Skinner, Joan and Alan Hurstfield, Margaret Shaw and Pat Vine. I am still in touch with Margaret and Pat.

We had a couple of months leave in the UK during the nearly six years we spent in Trinidad, sailing home on a Banana Boat. This took 17 days, and our first stop was Jamaica - picking up the bananas – we had a lovely lunch with Pat and Rex Fleet at their home.

In September 1963 Alastair was appointed to the Birmingham office, but then redirected to the Wolverhampton office. We came to live in Codsall (near Wolverhampton) on 8th January 1964 and have been here ever since. Alastair died in 1993. The retirement Fellowship lunches are a wonderful way to keep in touch with so many ex- NCR people and I would like to thank all those people who work so hard to arrange them. Harry Hardacre and Audrey, then Eric Grace and his wife and now Keith Templeman and Dene. I would also like to say thank you to all our Trustees who to my mind have done a very good job of looking after our pensions. Last, but not least, thank you to the Editor and contributors to the NCR Post Script.

I feel I cannot sign off without mentioning a few more names, some from years past, that spring to mind at the oddest of times! Les Williams, Mike Allen, Pat Smith, Joe Starling, Yvonne Bragger and Jim Battersby (London), and dear Joy Wright and Margaret Ellis.

Jill MacPhail. Region 3



## MY FIRST DAY – MIKE JONKHEERE

My first day at NCR Technical Service Department, Greenford Depot, Monday 16th November 1970.

I had been interviewed and tested at the NCR 1000 North Circular Road facility, a former Smith Crisps factory I believe, taken over in order to support the huge decimalisation program being undertaken by NCR. I was shown round the Brent Technical Service Depot which at that time was on the ground floor of the building. I was shown the machines I would be expected to work on, class 31 and class 32 which amazed me – how did an operator know what buttons to press, let alone how do you repair one! I was offered a job based at the Greenford depot, which was within walking distance to my home. So on the 16th of November 1970 I set off walking to Greenford Broadway and the NCR office in Ruislip Road. But which one – there were two, one on either side of the road. Luckily, I chose the right one and went to the rather posh reception desk. Explaining I was a new “technician” come to start a new job, I was summarily dispatched to the rear entrance of the building, as this was “the customer’s reception”! NCR Greenford was the location of the NCR Demonstrators and Operators Training School.

Greenford Technical Service Depot was at the rear of the office building in the basement. It was presided over by the manager – Vic Priddle, and the deputy manager, Dick Grantham. Vic was a CRD – Cash Register Division man, and Dick an AMD Accounting Machine Division man. In the depot was a selection of both divisions’ technicians, half a dozen or so substantial work benches (one of which I now have in my hanger) with cash registers in various states of repair, along with a couple of large accounting machines. A sign over the door to where the spare parts were kept proclaimed “Français parlé ici” – I never did find out why in all the years I worked there. The micky taking and banter between the technicians was plentiful but all good humoured. I was introduced to Tony Mouat, a technician who was to be my mentor until I could be sent for training. Tony was one of the nicest, most likeable people I have ever met, a smashing guy. Vic came out of the office where the ladies who managed the repair calls were, and asked Tony if his mate – me – could drive? Why he didn’t ask me I don’t know, but anyway, I was given the keys to an old Ford Anglia van and told to follow Tony to a garage in Ealing where the van was presumably to be repaired or serviced. We set off, not taking the route I would have chosen, but then it was obvious we were not going direct to Ealing, we ended up at the Iron Bridge Southall, where there was a café in whose car park were several other NCR vans. A mug of tea and a sausage sandwich was a very pleasant way to start ones working day I thought. Obviously, this was some sort of tradition or old charter or something, and the guys present proceeded to sort through the days calls they had been given by the ladies in the office and swapped them round to suit themselves! There were benefits to this, if someone had previous fault call at the same customer a call history was built up, repairs hints and tips passed round, and in some instances a more experienced engineer would either take the call themselves or accompany someone for support. At the end of the day though, all the calls got covered.

We then set off to deliver the van to the garage in Ealing, after which I joined Tony and we went to his first repair call. It was at the Imperial College Knightsbridge. My previous job had been with a company that manufactured film projectors, and the previous week I had helped install a xenon arc projector at this same establishment. Whilst Tony was checking us in at reception, one

of the projection room staff recognised me and came over to ask if I had come to fix the problem with the projector, and was amazed how quickly I had arrived as he had only just got off the phone to the projector company. I had to decline – though I guessed what had happened – the students had been allowed to use the projector during a gig by Deep Purple to project films as a background and had screwed up the optical sound receptor. Customers, eh!

Tony was also the class 446 engineer at Greenford, and in the afternoon, he had a planned maintenance call at a customer in the Uxbridge area. So on the way, we would pass by his house. He invited me in for lunch with him and his wife! So friendly and welcoming.

I had a thoroughly enjoyable first day. The atmosphere at the Greenford depot was really good, with a great bunch of characters too many to mention individually. I have kept in contact with two in particular – John Saward and Geoff Ryan – both it turns out also live in Brittany as do I.

And that was my very first day with NCR. I was transferred to Bonhill Street after a couple of years and did a “first day” there too. Then a transfer to Exeter depot and did a first day there (very memorable), after which a first day at Newton Abbott, then Sheldon, and finally Watford. Do I have any regrets joining NCR all those years ago? No, none whatsoever.

Mike Jonckheere

## MY WORKING LIFE AT NCR – DAVID RATCLIFFE

I started my working life at National Cash Register Company on 1st January 1950 at the age of 15 years old. I worked in the basement at Head Office in the apprentice school where we were trained in making parts for cash registers and other various machines, using lathe and bench practical experiences. This was for a period of two years, after which I moved to the factory 4th floor.

There we renovated several press down cash registers and electric models. At 18, I left to do 2 years national service. I returned to the new site at Brent Cross where I carried on repairing cash registers etc. I also trained on accounting machine class 31/32/33 and bank proof machine 450/482.

With the benefit of this experience, I transferred to field engineering at Brent Depot ending up at Greenford and then back to Brent covering several more NCR products including ATMS. I was then made redundant on the 31st October 1994 after 44 years’ service.

I had a good life at NCR and made many friends and have been married 60 years, blessed with 2 sons and 4 Grandsons.





## REGIONAL REPORTS

### Region 1 – Hamish Mackenzie

When it comes to keeping in touch, the global pandemic has impacted our region very heavily. With its organiser in the northern highlands, face to face contact has been impossible. The passage of time has brought sad news with the passing of **Scott Caldow**, former FED Center Manager in Glasgow, and **Eddie McMahon**, former FED support engineer in the Regional office, Glasgow.

Scotts funeral saw a good gathering of former colleagues who travelled from every corner of Scotland to pay their respects. Sadly my own journey from the north to the kingdom of Fife to attend Eddie's funeral was halted at Drumochter Pass for 7 hours, when storms and multiple accidents blocked the road.

Phone call and Email chats have not encouraged us to consider a regional meal. At one time, November showed some promise, but Covid statistics soon barred further planning. How we all look forward to getting together, and share memories of Scott, Eddie and others who are no longer with us. We look forward to better times.

### Regions 2E & 2W – Pat Keogh

The feedback from the members was to delay the lunches to allow things to settle down and encourage more members to attend. On this basis the lunches were moved from Mid-October to the last week in November. The East lunch was held on Wednesday 24th of November and the West on the 25th.

#### Northeast Lunch

I had great difficulty organising the lunches this time as Otley Golf Club emerged from the pandemic with a new business plan, 30% more expensive. They finally agreed to let us hold this lunch on our previous terms and discuss our



**Ian Ormerod** talking to **Alan** and **Sandy Dixon**. I was sat on the empty chair on the right. Ian is a great supporter of the northern lunches. He originally comes from the Northwest and once helped run their lunches. He travels all the way from the South, attends both lunches and visits old friends.

future. We had this discussion at the end of the lunch.

I went to this lunch with the intention of discussing where we were going to move to, but the 20 attendees were reluctant to move from Otley Golf Club due to the high quality of the meals and the beautiful setting. They tasked me with negotiating a new position with the club that met our needs and didn't break the bank. Watch this space.

I was without the assistance of **Peter Cundall** who passed away almost twelve months ago. Peter always took the photos. This task was left to me this time which is why I do not appear in any of the photos. Some may say this is a good thing. The club had set the tables out with 7 people at a 12 table so I took the photos at the bar where everyone was limbering up before the meal.



**Sandy McMillan, Pete Scanlon, Geoff Smith** and their better halves.



The two **Keith's, Penny** and **Stansfield** being supported by the bar.



## Regions 2E &amp; 2W – continued



**Jacque Sale, Steve Gates** (now fully retired due to lack of ATM work), **Ian Beveridge, Dave Torrance** (also now retired), **Dave Dawson, Andrew Hill** and Jacque's better half, **Dick Sale**, who looks well after his major open heart surgery in June. They both caught Covid in September and Jacque took some weeks to recover.



Well it's nearly four o'clock and they're still talking about ATM's and the good old days.

All the attendees were very happy to have a get together again and the food was of the highest quality. We had Soup or Pate to start with followed by a Beef and Ham Carvery, Sweet and Coffee.

**Peter Ramsden** had his name down to attend as his Son (Boss) wasn't well, but he recovered and a boiler fitting for a lady in her eighty's dropped him into his new role as plumber's mate.

**Mike Wood's wife** Mary was very ill and they couldn't attend, nor could Terry Bearpark who is in forced isolation. **Peter Carruthers** is also too ill but hopes to see us in May.

**Norman Roberts** and his wife felt that the time was not yet right. They are staying safe. As are **Philip Wilkinson** and his wife June, but managed to celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary.

**Doreen Collins** has once again updated me on Dave's progress. He is still not able to walk very well and shows little improvement after his strokes.

June and Malcolm are both fine enough to be away at this time and **Bob Appleby** hopes to see us in May as does **Rodger Fearnside**.

**Margaret Ellis** wishes everyone a happy Christmas and looks forward to seeing us in the spring.

**Walter Scarth** had a stroke earlier in the year and is still limited as to how far he can travel.

**Walter Bullen** was unable to attend as looking after Jean's dementia is taking up most of his time. Walter and Jean were always regular attendees.

**Baz Pickard** and **Mike Green** were not looking forward to the over 200 mile round trip in possibly bad weather but will see us in the spring. Sod's law, it was a beautiful sunny day.

As for myself, the family are all well though I have slowed down a lot. I am not able to spend as much time on the screen. On the next zoom call if I look as though I have fallen asleep then I probably have fallen asleep. Being stuck inside for so much time has also probably contributed. It was nice to get over to the Northwest lunch but it took its toll as I was out of sorts for some days after. In hindsight, I should have gone for the previous week so that I could have submitted this report before the deadline.

It was nice to see though that the **Northwest Lunch** had a good gathering of 17, the highest number since I restarted the lunches.



**Dave Cooper** and his wife Diane are on the left of this photo with **Dennis Malkin, Mike Heaslip** and **Ken Houghton** (The Liverpool three musketeers) at the back. In the forefront **Ian Ormerod** completes this group. Dave has since forwarded me two contact email addresses and expressed how much he and Diane enjoyed the event.



**Derek Williams** sits top left of this group next to **Jeff Evans**. Down the side we have **John Orrell, Peter Cole** and **Mike Halligan**. **Peter Cole** has supplied a lot of new contacts for the Northwest list which will expand future attendance. One of these is **Jean Faulkner** who has since emailed me and asked to be added to the list.



## Regions 2E &amp; 2W – continued



At the other end of this same table sits **Peter Cooke, Nick Frederickson and Rex Keating** on the right. Peter and Rex are new attendees and look forward to future get togethers.

**Ray Jones** was waiting for a combi boiler engineer to arrive and **Derek Allan** was at the dentist.

**Cheryl Gradwell** (previously **Briscoe**) has just moved house. Cheryl, who worked in the Liverpool office has attended a previous lunch and looks forward to seeing everyone next year.

**John Chedotal**, who brought Cheryl to a previous lunch, writes, "We are okay but just struggling through the tail end of a nasty cold that turned into a persistent cough and a chest infection for Linda. I am still working and actually kept a day's holiday free for the lunch this year, but I don't want to risk leave Linda on her own with the two babies and one dog that we look after now for our kids.

**Derek Taubman** from the Isle of Man writes "I am not able to get over for the lunches, travel costs etc.

Thanks for still keeping in touch. All the best to all the guys, I hope to make it to one of the lunches one day."

**Aurther Southall** writes "Hi Pat, thank you for your continued efforts to arrange lunches, not an easy task and it is very much appreciated. I was with brother Charles yesterday and we discussed our options at length. While we would love to attend, neither of us are as fit as we would like to be at the moment so we won't be able to on this occasion. I say on this occasion because we are optimistic that we will be well enough for future lunches if you are able to arrange them. Would you please give our best regards to all our colleagues.

Thanks again for your efforts Pat, we are keen to meet up with everyone in the future. Best wishes, Arthur.

## Summary

**Graham Brookman** had previously sent me six extra copies of the last Postscript, two for **John Limn's** son and daughter and four to use at the lunches to promote membership. Ian

and I gave an encouraging presentation at both lunches which was well received. I was tasked with getting an electronic copy of the application form out to everyone.

In preparing for these two lunches there was genuine concern supporting a later lunch date because of Covid. As it happens some members still did not attend for this reason. In hindsight though, I should have gone for the previous week so that I could have submitted this report before the deadline and not risk missing insertion. I can only apologise to the editor for increasing his workload but my intentions were good.

These lunches show that things are sort of back to normal. Let's hope Christmas takes place and we are able to hold our lunches as normal next year.

## Region 3 – Keith Templeman

On Thursday 14th October 26 of our members, spouses and friends were scheduled to meet at the George Hotel in Lichfield today. However, 6 had to cancel at the 11th hour for various reasons leaving 20 of us to enjoy a good lunch and a chat after all this time. The last time we met was two years ago in October 2019.

It was great to be back to welcome the familiar faces and to return to some form of normality.

Present today:

**Ian Ormerod** with his wife **Sheila**, **Ian Davidson** with **Kay**, **Clarence Allbutt**, **Keith Templeman** and **Dene**, **Jim McHugh**, **Kevin Rixson** and **Marion**, **Joe Teeling** with **Jenny**, **Jill MacPhail** with her daughter **Fiona** and husband **John**, **Les Clarke**, **Barry Skelding** and **Pete Selwyn**, Friends joining us who are still formally to join the Fellowship: **Simon Holmes** and **David Cooksey**.

Apologies were received from **Gert Bakker**, **Peter Haywood**, **Dave Beattie**, **Yatish Ranch**, **Brian Briggs**, **Richard Baker**, **Keith Hemming**, **Phil Rock** and **John Latty**. **Joy Maskall** is in the process of moving to the Forrest of Dean to be near her son. It is unlikely that she will attend future lunches and we wish her all the best for the future.

**Graham Brookman** has had some health problems so has dropped out of the group for a while.

Our president **Stephen Swinbank** and chair **Lin Sandel** sent best wishes to the group. Next Lunch:

Our next spring lunch will be on Thursday 7th April, 2022. Invitations will be sent out approximately 6 weeks before. I would be grateful if regular attendees let me know if they do not receive an invitation to guard against any mail gremlins.

## DEFINITION OF OLD AGE

When it takes all night to do  
what you used to do all night



## Region 4 – Roger Whelan

After last year's cancellation of the London Region's annual lunch, it was a great relief to be able to hold this year's lunch at the Corus Hotel in Lancaster Gate on Wednesday 6th October 2021. Numbers were down, understandably, as there is still a prevailing wariness about travelling on public transport, but fortunately the roll-out of the vaccination programme has encouraged many of us to re-socialise after the experience of a stir-crazy year of lockdowns.

The lunch went off very well, aided by the enjoyment of getting together again and perhaps also by a more than usually generous helping of wine.

As ever, it was a great pleasure to meet up with former colleagues and to get to know people I hadn't met during workdays. Unfortunately, **Geoff Jackson**, our roving paparazzo, couldn't make it this time for medical reasons, so I attempted to fill in for him – with what success you can judge from the accompanying pictures. **Lin Sandell** unfortunately couldn't attend this time either.

According to the feedback I got, there was general satisfaction with the food, the service and the arrangements. The hotel is keen to continue providing good service and so, if there are any suggestions for improvement, please let me know and we'll try to take them into account for next year.

There were 30 Fellowship guests this year, a good convivial attendance considering the present climate, and it also meant we could do without the PA system this time.

The re-usable name badges again worked well, and I hope everyone got the hot meal they ordered, that is, if they could remember what they did order!

There is a list of attendees at the end of this report as a reminder for all those who were present. This could be used as a prompt to tempt others to come and join us next year and continue to make it an enjoyable annual reunion.

I would like to thank everyone who sent me their email address. Half of the invitations were sent by email to save postage, however, this was not a complete success as there were still a few members who didn't receive their invitation. Please let me know if you have changed your email address in the meantime. I will persevere with this method of sending out the invitations and will of course post invitations to anyone who prefers that method or who do not have the facilities to receive or send emails,

As always, I am extremely grateful to **Chrissie Young** and **John Atkins** who generously helped out with the registration.

I look forward to seeing everyone again at next year's London Lunch which will be on Wednesday 5th October 2022. Invitations will go out in late June or early July.

The following guests attended: **Niall Anderson, John Atkins, Wallace Avery, Ernie Brewer, Alan Chard, Ida Daly, Ian Davidson, John Davies, John Fenner, Trevor Friend, Robert Gray, Bernard Harris, Ray Harris, Nigel Hensman, Melville Hill, Keith Hollands, Ann Humphreys,**

**Paul Livesey, Rodger Main, Christopher Marles, Steve Matthews, Andy Morss, Ian Ormerod, Eric Page, John Smith, Catherine Sunderland, Stephen Swinbank, Roger Whelan, Paul Williams, Chrissy Young.**





Region 4 – continued



Region 5 – Tom Elliott

I have been in contact with most of the Region 5 members and report on them:-

Peter Bodley is okay, lives in Somerset and is in his 80's so isn't about to rush up to join us at any time. Tony and Fay Welch are doing well and recently celebrated the arrival of a great grandchild. Estelle Sillett is well and receives regular family visits.

Neville Hurrion does not get about much but is interested in news of NCR. Dave Lawton is keeping busy, as ever. Brian Seddon has stopped playing with trains at long last but still retains his enthusiasm for steam. Dave Midgely has had problems with being in the wrong place at the wrong time with the lockdowns but is looking for a permanent residence on the East coast of Kent. Owen Riches, Bob Chilton, Rod Nash, Ray Howes and yours truly are all okay albeit feeling our age.

The possibility of an Autumn meeting came and went due to circumstances beyond our control and the new variant seems as if it will add further delays but we remain ever hopeful for the Spring.



### Region 7 – John Jones

Things are not yet back to normal but at least we have managed a get together that was well attended.

Several members are still being cautious and not attending functions but have taken to time to let me know how they are doing. This includes **Maurice & Pat Keene**, **Chris Mumford**, **Rita Keitch**, **Rob Fairbairn**, **Barry & Pat Avery**, **Paul & Angela Bryant** and **Bill Hudson** who will be off travelling as soon as possible. Someone who can't travel much these days is **Johnny Watts** who has trouble with his balance but is still as chatty as ever.

**Geoff Jackson** is still well enough to go travelling in the Lakes. **Michael Wells** is also still being cautious. **Roy Back** didn't feel well enough to come.

I booked a table at The Redwood Farm Inn, Cribbs Causeway Bristol for 16 people and with a week to go numbers were still fluctuating however on the day it was alright and I didn't lose my deposit.

**Annie and Bev Cunningham**, **Peter Bodley**, **Fred Macey**, **Jessie Wallace** and **Martin**, **Mary Leader**, **Ian Ormerod**, **Graham and Carol Watt**, **Mike and Christine Sanford**, **Wayne & Angela Edmund**, (taking time off from film star duties with His Magnificent Creatures). **Keith Ponting** had to cancel at the last minute as wife Margaret had succumbed to an allergic reaction. **Jean Cheek** had wanted to come and I had transport arranged but she had an accident whilst doing some gardening and was having difficulty walking.

Having asked everyone which day of the week was their first choice and by process of elimination arrived at a Tuesday not in the first week, I thought I had cracked it. However **Dennis Williams'** daughter has a birthday on the one Tuesday that I have to pick, better luck next year Dennis. **Sue Hooper** sent her apologies and best wishes to all who remember her.

I managed to get a few photos with my old camera (must really get to grips with the mobile) and somebody even took one of me complete with Boris style hair.

I think everyone had a good time and it was nice to renew all the old friendships again.

Let us hope for another bigger and better one next year.



Graham & Carol Watt



Mike & Christine Sanford



Ian Ormerod, Mary Leader & Fred Macey



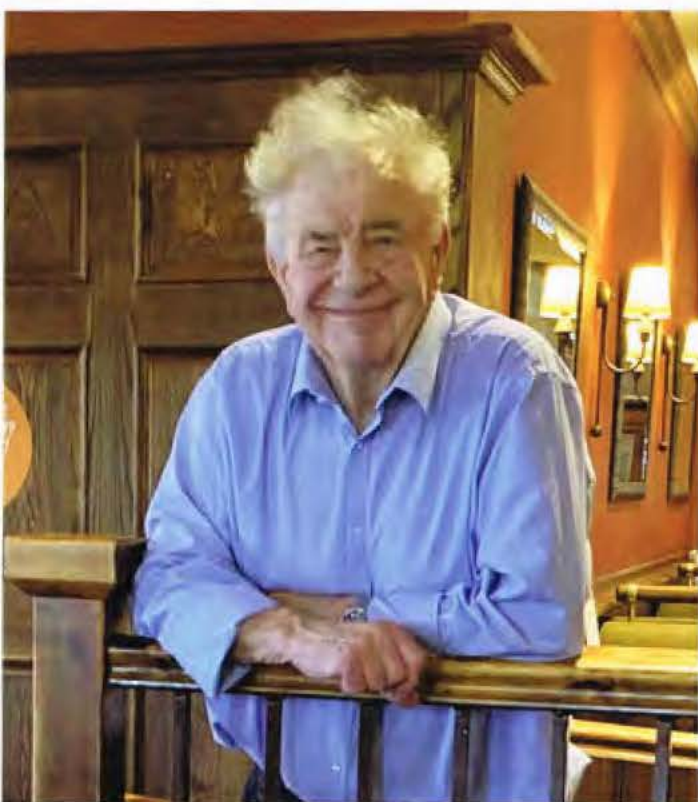
Wayne & Angela Edmund



Region 7 – continued



Annie & Bev Cunningham



jj by Fred

Region 9 – Adrian Gallagher

On Monday 25th October 2021, Region 9 held their first luncheon get-together for nearly 2 years at the Devon Hotel, Exeter. This was my inaugural event as the new organiser taking over from **Jessie Wallace**.

It was agreed that we all had a great lunch and it was lovely to catch up with those we have not seen for so long.

Sadly not everyone had avoided the dreadful Covid-19 and some had badly suffered with its effects.

We had a good attendance of 12 people namely, **Jessie**

**Wallace & Martin Prosser, Derek & Pam Knibb, John Stevenson, Cris & Wendy Mackie, Graham Storer & Julie Mair, Martyn Phipps** and finally my wife Louise and I. Apologies were received from John's wife **Margaret Stevenson, Geoff Jackson** and **Geoff & Angela Cooper**.

An especially big thank you to **John Stevenson, Jessie Wallace** and **Martin Prosser** for coming such a long distance to join us.

I gave a very brief statement and requested news stories for the Post Script.

I also thanked **Jessie Wallace** for all her hard work running the Region and only hoped I could live up to the high standards she has set. We then presented her with a bunch of flowers as a small thank you.

Looking forward and restrictions allowing, we hope to arrange our next get-together some time early next summer, with our annual meal expected to be held again in late October 2022. All details will be communicated nearer the time

Thank you all for all your help and support and I look forward to meeting up again soon.

Take care and a merry Christmas & happy new year to you all. Stay safe.



Jessie Wallace receiving her flowers, with Derek Knibb sat beside her.



Region 9 – continued



People front left going clockwise:  
 Cris Mackie, Wendy Mackie, Graham Storer, John Stevenson, Jessie Wallace, Derek Knibb.  
 Coming back down the other side, Pam Knibb, Martin Prosser, Martyn Phipps, Julie Mair, Louise Gallagher.



People from front left going clockwise:  
 Pam Knibb, Martin Prosser, Martyn Phipps, Julie Mair, Louise Gallagher.  
 Coming back down the other side, Cris Mackie, Wendy Mackie, Graham Storer, John Stevenson, Jessie Wallace, Derek Knibb.

## WINTER COMPETITION CELEBRATING 50 YEARS OF DECIMAL CURRENCY 1971-2021

To Celebrate this anniversary here is a competition for you all. To make it easy the answers are all numbers or dates. (Nearest answers will count in case of no-one getting an answer to a question correct)

### PRIZES *Prizes are from the Royal Mint*

**First:**  
 A limited edition 2021 'Brilliant Uncirculated 50p coin'



**Second:**  
 A Decimalization Tea Towel



**Third:**  
 D Day new Coins



**Answers please to [ian.ormerod@ncrfellowship.uk](mailto:ian.ormerod@ncrfellowship.uk) or post to  
 Ian Ormerod, Jasmine Cottage, Hillersland Lane, Coleford GL16 7NU.**

- 1 What was the predecessor of the NCR Class 31?
  - 2 How many "National Service Depots" were there throughout the British Isles in 1964?
  - 3 What value were the three new silver coins for 1971?
- In which year did the following events happen?
- 4 NCR Ltd's registration in the UK?
  - 5 The building of NCR's first Scottish factory in UK?
  - 6 The Balcombe Street siege, close to Head Office?
  - 7 The first NCR ATM installation in UK?
  - 8 The National Cash Register company become NCR Corporation?
  - 9 AT&T's takeover of NCR?
  - 10 NCR Corporation leaving Dayton?
  - 11 The first year in which NCR Postscript was published?
  - 12 When was NCR's personal computer the 'Decision Mate V' introduced?

**Don't forget, you don't need to be exact so "Have a Go"**



# The NCR Fellowship

**PRESIDENT:**  
Stephen Swinbank

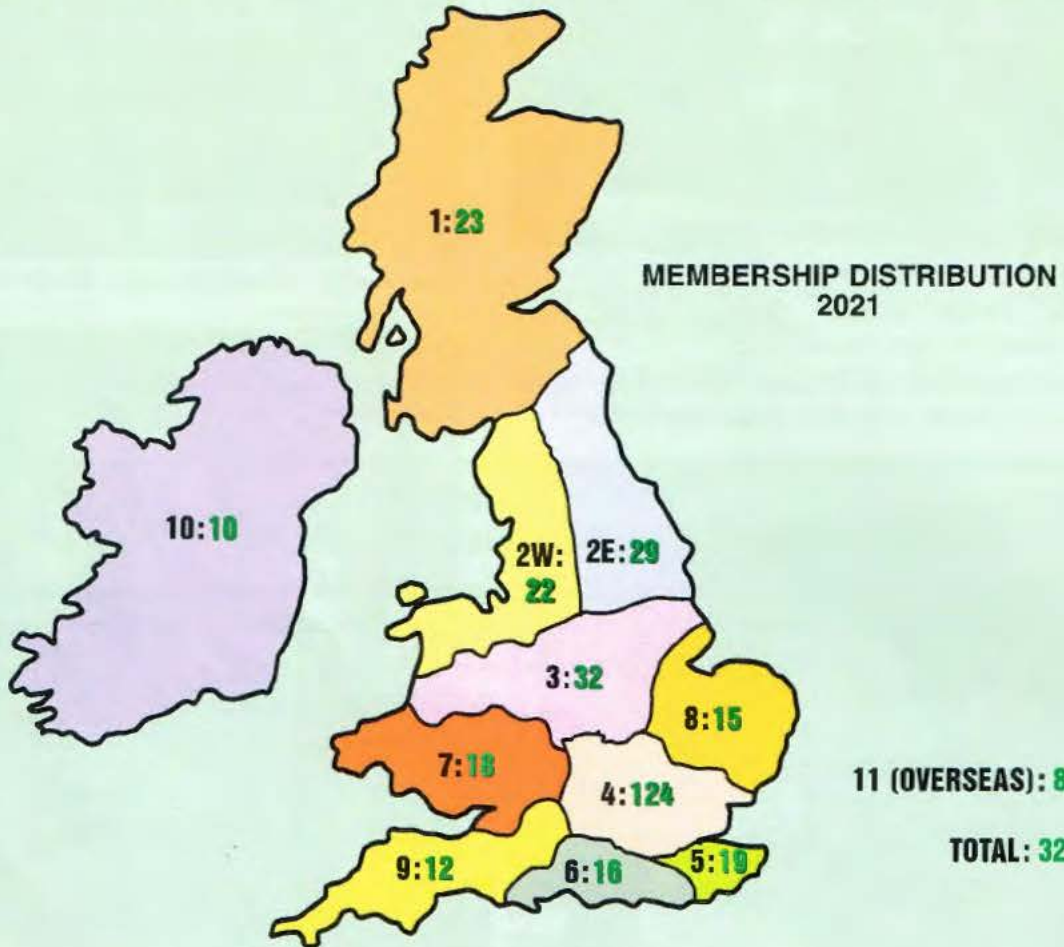
## ORGANISING COMMITTEE

**CHAIRMAN & TREASURER:** Lin Sandell

**SECRETARY:** John Atkins

**EDITOR "POSTSCRIPT":** Pat Stroudley

**EDITOR EMERITUS:** Geoff Jackson



## REGIONAL ORGANISERS

Region 1: Hamish Mackenzie

Region 6: Alan Hutchins

Regions 2E and 2W: Pat Keogh

Region 7: John Jones

Region 3: Keith Templeman

Region 8: Richard Craigie

Region 4: Roger Whelan

Region 9: Adrian Gallagher

Region 5: Tom Elliot

Region 10: Ken Carson

NCR RETROSPECTIVE WEBSITE: [www.ncr.org.uk](http://www.ncr.org.uk)