

Comptometer

M E D L E Y



A MAGAZINE FOR ALL
COMPTOMETER OPERATORS

COMPTOMETER

MEDLEY - - - -

No. 3 NEW SERIES

This Magazine is published from time to time and a copy of each edition is sent to every Comptometer Operator on Felt & Tarrant's Mailing List.

AND MAY WE REMIND YOU—

The name "Comptometer" belongs to Felt & Tarrant and cannot be used to describe any other make of Adding & Calculating Machine. For many years, in fact, the Firm has used this slogan—

**"IF IT'S NOT MADE BY FELT & TARRANT
IT'S NOT A COMPTOMETER".**

October, 1947.

Comptometer Medley

a magazine for all Comptometer Operators

Editorial

Many readers have kindly written to say how pleased they would be if we could send them a "Medley" every month, or, better still, every week. This is all very encouraging to your Committee but we must explain that your magazine is not a registered periodical and is not on sale. It is produced by the staff of FELT & TARRANT with the assistance of Operators' own efforts. Most of it is a spare-time job. There are still restrictions on the use of paper, of which three tons are needed for each issue of 30,000 copies, including envelopes. In view of all this, it is no mean achievement to publish about twice a year and to post a free copy of each edition to every operator on the mailing list.

Last Spring saw the completion of the first cycle of reunions and brought the total number of guests

to nearly 15,000. By the time this reaches you, a further series will have begun and will continue during the Winter. You will find further details overleaf. The main factor that influenced FELT & TARRANT to grant so many "repeats" was the large number of letters received from Operators everywhere saying how much they had enjoyed the reunions and how much they were looking forward to more. Well, you wished upon a star, and the stars will, we hope, bring you pleasure.

We are happy to note that several operators' contributions have gained awards in this issue, and these include quite a lot of guineas for photographs in the senior operators' and relatives' sections. We hope this will encourage many operators to submit something for the next edition.

"Let's Get Together Again"

"By Request" mostly indicates something of outstanding popularity. It will, therefore, be good news to the thousands who have requested more reunions when we tell them that FELT & TARRANT have agreed to provide a further series of "shows" this Winter.

Changing conditions have made it necessary to vary the nature of the reunions to some extent. It is, for example, almost impossible to supply refreshments in most places owing to the large numbers involved, but it is hoped that the alternative attraction of popular stars will more than compensate for the absence of a buffet. This type of evening, including most of the other features of the first reunions, was tried out in London last Spring and was an enormous success, as you may see for yourselves on other pages. Guests made their feeding arrangements according to individual taste, and we gather that "haversack rations" were well to the fore.

The new round of "shows" will be in full swing by the time you receive this edition, but the following dates are given as a matter of interest and include all that have so far been fixed.

1947

- 7th Oct. BIRMINGHAM & COVENTRY DISTRICTS at the Town Hall, Birmingham.
- 10th Oct. LIVERPOOL DISTRICTS at the Philharmonic Hall, Liverpool
- 24th Oct. MANCHESTER DISTRICTS at the Albert Hall, Manchester.
- 29th Oct. MIDDLESBROUGH DISTRICT at the Town Hall, Middlesbrough.
- 6th Nov. BRISTOL DISTRICTS at the Victoria Rooms, Bristol.
- 12th Nov. LEEDS & BRADFORD DISTRICTS at the Town Hall, Leeds
- 14th Nov. NEWCASTLE DISTRICTS at the Town Hall, Newcastle-on-Tyne.
- 21st Nov. LEICESTER DISTRICTS at the Corn Exchange, Leicester.

The reunions are usually from 6.30 to 9.30 p.m. and thus make it fairly easy for operators to travel from neighbouring towns. Last year several private bus parties were arranged for this purpose, especially where many operators are employed by the same Firm, and this is an idea that might be extended this year. The centres have been selected with a view to enabling the largest number of operators to get in from outlying districts. The more the merrier!

We cannot give you here the names of the stars who will entertain you, as the bookings have to be made according to their other engagements and there are frequent last-minute alterations, but you will, we believe, be well pleased with whatever show you attend.

Fuller details will be sent to every operator on the mailing lists prior to their local reunion, but if by any chance you have heard nothing about ten days before the date, please make enquiries at your local Comptometer School.

1947

- 25th Nov. SOUTH WALES DISTRICTS at the Assembly Room, City Hall, Cardiff.
- 10th Dec. EDINBURGH DISTRICTS at the Freemason's Hall, Edinburgh.

- 11th Dec. GLASGOW DISTRICTS at the St. Andrews Hall, Glasgow.

1948

- 23rd Jan. HULL DISTRICTS at the Sir Philip Reckitt Hall, Hull.
- 11th & 12th Mar. LONDON & S. E. ENGLAND at The Kingsway Hall, W.C.2
- 23rd Mar. SHEFFIELD DISTRICTS at the Lower Cutlers Hall, Sheffield.
- NOTTINGHAM to follow, but exact date not fixed.



(Photograph by Yeldham Unwin)

... and Company (Unlimited).

The Editor has been browsing through hundreds of photographs and other records of the first series of post-war reunions and has rediscovered some very interesting items.

The above picture, for example, shows 22 operators who attended Coventry Reunion, but the remarkable point is that they were all employed at the time by one firm, namely, Courtaulds Ltd. Readers may remember that another strong contingent at Coventry was pictured in our last issue and showed 26 operators from the Sir W. G. Armstrong-Whitworth Aircraft Co. Ltd.

This is almost equalled by the grand turnout of 25 operators and a guest of honour from Stewarts & Lloyds Ltd., Corby. You can see them below, photographed at the Leicester party.



Getting Around!

BEAUTY PRIZE AND FILMS

Under the heading "Carrots Walked In—Was Film Actress for Two Minutes" the 'Daily Mirror' described the adventure of red-haired Barbara Smart, 21, of Birmingham, who is a Comptometer Operator in a Store.

As a prize for winning the staff beauty competition, she went on a trip to Elstree and was watching the shooting of "No Nightingale" when a director asked her if she would take the place of a small-part actress who had not arrived. So Carrots, crinolined and made up, quickly learned her lines and became a film actress for a few exciting moments.

WITH UNITED STATES FORCES

From Miss Kathleen Lunn, whose home is at Withernsea, came an interesting account of her work as a Comptometer Operator with the Transport Corps of the American Forces in Germany. Apart from week-ends spent in ski-ing and ice-skating and leaves for winter sports in Bavaria, Miss Lunn found time for foreign exchange calculations and for computing timber to make cabins for displaced persons. She worked with only about 50% Americans, the others being Luxembourg, Belgian, French, Dutch, Swedish and Swiss. Altogether a most exhilarating experience.

FROM BIRMINGHAM TO MONTANA

Once upon a time there was a Comptometer Operator who lived in West Bromwich and her name was Beryl Green. One day she went with a girl friend to a Birmingham restaurant—self-service type—but was having difficulty in carrying her tray when a soldier asked her if he could help. He could, and did, and the three of them sat down together and subsequently parted the best of pals.

"Next day," says the 'Birmingham Evening Despatch' in which we saw this true fairy tale, "Beryl went to catch a bus and who did she bump into again but the soldier friend?"

After this it was no good striving against Fate any longer and further meetings were arranged.

The soldier was Albert Richard, a wheat farmer with some 3,500 acres in Loma, Montana. He agreed to wait for Beryl until she became 21, and he went back to the wide open spaces to practise wheat-farming and patience. Later he sent the money to cover the journey to Montana and Beryl had a hectic time getting away, finally securing the last seat in a plane from Shannon to America.

Operators in Birmingham may remember Beryl for her concert party work during the war, her speciality being impressions of Carmen Miranda. She was a member of the Victoria Concert Party, run in connection with the social side of J. Brockhouse & Co., of Hill Top, and has performed at the Queensberry All-Services Club in Birmingham.

FROM COVENTRY TO KENTUCKY

Now very happily installed in her "Old Kentucky Home" is Mrs. Margaret Webster (nee Watson) who travelled from Newcastle to Coventry in 1943 to become a Comptometer Operator with a large firm of electrical manufacturers.

It's a far cry from Coventry to Kentucky, but G.I. Joe is a quick worker. He met Margaret in April 1945, and on 2nd May of that same year he asked her to marry him on 5th May as he had had orders to sail for America. So Margaret had just 2½ days to prepare for a white wedding, reception, and week-end honeymoon, and a very pretty bride she made. After that there came the sadness of separation, as G.I. brides had to be left behind. It was January, 1946, before Margaret received her sailing instructions, and these meant another mad rush as she had only three days to pack, report to camp and sail in the "Queen Mary". She docked in New York on 10th February, when her husband gave her a solitaire engagement ring which there had been no time to buy in England.

To complete this happy account, which has been given to us by Miss E. Horton who was a fellow-operator, we have pleasure to add that a cable was received last November announcing the arrival of David. A photograph came

GETTING AROUND! (continued)

later and shows that David is a fine youngster who ought to do great things in Kentucky some day.

Miss Horton adds that David was named after a schoolmaster relative who had chosen Comptometer Operating as a career for Margaret.

INTERNATIONAL BRIDGE

A Scottish bridge team which beat Eire in this year's match included Mr. T. G. Porteous, his wife and his wife's sister, Mrs. W. W. Davidson (nee Alexander). We noticed in the newspapers that the same team had been selected to play against Wales at Cardiff. This will be of interest to Edinburgh operators who know Mr. Porteous as Felt & Tarrant's Manager in Edinburgh, and who may also know that the two ladies are ex-Comptometer Operators. We don't know much about bridge, but we believe quickness of brain and hand is a great asset. Perhaps this team was assisted by their background of Comptometer training—a kind of extra ace up their sleeves, but that must not be taken too literally.

GOOD WORK!

Any operators who visited the "—And So To Work" Exhibition in London probably noticed the stand which showed Comptometers being expertly operated.

The background to this Exhibition is worth emphasising. All the stands, covering a very wide range of trades and crafts, were manned by ex-service people and civilians of both sexes who were prevented from following their former occupations because of disablement. They have been brought back to a useful and interesting life by the splendid work of the Queen Elizabeth's Training College at Leatherhead and the St. Loyes College at Exeter. These Colleges for rehabilitating the disabled owe much of their success to the enthusiasm of Dame Georgiana Buller and they are run in co-operation with the Ministry of Labour and National Service.

The Comptometer is used at Exeter for the training of operators, and at Leatherhead it is part of the prescribed syllabus for the training of Builders' Clerks. Felt & Tarrant have supplied Comptometers on loan to both Colleges as some small contribution to a very worthy cause.

WHO WANTS

SOME HALF-GUINEAS?

The demand for Comptometer Operators still grows so rapidly that it is difficult to find sufficient pupils for Comptometer Schools.

In practically every area there is a scheme whereby any past or present operator is awarded 10/6 for every introduction that leads to a new pupil being accepted. There is no limit to the number of half-guineas that may be awarded to any one person. All you have to do is to send the names and addresses to the local Comptometer School so that full details can be sent to your nominees.

Anything you can do in this direction will, apart from bringing you extra pocket money, greatly assist the Nation's industries, all of which are crying out for Comptometer Operators.

The School addresses are on the back cover. Why not think about it at once?

UNUSUAL EXPERIENCES

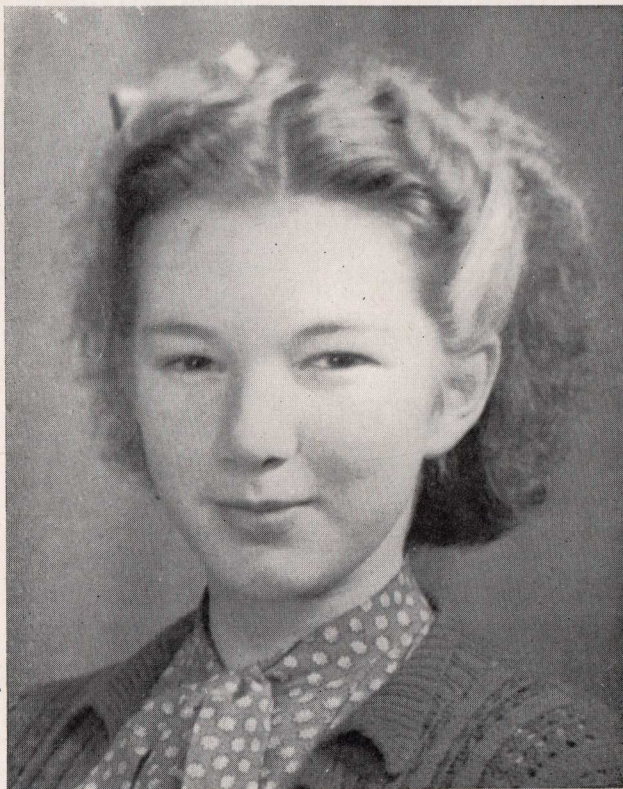
On the opposite page we publish interesting accounts of operators who have gone overseas. We have also heard rumours of operators whose jobs are of exceptional interest, such as the girl who can only get to her office on a private miniature railway that puffs its way through the bowels of ancient rock formations, or the girl at Oxford University who calculates tides throughout the world.

We would be glad to have details of anything of this nature, with clear photographs if possible, and prizes will, of course, be awarded if they are published.

CALENDARS FOR 1948

Felt & Tarrant have, not without difficulty, obtained enough celluloid to make their popular calendars again for the coming year. Operators who have had them in the past will recall that they are so durable that they last the whole year even in pockets and handbags. Each operator on the mailing lists will receive one early in the New Year and should then apply to their local School if they want one or two more.

YOUNG OPERATOR MEETS PRINCESS ELIZABETH



Miss Eleanor Ross of Edinburgh

All of us have our Red Letter days which we remember for the rest of our lives.

Miss Eleanor Ross, 17 year old operator with the L.N.E.R., is quite certain about one of her own special days. Along with eight other girls representing the Scottish Association of Girls' Clubs, she was presented to Princess Elizabeth and Lieut. Philip Mountbatten.

The occasion was the Youth & Service Ball in Edinburgh last July, and was one of the first Balls at which the Princess appeared after her betrothal had been announced. Miss Ross says the scene was magnificent with uniforms, tartans, lovely dresses and jewelled tiaras. The ball went gaily on until 4 a.m. and the Princess remained until the end. Miss Ross admits that wild horses couldn't have dragged her away either, and what she told us about the Buffet but why should we torture ourselves? No wonder it was a night to remember!



Violet and Davina Oliphant, sisters from Bonny Scotland, are operators in Glasgow. If we can judge from the photograph, they are both happy at their work!

Could this be sarcasm?

We all love our office, the boss is a treasure,
The pay is too much and the work is a pleasure;
We long to get back to our Comps. on a Monday;
Oh why don't they let us come in on a Sunday?
The work with our colleagues is happy and joyous;
Half-days and holidays simply annoy us;
Our labours, in fact, are so rich in enjoyment,
We'd pay lots of dough just to keep our employment.

A. CRAMPTON.

Letter from a Stage & Radio Star.

I was delighted to receive the photograph taken at the Concert in the Kingsway Hall. May I express my gratitude and thanks for the attention and courtesy extended to us on both occasions. The photograph will be a happy reminder of an evening of beauty and kindness.

Sincerely,

James Etherington.

Talking of Twins.

There is always a fascination about twins and we are delighted to show seven "sets" of twin operators in this issue (*See pages 28, 29, 30*).

The Editor now wants to know if there are any triplets who are operators. Can anyone oblige?

Apart from this, we would like to show further pictures of twins and other relatives in future editions. We also welcome portraits of senior operators. There is a prize of £1. 1s. od. for every operator whose photo is printed in the "Relatives" or "Gallery of Honour" sections. Will you please send us yours right away before you forget.

Greetings to Dublin and Belfast.

We would like to send a special message of goodwill to all operators in Eire and Northern Ireland. They are never forgotten and it is hoped to arrange some social events there when conditions are a little easier.

GALLERY of **HONOUR**

We devoted several pages of our last issue to Comptometer Operators with long and honourable service. The tribute was well-deserved and has drawn favourable comment from many quarters, especially from firms who are employing one or more of these worthy ladies. The firms are as proud of such operators as the operators are modestly proud of their splendid records.

We take much pleasure in publishing further photographs herewith and we sincerely congratulate these senior operators on their meritorious service, and on that fine vigorous spirit which is so well characterised in these series of portraits.

It is always interesting to know what senior operators think about Comptometer Operating. Miss Hilda Odell, who has been operating for nearly 32 years, writes "*I am enclosing a photo and shall be happy for it to be included with my best wishes to younger operators and with the knowledge that being a Comptometer Operator is similar to an insurance, which endows you for a livelihood always.*"

Similar sentiments have been expressed by many other long-service operators and are very encouraging to youngsters who are just starting out.



Miss Jessie Smale, who must have coped with prodigious numbers of figures in her 33 years with the London Co-op Society.



For over thirty-one years Miss Hilda R. Odell has operated in London to the great benefit of British business.

Thirty one years seems to be a popular line: Miss C. M. Vickery has just completed her thirty-first with the same Cardiff firm.

In 1926 Mrs. Helen MacGregor was the first operator to take the Comptometer Diploma in the Middlesbrough area.





Top Left : After 32 years in Manchester with Tootal Broadhurst Lee & Co. Ltd., Mrs. Doris Barnes must be as well acquainted with the linen trade as she is with the Comptometer.

Top Right : Mrs. Ethel F. Smithson was a pupil in the London school in 1913 and has operated in London ever since: 35 years not out.

Below : Miss L. Snow has a warm and welcome smile for the camera... after 34 years with the same London company.



Above : With the same firm for twenty-seven years is a record of which Miss G. Lewis of Cardiff might well be proud.



Mrs. E. G. Dennis (nee Jameson) became an operator 35 years ago. The photograph shows her demonstrating to Queen Mary and the late Lord Stamfordham at a Business Efficiency Exhibition in London.



Undaunted by three decades of unbroken service Miss D. E. Hem-brow, of Bristol, carries on her good work with a famous aircraft company.

Another Bristolian is Miss Connie Lewis with fifteen years service to her credit.



In charge of Comptometer Operators in a government department is Miss Gladys Nunn, who is to be congratulated on her supervisor's appointment after 32 years of operating.



Betsey Lou and Jane have a day in the country . . .

Contributed by Elizabeth Hodges.

I decided to write an article on "A Day in the Country." Having come to that decision, I realised that it was necessary to have the right "atmosphere" so at 2 o'clock this afternoon I got out the bike and ambled along for Jane—she's my best girl friend—and we set out for the country. Luckily it isn't very far. Actually, we had decided we'd do the thing properly; make a day of it. Set out about nine in the morning with a packed lunch and then have tea at one of those sweet little cottages—you know, all roses and honeysuckle and a sign outside "Teas served here." But you know what happens to good intentions—like New Year resolutions—and there was a dance at the club last night. Who wants to get up early on a holiday morning anyway, particularly after such a wizard dance like last night's affair. I like to lie there and muse.



However, we made it, and here we are on a sort of hillock—we had to push the bike up the *cutest* little winding path—overlooking lots of country, and, if you lie on your back and look up, you can see miles and miles of sky. And, by the way, I don't like the look of those big white clouds over there. It just *can't* rain. That would be awful 'cos I've thought of the most wizard line for ending this article and the rain would just about spoil everything . . . "and so we rode slowly home in the gentle hush of evening after a perfect Day in the Country" . . . doesn't that sound romantic? Assuming a more vertical position, you can look down and see lots of rolling meadows and cows and a few sheep, and over to the left is a little copse, and just before that there's one of those cool, deep pools. I wonder if that's what you would call a limpid pool? That little airman I danced with last night said something about my eyes being like limpid pools, and I wondered

what he meant at the time, but they were playing the most heavenly waltz so I didn't wonder too long—I just let myself drift with the music. I just asked Jane if she knew what a limpid pool was, and was that one over there, but all I got by way of an answer was a grunt. Honestly, that girl has no idea. The first thing she did when we got up to this "eye of the world" was to throw herself down, close her eyes and proceed to try and get tanned—a stupid idea really 'cos she doesn't go one of those lovely browns like a proper person, she merely freckles. She won't be told though, and she'll be sorry afterwards, especially if we bump into Reg on the way home as he doesn't like freckles and Jane happens to like Reg.

Well, as I said before, or intended to, here we are in the country, which does look lovely just now. The air is so clear and good, and the different shades of green which stretch almost as far as the eye can see are so perfect, it makes me wish I were a poet like that boy who lives down the road who wears corderoys and his hair long. Just to look at him makes you realise he must be a genius, or akin to, because he looks mad enough. But I have to make do

with lines that don't rhyme and I don't even seem to be doing so well at that.

Jane has just expressed the wish that it would be nice if we went through that little wood, and so we gather up our odds and bods and start on the downward trek, hanging on to the bikes which threaten to rush downhill.

We finally arrive at the bottom, pause while Jane removes half the path from her shoes, mount the bikes and then wend our way slowly along a little lane between an oat field and a meadow sweet with the scent of clover, towards the copse. I was going to wax poetic and say "where not a leaf stirs and all is quiet and tranquil," but that wouldn't be right, 'cos there's a little breeze turning over the leaves and whispering through the meadow and you know what that means—when it turns the leaves over I mean. I said I did'nt like the look of those clouds.

We get off the bikes and decide to leave them outside whilst we do our tour of investigation. It's only a small wood, really, and if it does rain the trees don't grow closely enough to give any protection. There is quite an underbrush of fernery that scratches our legs, but there's something very satisfying about the dimness and quietness of a wood—or there was until Jane squealed and said she was sure a couple of drops had landed on her nose. Now we hear a pitter-patter like the sound of a tiny animal running, but I guess that's no animal—it's RAIN.

We turn and hurry as fast as we can to the opening where we came in. We get there panting and it's not the same opening, and we have to run round till we see the bikes and we're getting wetter and wetter. We hurl ourselves on and start to pedal furiously in the direction of home sweet home.

Splash and splosh! O gee! O gosh! Bang goes that romantic ending!

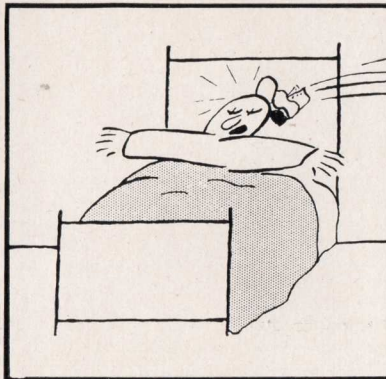
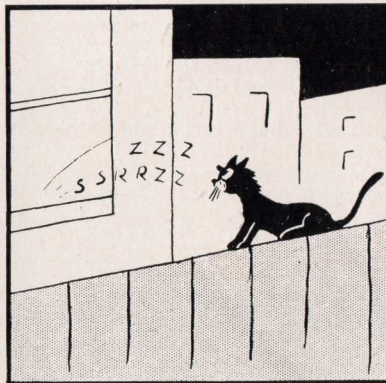
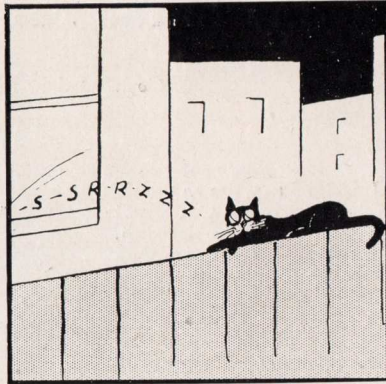
Memory Lane—

I love to sit in Memory Lane
When time is all my own,
Recalling happy memories
Of days I once have known.

To me they seem like tender flowers
Whose perfume lingers on,
Their beauty never fading
Though many years have gone.

MARGARET STRACHAN.

Biter Bit



By A. M. Sikora

Rhymes of the Times . . .

For the N.C.B. (National Coal Board)

With coal so much in the news, we think it deserves a little corner in our magazine. Here are two contributions, the first humorously summing up a very practical philosophy, the second containing deeper thoughts on the contrast between badly needed treasures buried in the earth and the riches that are more accessible and still free for everyone to enjoy.

Stalls or "Pit"

My Adonis must be fair,
Have the grace of Fred Astaire,
Possess technique like Alan Ladd;
(Ladd's really good when he's very bad).
To laugh at trouble like Bob Hope;
I love his nose the crazy dope,
To bring forth music like Harry James,
To sing it too like Dicky Haines;
But thinking it over what a sell!
Adonis, of course, would want as well
A girl with a figure like 'Outlawish' Jane,
Who's moody, magnificent, but couldn't

be plain.

He'd want a girl the last word in glamour,
Including Tahiti, sarong and Dot Lamour.
Yes I've been thinking it over and finally see
I'm no lovely Lana—just plain little me.
So pardon my fickleness,
Adonis my pride,
But I'm sure of my Bevin boy down on

Tyneside!

MERVYL D. DUCKER.

A Letter came last week

A letter came last week
From a friend I had wished to seek;
Her writing unchanged—neat, clear—
With news I had wanted to hear;
Each page with her perfume blent:
How pleased I was that this letter
had been sent.

Scenes from the past came to my eyes,
Happy times with many ties;
Cakes to cut and tea in the garden,
Fits of rage and asking pardon,
Toys and treasures gladly lent,
All the sunny days we spent.

"Thoughts from a Colliery Window"

My office window opens wide
To sunshine stealing far inside,
And touching, with pale lips of gold,
The shabby walls and winter's mould
To bring life's message once again
Of hopeful peace and joy for men.
I turn my eyes from inky files
To where the golden sunshine smiles,
To where the grass is growing green
And where the skylark sings unseen.

Beyond the man-made mountains black
With coal waste, and the timber stack,
Beyond this plot where men who mine
Descend each day below the line
To where the earth's crust gleams anew,
Not with early morning dew,
But with the sombre lustrous glows
Like hidden lights the diamond shows,
And these black diamonds are indeed
Of priceless worth to man's great need.

For see their glory as a theme
Of dancing flames, their precious gleam
Not less than sunshine, yet when known
Amid the winter's frozen night—
How gladly falls their welcome light.

But when the sunlight calls to me
These many things I would not see,
For they belong to winters past
When skies above were overcast,
When men must think of many things,
Not how and why the Blackbird sings,
Or where the early bluebells grow,
Or daisies white as untouched snow.

Now sunshine whispers in my ear
"Wake up and know that I am here.
Open up your window wide
And bid me come and let me bide."

STELLA WADSWORTH COOPER.

Teen ages, full of fun.

Now her charm a groom has won—
How unexpected all this news—
(I too frightened a husband to choose).
What's this? A honeymoon in Devon—
Just two full weeks' escape to heaven.

Since the letter arrived, a day, a week
has passed by.
What news of my life can I write,
I think with a sigh;

I wonder would she be keen
On the plays, ballets, operas I've seen.
I write and try to say how much her
remembrance has meant,
And how pleased I was that her letter
had been sent.

M. JOAN PALMER.



Part of the audiences of nearly 4,000 London Area Operators who filled Kingsway Hall on two different evenings to meet old and new friends and to be entertained by famous stars of stage and radio.

STARLIGHT IN LONDON

“THE STARS WILL REMEMBER, SO WILL I”: Any operator who was at Kingsway Hall on February 14th or April 14th last may well associate herself with the above sentiment that was sung so charmingly by Sylvia Welling and James Etherington, for the artistes went out of their way to express their delight in the warm enthusiasm of their audiences. This, together with the excellent acoustics of the Hall, gave us an experience that will long be remembered with pleasure.

Although the large numbers involved made it impossible to include the buffet or supper which was such a popular feature of the Provincial reunions, we believe that a fair balance was maintained inasmuch as several stars of topline fame were available, and they did, in fact, provide such a splendid show that arrangements are already in hand to bring similar evenings to the larger provincial centres. Some will have matured by the time this reaches you.

Photographs on these pages show that London Operators were able to capture that happy family atmosphere that is always evident in other districts. Eric Barker referred to his audience as “a lot of calculating

women,” which just goes to show that the Navy is without fear! The other laughter-makers were Tommy Handley in person and the surprisingly debonair Charlie Chester, both deservedly popular, but the ovation given to the singers was equally enthusiastic. Dennis Noble was so delighted with his reception that, to everybody’s astonishment, he launched out with a most amusing story in addition to a further song.

Amongst other outstanding features are these: first, the number of girls who had come very long distances in appalling weather, including some from Portsmouth (75 miles) Southampton (79 miles) Oxford (63 miles) Broadstairs (77 miles) and Bournemouth (108 miles); secondly, the absolutely “full house” on St. Valentine’s Day in spite of the bitter cold and the first week of the new “blackout”; thirdly, the joy of old friends meeting again after many years, and lastly, the large number of requests by word of mouth and in subsequent letters for further reunions.

All right; the Committees are busy all over the country and many more evenings are being planned for you!



Millions of listeners have enjoyed the voices of Sylvia Welling and James Etherington coming over the air. At Kingsway Hall they brought the house down, and there was long and hearty approval when Sylvia was presented with a bouquet by Miss Nichol on behalf of Felt & Tarrant.

No Comptometer Reunion is complete without recognition of operators celebrating birthdays or weddings, of operators with long service or two or more operators in the same family. Here is a characteristic snap of Bill Cargill awarding one of many gift vouchers.

(below)
Singing with the Orchestra was Rita Williams, who delighted everyone with her charm, and a few operators were fortunate enough to obtain her autograph as well.



STARLIGHT IN LONDON



A stage adorned with beautiful floral sprays in golden basketwork was a delightful setting for Jack Leon and His Famous Broadcasting Orchestra. We only wish we could show this picture in natural colours. It was an artistic display of exceptional quality.

Steady Barker! You are not at Waterlogged Spa now. But that charming Secretary, Pearl Hackney, is a disturbing element in any surroundings. Eric has just discarded an overcoat and his sheepskin liberty bodice as he warms up to his devastating climax.

FROM THE EDITOR'S POSTBAG

From an Operator.

I know it is going to please you when I tell you that since Miss Maunder placed me at my situation on 6th June 1939 as a Comptometer Operator, I have become the Welfare Supervisor. I myself am proud of this success, and I only know that if I had not turned to the School when I did I should not be in the nice position that I am to-day.

It is very interesting amongst those girls! It more than fills my day at times.

Two hours a day or less complete my 'Comp. duties' then I commence on a day that always greatly differs, health, sanitary, hospital, ration book difficulties, placing babies in the nurseries for the part-time mothers, engaging new workers, Canteen complaints, clothing coupons, and another hundred and one jobs that I could mention.

Believe me, I am deeply grateful for all that the 'Comptometer School' has given me. Deep down, yes, very deep down, I sincerely say "Thank you".

Mary Dixie.

From the American Red Cross in Great Britain and Western Europe.

Dear Sirs,

On the occasion of our returning to you the two Comptometer machines which you so kindly loaned us for the Statistical Section of our Club Department, I would like to take this opportunity of thanking you for your generosity in this matter.

The American Red Cross during the past 4 years of its operation in Great Britain has carried important responsibilities in connection with the welfare and recreation of American troops who were either stationed or on leave in this country. Our kind English friends have contributed selflessly, and according to their resources, to the success of our operation. We are most anxious that they should become aware that we greatly appreciate the assistance which they have rendered to us, and we therefore ask you to accept our grateful thanks for the machines which have now been returned to you.

Yours sincerely,

William L. Gower,

Representative in Charge.

From a Comper.

I would like to take this opportunity of thanking you and all the members of your staff for the delightful hospitality you extended to me on the occasions of the two Re-Unions you held at the Kingsway Hall. I have never enjoyed any shows so much, and it was a great pleasure being asked to come along and help to entertain such grand people.

Yours very sincerely,

Jack Elmont.

From an Artiste.

Everything was conducted so nicely, and it gave us great pleasure to sing to such an appreciative audience. With my best wishes, and again my thanks.

Sincerely yours,

Sylvia Welling.



The "HOMADS" again make merry. We remind readers that the translation is Head Office Maintenance Annual Dinner Society. We gather that these functions are a great success.

COMPTOMETER AS CUPID

On Page 26 there is a photo of the very "operative" Harvey family. One of the married sisters wrote and told us that they were "in the throes of celebrating my parents' 55th Wedding Anniversary." We heartily congratulate the whole happy family, and have pleasure to give further extracts from Mrs. Nicholson's letter:

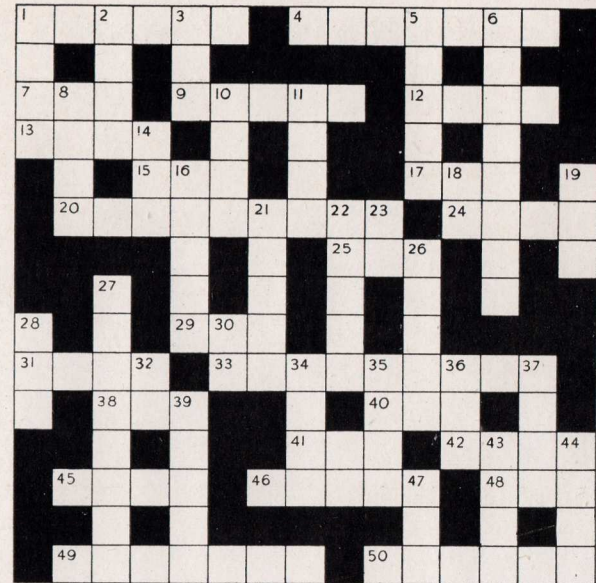
"I wonder if you would mind passing on my thanks to the Reunion Committee for the wonderful evening I had last Friday at the Kingsway Hall. I never dreamed it was going to be such a lovely evening and am so glad I was able to come.

My eldest sister has 34 years service, I have 16, and another sister was an operator for 10 years when she married, and now has two daughters, one with 7 years and the other with 4 years, making a total of 71 years service.

Incidentally, if I hadn't evacuated with my firm, I should not have met my husband, so the Comptometer even plays cupid sometimes.

Once again, many thanks to all concerned for the wonderful entertainment last week and here's wishing you and all at the School the best of luck."

This almost looks like a challenge. Can anyone beat this family record? Editor



Submitted by Phyllis J. Robinson

Solution on page 32

ACROSS

1. Hesitate
4. Calculate
7. This child is not the one in the sky
9. A flatfish
12. This town isn't too bad
13. Clothes (slang)
15. "Sweet as apple cider"
17. A trick in any sport
20. Retain ten (anagram)
24. Squirrels hoard these
25. A wink is as good as this
29. Grain
31. Type of arrow used in modern game
33. International language
38. On behalf of
40. Palindrome
41. If the elastic breaks
42. Journey in S. Africa
45. Give out
46. Fold up their—as the Arabs
48. Unity
49. Marry
50. Pincers

DOWN

1. You break this in the morning
2. Yearn
3. Flow back
5. A drink
6. Silent
8. Slime
10. This kind of Admiral may not be backward
11. Italian coin
14. Seat one's self
16. Dissuade
18. An
19. Burning cigarette makes tree
21. Grow in forests
22. Silly
23. Number
26. Rot
27. Sweet smells
28. Change doe into poetry
30. You
32. Preposition
34. An old clay one
35. Tear
36. Mesh
37. Part of kitchen range
39. 2 : 4 as 8 : 16
43. Without a thorn
44. These of the Kingdom
47. The oldest King

COMPTOMETER MEDLEY IS YOUR MAGAZINE
LET US KNOW WHAT YOU WANT IN IT

Will you kindly help us to give you the Magazine that brings you the most enjoyment.

We show below the various features that appear in the present issue or have appeared in past editions. We invite you to number each feature according to your likes or dislikes, i.e., put (1) against the feature you like best, (2) against your second choice, and so on. Add your name and address in the space underneath, then cut out the whole page and send it to The Editor, FELT & TARRANT LTD., Aldwych House, London, W.C.2.

The contents of future editions will be largely determined by your ballot.

Short Stories, i.e. about 2 pages

Reunion News and Photos

Serious Verse

Humorous Verse

Photos of Operators

Fashion and Beauty Notes

Household Hints

Local School News

Unusual Experiences or Jobs

Puzzles and Quizes

Notes on School and Service Staff

Humorous Articles and Sketches

Name

Address

You can post this for 1d. in an unsealed envelope, but if you wish to send an accompanying letter of suggestions or criticisms a 2½d. stamp is needed.

HULL BRAVES THE BLIZZARDS



The Hull Reunion Committee arranged most things but they deny all responsibility for the blizzards that blew with renewed force at the time of their party early last March!

This was the last of the first series of nation-wide reunions and was too late to be reported in the reunion edition of Comptometer Medley. In spite of the fierce weather, there was a noble attendance of operators and guests of honour, and the photograph on this page shows a section of them. Bill Cargill declares that his journeys from London and back in trains delayed by snowdrifts were the coldest hours of his life (so far) but the warm atmosphere of the Reunion was a delightful contrast.

Nearly 200 guests enjoyed the welcome refreshments and a well-balanced programme of music, magic and merriment. If there is any truth in the law of averages, the next party in Hull will coincide with a heat-wave, even though it is fixed for January.

RELATIVELY SPEAKING

In our last issue we published some photographs of operator relatives and we have since had much further pictorial evidence that Comptometer Operating is a firm family favourite.

It is a pleasure to show some of these photographs here, and the high spot so far is undoubtedly the Harvey family of five operators. Two generations of sisters!



Miss Jessie Harvey and Mrs. Gerrett (back right and left) and Mrs. Nicholson (front right) are sisters. Mrs. Gerrett's daughters Thelma (front left) and Joan (centre) are also Comptometer operators. The five together have over seventy years operating in London to their credit! See Mrs. Nicholson's letter on page 22.



Employed en bloc by Messrs. Richard Thomas and Baldwins Limited at Ebbw Vale, Mon. are the three Metcalfe sisters June, Betty and Connie.

RELATIVELY SPEAKING

These two pairs of sparkling eyes belong to Mary and Jean Smith, sister operators of Hull.



Mrs. Margaret Griffiths (left) and Miss Muriel Jones, sisters and diploma operators. From Port Talbot, Glamorganshire.



Below right: Sisters? No, mother and daughter! Mrs. E. D. Stalley and Mary, who both operate in London. Below left; two more sisters from Hull, the Misses R. and M. Suddaby.





**RELATIVELY
SPEAKING . . .**

accent on TWINS!

Constance and Alma Lambert are twin operators from Manchester. Constance is said to be on your left.



Which is Freda and which is June we couldn't know. But they're the Wigdahl twins, who work in Manchester.

. . . and more TWINS!



There must be something about this North Country air to produce so many twin sets! Top right is Dorothea Glover and below her sister Irene—Whitefield, Lancs, this time.



(above)
Nora Harrison (left) and her twin sister Rena attend the Middlesbrough school: if their "Halo" hats provide any indication they should both be model students!



Harriet and Ellen Philp of Glasgow are twins, but make identification easier by varying their hair styles.



**RELATIVELY
SPEAKING . . .**
. . . still more TWINS!

To your left is Kathleen Dance and, below, twin sister Margaret. You could easily get your partners mixed here! They live in Manchester.



The two "Jays," or Joan and Jean Watson, twin operators in Hull.



HAVE YOU HEARD IT?

Labour Exchange

The King was in the laundry
Washing out his shirt ;
The Queen was in the kitchen
Sweeping up the dirt ;
The Maid was in the parlour
Eating bread and honey ;
Along came a neighbour
And offered her more money.

What a "Waist!"

A beautiful blonde was being questioned as a witness. Counsel said—"Where were you on the night of the 13th?" The witness hung her head—"Oh please don't ask me that; I can't tell you." The Judge interrupted—"You must answer Counsel's questions." "All right," she admitted blushing, "if you must know, I'll tell you. I was at home doing a crossword puzzle." Counsel looked disbelievingly and said—"Is that anything to be ashamed of?" The blonde hung her head still lower; "Certainly it is," she sobbed, "a smart girl like me, wasting a night on a crossword puzzle."

He (phoning); "I want a box for two please."
Voice: "Sorry, we don't have boxes for two."
He: "But isn't that the Frivolity Theatre?"
Voice: "No, this is the undertakers."

Salesmanship

A pretty red-head was shop-window gazing when she noticed she was being followed by a very sleek young man. Finally she turned round indignantly and said "You can stop following me. I'm not the kind of girl you can pick up!" The young man bowed, smiled and said: "But I'm not picking you up. I'm picking you out." (It worked!)

Violet's are Blue?

Peter: "Why don't you wear the Christmas present I gave you?"
Violet: "I'm keeping them, darling."
Peter: "Saving them for a rainy day?"
Violet: "No, darling, for a windy one."

Toot! Toot!

The phone rang so insistently that he had to leave his cosy bed to answer it. "Hullo," he said sleepily. "Is that Brimstone Two Two Two Two?" said the voice. "No," he yawned, "this is Brimstone double-two, double-two." "Oh, wrong number; I'm sorry to have disturbed you like this in the middle of the night." "That's all right," he replied, "I had to get up to answer the phone anyway."

Angel?

The girl who went out in a car,
And had to walk back all alone
Had better keep out of a 'plane
Till her wings are completely grown.

More Horse-terity!

He looked up from his rabbit-pie and eyed the waiter suspiciously. "Are you quite sure," he asked "that this is all rabbit?" "Well," said the waiter, "you know how difficult it is. We have to fill up with a little horse-flesh. About fifty-fifty you know." "Fifty-fifty eh? One horse to one rabbit I suppose!"

All Jokes Aside

A comedian got married and then discovered his mother-in-law was a plumber. He is now unemployed until someone can think out some new jokes.

He "Darling! Will you marry me?"
She "No, but I'll always respect you for your good taste."

Another Solomon

A number of young housewives living in a large block of flats were involved in a noisy argument. The dispute attracted the attention of the local policeman with the result that they were all hauled up in front of the Magistrate. When the case was called, each of the women wanted to speak first. The Judge rapped for Order and, when silence was obtained, he said quietly, "Now I will hear the oldest first." That closed the case.

OPERATORS' PRIZE LIST

We have much pleasure in awarding the following prizes for operators' contributions in this issue :—

Articles, Verse, Sketches

Miss ELIZABETH HODGES, Bolton ("Betsey Lou and Jane")	£3.3.0d.
Mrs. A. M. SIKORA, Welbourne, Lincoln (Sketches on page 14)	£3.3.0d.
Miss PHYLLIS J. ROBINSON (Crossword Puzzle). Will this lady please send her address and claim her prize	£2.2.0d.
Miss M. J. PALMER, Manchester ("A letter came last week")	£1.1.0d.
Miss ELEANOR ROSS, Edinburgh. (Page 6)	£1.1.0d.
Miss M. D. DUCKER, Gateshead ("Stalls or Pit")	£1.1.0d.
Miss S. W. COOPER, Brierley, Barnsley. ("Thoughts from a Colliery Window")	£1.1.0d.
Miss E. HORTON, Coventry ("From Coventry to Kentucky")	10.6d.
Miss A. CRAMPTON, Bristol ("Could this be Sarcasm?")	10.6d.
Miss M. STRACHAN, Edinburgh ("Memory Lane")	10.6d.

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£1.1.0d. each to :—	
Miss JUNE METCALFE, Ebbw Vale	
Miss BETTY METCALFE, "	
Miss CONNIE METCALFE, "	
Mrs. E. D. STALLEY, London	
Miss MARY STALLEY, "	
Miss MARY SMITH, Hull	
Miss JEAN SMITH, "	
Mrs. M. GRIFFITHS, Port Talbot	
Miss MURIEL JONES, "	
Miss VIOLET OLIPHANT, Glasgow	
Miss DAVINA OLIPHANT, "	
Miss JESSIE HARVEY, London	
Mrs. GERRETT, "	
Mrs. NICHOLSON, "	
Miss THELMA GERRETT, "	
Miss JOAN GERRETT, "	
Miss R. SUDDABY, Hull	
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Miss D. GLOVER, Whitefield, Lancs.	
Miss I. GLOVER, "	
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Miss CONSTANCE LAMBERT, "	
Miss ALMA LAMBERT, "	
Miss KATHLEEN DANCE, "	
Miss MARGARET DANCE, "	
Miss JOAN WATSON, Hull	
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Miss NORA HARRISON, Middlesbrough	
Miss RENA HARRISON, "	

Gallery of Honour

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Miss GLADYS NUNN, London	
Miss CONNIE LEWIS, Bristol	
Miss D. E. HEMBROW, "	
Mrs. E. G. DENNIS, London	
Mrs. E. F. SMITHSON, "	

Solution to puzzle on page 23.

Across : 1. Falter; 4. Compute; 7. Son; 9. Brill; 12. Nice; 13. Togs; 15. Ida; 17. Hat; 20. Entertain; 24. Nuts; 25. Nod; 29. Rye; 31. Dart; 33. Esperanto; 38. For; 40. Eye; 41. Pin; 42. Trek; 45. Emit; 46. Tents; 48. One; 49. Espouse; 50. Pliers.

Down : 1. Fast; 2. Long; 3. Ebb; 5. Punch; 6. Taciturn; 8. Ooze; 10. Rear; 11. Lira; 14. Sit; 16. Deter; 18. An; 19. Ash; 21. Trees; 22. Inane; 23. No; 26. Decay; 27. Perfumes; 28. Ode; 30. Ye; 32. To; 34. Pipe; 35. Rent; 36. Net; 37. Oven; 39. Ratio; 43. Rose; 44. Keys; 47. Sol.

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Prizes from £3 3s. to 10s. 6d. will be awarded for everything published. Submissions (which must be original) should be sent to :—

The Editor, "Comptometer Medley"
Felt & Tarrant Ltd., Aldwych House, W.C.2.

Your contributions will help to make a bigger and better Magazine.

PASS IT ON.

We hope you have enjoyed this booklet. Would you be good enough to pass it to a friend when you have finished with it. Perhaps any parents who may be reading this have friends who are wondering what to do with their sons and daughters. In any case, by passing it on, you may help to introduce someone else to the profitable career of Comptometer operating. Alternatively, we will gladly post copies to your friends if you will send us their Names and Addresses, and your co-operation will be warmly appreciated. See Bonus Scheme on page 5.

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