

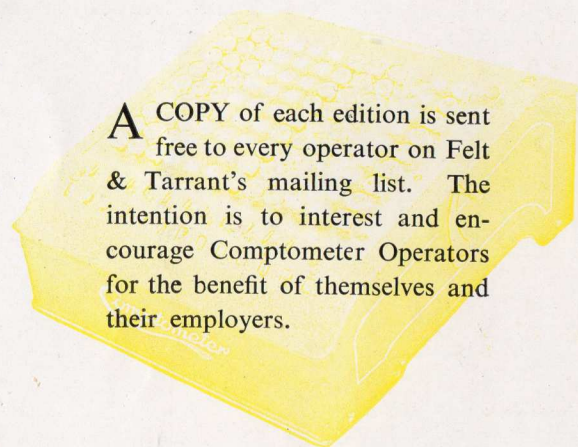


# Comptometer Medley

FOR ALL COMPTOMETER OPERATORS

No. 6 New Series

Edited and Published by  
FELT & TARRANT, LTD.  
Aldwych House, W.C.2.



A COPY of each edition is sent free to every operator on Felt & Tarrant's mailing list. The intention is to interest and encourage Comptometer Operators for the benefit of themselves and their employers.

## May We Remind You—

the name "Comptometer" belongs to Felt & Tarrant and cannot rightly be used for any other make of adding and calculating machine. For many years, in fact, Felt & Tarrant's slogan has been

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

Summer 1950

# COMPTOMETER MEDLEY

## Reunion Dates

SINCE the end of the war, Felt & Tarrant have entertained over fifty thousand guests, and now have pleasure to invite all Comptometer Operators to a further series of reunions. If you have not received details ten days before your date, as shown below please get in touch with your school.

1950		1951	
Cardiff .. ..	28th & 29th September	Swansea .. ..	2nd February
Liverpool .. ..	6th October	Nottingham .. ..	27th February
Birmingham .. ..	9th October	Hull .. ..	6th March
Bradford .. ..	10th October	London .. ..	15th & 16th March
Leeds .. ..	11th October	Coventry .. ..	4th April
Manchester .. ..	12th & 13th October	Middlesbrough .. ..	18th April
Edinburgh .. ..	20th October	Newcastle .. ..	19th & 20th April
Bristol .. ..	24th October	Sheffield .. ..	24th April
Glasgow .. ..	1st November		
Leicester .. ..	10th November	Belfast & Dublin—see page 25	

### Blazer Badges

So many operators have asked for blazer badges like we used to supply before the war that we have managed to obtain new stocks in a most attractive shield design. There are two qualities, one in gold and silver wire at 15/- and the other in a silk thread at 5/6. These are the exact cost prices. Badges can be inspected and purchased at your local school.

### Lest We Forget

1. If you change your name or address, let us know so that you will receive future Medleys and reunion invitations.
2. If you can introduce girls to our schools you will receive a bonus of 10/6d. for every girl accepted.
3. If you want occasional work your local school will be glad to arrange it for you. Please get in touch with them.

# Reunions Right

“HERE’S HOWARD.”  
That bright star of many  
radio shows, Michael Howard, makes a  
point at Birmingham.

(Photo by Yeldham Unwin, Coventry.)



Left

PETER BROUGH  
has won well-deserved  
popularity on stage and  
radio. At Leeds and  
Bradford he introduced  
the not-so-dummy Archie  
Andrews to Yorkshire  
operators.

(These two photos by courtesy of  
Bradford and District Newspaper Co.)



YOUR OLD FRIEND

# Bill Cargill

is invited to sample the  
ice-cream before it is dis-  
tributed to Leeds and  
Bradford audiences.



# “Down with the Ices”

DURING THE INTERVAL AT  
LIVERPOOL

(Photo by Elsam, Mann  
& Cooper, Liverpool.)



Below

NICK NISSEN, the  
“Fiddling Fool,” caused  
great hilarity among our  
Birmingham guests.

(Photo by Yeldham Unwin, Coventry)

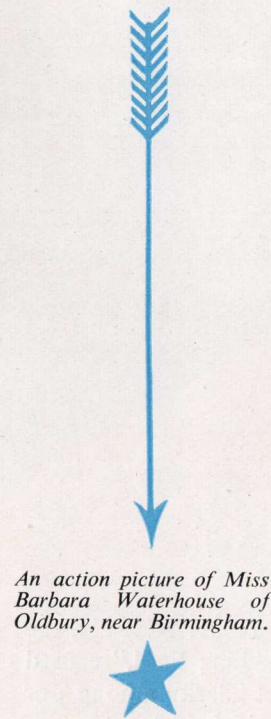
Below

—from L to R—Michael Moore (“Ignorance is  
Bliss”) and Cyril Fletcher entertained us right  
merrily at Manchester. Alfred Swain, eminent  
B.B.C. baritone, sang at Birmingham, Man-  
chester, Leeds and Bradford. Cyril Addison,  
on the right, was a splendid accompanist.

(Photo by Manchester Weekly Newspapers.)



# World Archery Champion



*An action picture of Miss Barbara Waterhouse of Oldbury, near Birmingham.*

**M**ISS BARBARA WATERHOUSE, a twenty-one years old Operator employed by Accles & Pollock Ltd., Oldbury, Staffs., brought honour and fame to this country, and to all Comptometer Operators, by winning the Women's World Archery Championship in Paris last year. It was only after twenty-eight strenuous hours of archery, spread over four days, that Barbara won the title, and she achieved the further distinction of breaking eight previous world's records at the same time. Packed in her luggage when she arrived home were no less than twelve gold medals, three silver medals, one bronze medal, two silver cups, one silver casket and the inevitable nylons—two pairs of them.

Barbara's fiance is Jack Thompson, a twenty-one years old engineer also employed by Accles & Pollock Ltd. He is a keen archer himself and has spent a lot of spare time coaching Barbara to competition standard. No doubt Barbara's training and experience as a Comptometer Operator also helped her agile fingers and quick eye to spot and correct any errors of trajectory or flight.

Accles & Pollock Ltd., famous for metal tubes of all descriptions, made the bows and arrows which Barbara used with such telling accuracy and encouraged her efforts at every stage.

Congratulations, Barbara, and more power to your elbow!

# British Legion Queen

**H**IGHLIGHT of the special British Legion week at Aintree was the crowning of their Queen for 1949/50. The honour fell upon Miss Joyce Allen, a Comptometer Operator at Dunlop Rubber Co. Ltd., Walton, Liverpool. Joyce, who is eighteen and auburn-haired, wore a lovely white gown with a ballerina skirt of picot

net decorated with silver sequins. The satin bodice had a square neckline. White elbow-length mitts, an attractive head-dress and a bouquet of pink roses completed as charming a picture as one could wish to see. The crowning ceremony took place before a big audience and was accompanied by the rousing music of bagpipes.



*Queen Joyce and her escort of pipers*

*(Photo by Louis Samson, Liverpool.)*

## ATTRACTIVE NEW BROOCH

**T**HE Comptometer shield, showing the four arithmetical symbols, has been

newly-designed as a neat brooch with strong clasp. You can see it at your local school and buy it for 1/6d. if you wish.

## Reunions North

GLASGOW reunion committee courageously introduced some new features at St. Andrews Hall. There is little doubt that the fashion parade was popular and much credit is due to Lewis's Royal Polytechnic Co. by whose courtesies it was staged.

A display by the Scottish Country Dance Society, and an attempt to get all operators to join in the Eightsome Reel, were innovations that aroused interest and excitement but which were somewhat handicapped by lack of space. However, the buffet was available for those who did not feel like Highland Flinging.



*Fashion Show at Glasgow.*

*Photo by Scottish Studios, Glasgow.*

EDINBURGH operators apparently were not thinking of country dancing. They had a nice cosy reunion with the Rae Mackintosh Orchestra to play for them and the B.B.C. singers, Ruth Morrison and John Jeffrey, to help the evening to pass pleasantly. O, and the usual interval for meeting old friends and making a lot of refreshments disappear quickly.



*Buffet-time at Edinburgh.*

*Photo by Edinburgh Evening News*

## and Reunions West

THE introduction of novelty was also a feature of CARDIFF reunion. The programme included presentations by Cardiff Comptometer Dramatic Society which received well-earned approval and will no doubt lead to further efforts by these talented young people. Some good singing and an exhibition of ballroom dancing helped to make a memorable evening for Cardiff district operators.



*A section of Cardiff Comptometer Dramatic Society. The lady with the pipe is Miss B. Dittmer, Principal of Cardiff Comptometer School.*

*Photo by Western Mail & Echo*

## Bristol Swansea

EVEN though the photographer did not turn up, Bristol operators certainly did, and there were several parties from outlying districts. Ken Lewis brought his orchestra and the programme also included Tommy Ware with his wisecracks, Harold H. Poole with his deceits and Leonard Nott with tenor songs. From what we saw of these West Country operators we think the camera missed a treat. No doubt they will give us pictorial evidence of this next time.

OPERATORS here were delighted to have their own reunion again instead of journeying to Cardiff. They made themselves thoroughly at home at the Mackworth Hotel and renewed many old friendships in the intervals between music and refreshments. Phil Bacon and his Dance Orchestra played for them, Mat Evans ventriloquised, Mel Daniell dispensed light comedy and the art of "personality voice" was expounded by Wynn Thomas.

# Getting Around

## The Girl from Madagascar

"BOANAMARY has no shops, cinema, cafes, dance halls or anything like that. The nearest town is Majunga about thirty miles away. We make the journey in a camionnet—a large van made into a small bus—on an unsurfaced road."

So writes Mrs. Crawford, formerly Miss Joan Bellis, after two years in Madagascar where her husband works at a large meat-packing plant. Joan was recently on leave in her home town of Liverpool where, before her marriage, she was employed for some years by J. Russell & Co. as a Comptometer Operator. She was at Liverpool school in 1942. Life and climate in Madagascar are very different from England, for it is hot and wet from October to April and cool and dry from May to September. About twenty British and fifty French live in the little village of Boanamary, their houses being one-storey stone and wood buildings surrounded by verandahs.

"We never have fires," says Joan, "for it is always warm. Water in the tap is cold and only for washing. Drinking water is brought daily by the water-cart and has to be boiled, then bottled and put in the icebox or



Main Street of a Madagascar Village.

refrigerator. Cooking is done on a log fire. Native 'boys' do the shopping and cooking while 'ramatoa' (native women) do the washing and mind the babies."

Although the shops are thirty miles away, Joan says there is a village canteen for little odds and ends, and there is a golf-course and a club for dancing and other social gatherings. A quiet remote life for anyone who likes it.

If you are good at geography you will know that Madagascar is a large island about a thousand miles long. It lies in the Indian Ocean to the East of Africa.

## The Girl from Rhodesia

ABOUT a thousand miles to the west of Madagascar is the town of Salisbury in Southern Rhodesia. Here also are "boys" to do the chores while the lady of the house goes to town.

One lady, at least, goes to town as a Comptometer Operator and when on leave recently she called at Glasgow School for some decimal cards to take back with her. Scottish operators knew her as Stella Burns.

She was at the Scottish Milk Marketing Board until she joined the Army in the last war. During her service she met a Rhodesian and changed her name to Mrs. H. G. West and her residence to Rhodesia. Much to the delight of her parents, Stella was accompanied on her Glasgow visit by her three-year old daughter.

Stella likes the Rhodesian way of life. Salisbury has fine spacious streets

see foot of opposite page.

## The Girl in Egypt



"THEY have some queer ways. For instance, if you fancy a chicken or duck you go to the market and pick out a live one and then the man cuts its throat in front of you."

So writes Mrs. R. H. Smith from Egypt. Some Yorkshire operators may remember her as Miss Bowskill when she was an operator for several years at British Ropes Ltd., Doncaster. Her husband is an Army Warrant Officer and Mrs. Smith joined him about two years ago after an enjoyable journey via Gibraltar and Oran. They are able to live in private quarters in the heart of Suez but take great care to remember everything first time as they have seventy steps to climb to their flat.

"The Egyptians," continues Mrs. Smith, "will not eat poultry unless they see it killed and they will not eat anything made from pigs as they are considered unclean. I might add that I do not go and choose my chickens. I send my houseboy."

The older women still wear black robes and cover their faces, but the custom is dying out with younger folk. Many of the homes are primitive, being made of petrol drums, canvas, corrugated iron, mud and so forth. These homes are often shared with goats, sheep, poultry and the donkey.

There is much interest in the big ships that go through the Suez Canal, and there was a special welcome for the homecoming "Amethyst" last year.

There is plenty of swimming, also fishing in the Red Sea where the water is so crystal clear that the coral can be seen on the sea bed.

"In July, the hottest month in Egypt," concludes Mrs. Smith, "we went over to Cyprus on holiday way up in the mountains among the pine trees. How different from Egypt! The air was invigorating and the mountain water was delicious."

## Parkin for Australia

SOMEONE introduced rabbits to Australia and the Australians have regretted it ever since. A certain young lady is quite certain that a happier fate awaits the parkin

recipe which she is taking back with her. She got it from friends in Yorkshire—and where else can you get real parkin?

The lady is Miss Verna Rutledge who is a Comptometer Operator with the Melbourne Herald, Victoria's only evening newspaper. She obtained twelve months' leave to visit England but likes it so much that she applied for an extension to next October.

Having visited France and Switzerland, Miss Rutledge spent a fortnight at an agricultural camp picking tomatoes and potatoes in Wiltshire. This was a memorable experience because of its opportunities to make friends and share opinions with people of this country. Miss Rutledge was amazed, and other Australian visitors have said the same, at the mistaken ideas about Australia. In most places their lighting, heating and water services are as good as ours. Women's fashions are always up-to-date and materials, imported from England, usually better than ours. The Melbourne shops are "marvellous" and prices about the same as here.

Miss Rutledge, who is keeping in touch with operating by pounding a Comptometer at Australia House in London, tells us her own favourite recreations in Australia are golf, surfing and all-the-year-round tennis.

We hope the memories she will take back will be as delectable as the parkin.

continued from previous page

## THE GIRL FROM RHODESIA

and suburbs reaching about seven miles from the centre. The climate is delightful and the high altitude keeps the heat down in summer. What it is that keeps the income tax down we are not sure. We can only make you squirm a little by mentioning that a married couple with one child pay nothing on any salary up to £1,000. After that, the rate is only two shillings in the pound.

This seems to be as near paradise as any place you will find in the world today.

# London Reunions



*Yes, London had ices for the first time—four thousand ices all alike—yet this girl insisted on sampling her friend's ration*

THE programme this time was mainly comedy. How could it be otherwise with Dick Bentley and Cyril Fletcher right at the top of their form? There was also Peter Brough extracting a quieter kind of humour from that remarkably lifelike dummy, Archie Andrews. Our old friends Jack Leon and his orchestra again delighted us and introduced some clever solo turns, the trumpeter being unusually skilled. Rita Williams found time between her B.B.C. dates to sing for us and then encouraged us all to "put another penny in the nickelodeon" and to raise the roof with other popular items. Redvers Llewellyn, operatic baritone, was warmly applauded for songs on a rather higher plane.

THE two pictures on this page show the true spirit of reunion. Joy shared is joy doubled. There is so much to talk about when old friends meet. Betty has a new hair-do; Margaret is engaged to the boy she met at Eastbourne; Pam and her hubby have found a house at Wembley; Mary has a lovely baby boy. So it goes on all through the intervals—not only at Kingsway Hall, but at gatherings all over the British Isles. No wonder that guests look forward to their next "do." This great family spirit is one of the happy things in a troubled world.



*You must see my snaps—souvenirs of happy holidays—wedding groups—all part of the pleasure of reunions.*

*Photos by London News Agency Photos Ltd.*



*Miss Marjorie Giles*

*Photo by Medley & Bird, Wallasey.*

# Twelve Thousand Watched

YOU will agree that seventeen-year-old Miss Marjorie Giles, Comptometer Operator at Spillers Ltd., Liverpool, was well worth watching as she won the sixth heat of the "Miss New Brighton" competition. Her photograph on this page confirms the judges' decision.

There were eight weekly heats in this popular Merseyside contest and each of them brought some twelve thousand people to the New Brighton Pool.

Marjorie thinks August is an eventful month in her life. It was August, 1946, when she entered Liverpool Comptometer School. It was August of last year when she was acclaimed winner of the weekly contest and tumultuously applauded by the large crowds. It was still August when she appeared as one of the eight finalists in the Beauty Contest. And that really was a great day. As guests of the Wallasey Publicity and Entertainments Committee they were given a royal reception and dined later at the Grand Hotel, New Brighton, with Harry Lester and His Hayseeds, the Mayor of Wallasey and other notable people. They were filmed by Gaumont British and had numerous offers of contracts for personal appearances, advertising and modelling.

Marjorie, who is as modest as she is charming, told us that none of these offers had tempted her to forsake her career as a Comptometer Operator and her pastimes of skating and swimming.

# Things they Do



**PUBLIC SPEAKING**

THE ABOVE PICTURE shows the Southern Region team being presented with a trophy in the finals of a Public Speaking contest at Butlin's Holiday Camp, Filey. The lady is Miss Anita Dribble, a former pupil in London Comptometer School, and now an operator at The Pyrene Ltd., Brentford. There was also a medal and a money prize for each member of the team.



**PUBLIC SINGING**

MISS EDNA ANDREWS (above right) is an operator at the South Eastern Gas Board, London. Trained at the Blackheath Conservatoire of Music, Miss Andrews holds the Associated Board Certificates for singing and has performed at several concerts and social functions. Entering an amateur talent contest, she was chosen for a week's appearance at New Cross Empire and received second prize.



**SISTERS TWO**

MISS S. G. Chant of Ebbw Vale sent this charming snap of herself and her sister Ruth who had just become Mrs. Williams. Miss Chant is an operator with Shell-Mex, Leeds, and Mrs. Williams with Richard Thomas & Baldwins, Ebbw Vale.

**MOTHER AND DAUGHTER**

FROM Paisley, Scotland, came the picture below of a somewhat different operator relationship—Mrs. M. King and her daughter Miss Moira King,

# Well Related



**SISTERS THREE**

AND there are no prizes for deciding which are the three sisters in the above merry group. The camera caught Mary, Rose and Greta Clements enjoying a joke with friends at the Glasgow reunion.

*Photo by Scottish Studios.*

**TWINS—OF COURSE!**

WE never go to press without some twins to grace our pages. Muriel (left) and Barbara Dexter are operators at Halex Ltd., London.

# Table Tennis



# Tennis Trophy



MRS. DOREEN RAE (left) last season won the North of England Open Championship and several Manchester and County trophies both for singles and team play. The latter included the rose bowl for the champion ladies' team of England. Mrs. Rae was trained at Manchester Comptometer School.

*Photo by Manchester Weekly Newspapers.*

MISS DORIS REAVEY (right), trained in Liverpool School, is an operator at Warrington Corporation. Last season she won the North Western District N.A.L.G.O tennis trophy which only once before, in 1934, had been won by a local competitor.

*Photo by Warrington Guardian.*





# More Reunions

## NOTTINGHAM (Top Right)

*Sparti, the lightning cartoonist, enjoys a joke with some of the guests and no doubt finds more material for his clever drawings. It was a happy evening at the Elite Cinema Ballroom.*



Photo by Yeldham Unwin

## COVENTRY (Below)

*All these girls made the journey from Rugby to join in the fun at the Civic Restaurant. They are operators at British Thomson Houston Co., Ltd.*



Photo by Yeldham Unwin

## HULL (Below)

*Some serious business gets "sandwiched" in between the music and entertainment. Judging by the smiles, there were no complaints.*

Photo by Hull Daily Mail



## It's On The Cards — We hope.

**C**AN you spot yourself in the above picture? It is a section of our London audience waving their bonus postcards. We are grateful to those operators who filled them up and returned them but we still want hundreds more. In case you have lost your card, we are sending you another. This applies not only to London but to all areas where the operator shortage is acute.

**SO PLEASE**—if there is a reply-paid postcard in this magazine, will you be good enough to help us. Lay your cards

on the table, fill in your name and the name of some girl leaving school or in a job she does not like, and then pop the card in the post. No stamp is needed.

If the girl is enrolled as a pupil you will receive an award of 10/6. This applies however many girls you help us to enrol. We have now paid thousands of half-guineas but the demand for operators grows and grows as more Comptometers are sold and as girls leave business to take up domestic duties.

**SO PLEASE FILL UP AND POST THOSE CARDS — AND DO IT NOW.**

## TRIBUTE TO OUR MUSIC MAKERS

**B**ELOW is an excellent picture of the Blue Stars Orchestra who gave much pleasure to the reunion guests at LEICESTER. We cannot help thinking of the scores of similar orchestras up and down the country

who have added so much enjoyment to operators' gatherings. There is not room for all their photos, but will they please accept this "honourable mention" as a grateful tribute to their performances.





*British Insulated Callenders Cables Ltd., Prescot, Liverpool*

# More Good Companies



*John Williams and Hough Hoseason, Manchester*



*Edward R. Buck & Sons, Stockport and Stockport Corporation*

WE have previously shown many reunion parties grouped by the firms they work for. We have covered several Counties, north, south, east and west. This time we have pleasure to show operators from Lancashire firms and to rejoice in the cheerfulness that has shone out from every picture in this series. There are some more groups on Pages 28 and 29 taken at Birmingham. Have YOU appeared yet?



*Ferranti Ltd., Manchester*



*De Havilland Propellers Ltd., Bolton*



*Manchester Ship Canal Co.*



*Fairey Aviation Co., Stockport*



*Turners Asbestos Cement Co., of Rochdale & Manchester*



*B & S Massey, Manchester*

# Newcastle and Middlesbrough



Photo by Philipson, Newcastle.

THE above operators deserve a space in our pages not only for their charm but for their cross-country coach journey all the way from Carlisle to Newcastle to join the north-eastern reunion. This was held on two nights in April and enjoyed a similar programme to Middlesbrough operators who celebrated on the previous evening. There were large audiences everywhere.



Eileen Piercey, Sylvia Kerr and Alice Robins

## BROADCAST WITH KENNETH HORNE

KNOWN as "The Allegros" these three charming brunettes broadcast with Kenneth Horne in the "Spot the Winner" programme in January last. They must have been heard by many of their sister-operators, for they were "on the air" again later in a "Spot the Winner" request programme. Their songs were "Dry Bones," "Carolina in the Morning" and "Music, Music, Music." They have appeared in the Carroll Levis road show and are naturally in great demand at entertainments and dinners. You will see that Sylvia is also a prize-winner in our essay competition.

They are Comptometer Operators with D. Napier & Son, London, and have all studied music seriously. Sylvia does their song arrangements and plays the piano. They tell us that this "swing harmony" calls for more difficult and concentrated work than most people would imagine.

We are grateful to Alice for sending the photograph and story and are glad to know that this brilliant team particularly like singing to old folk and hospital patients'

# Three Wallasey Sisters

ON your right, reading downwards and also in order of age, are Eileen, Audrey and Brenda Gresham. These comely sisters were trained in Liverpool Comptometer School and live across the Mersey in Wallasey.

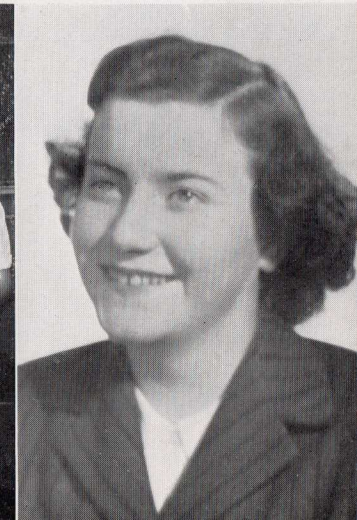
Eileen was trained ten years ago, and was followed about a year later by Audrey. That leaves seventeen-year-old Brenda as a comparative baby, but there was no doubt whatever about her business career. She took the course last year and is now happily launched on the seas of commerce in pursuit of her sisters.

This is another fine family record, and we are sure Eileen speaks for her sisters, and many thousands of sister-operators, when she writes :-

"As 1950 marks the end of a decade in my career as a Comptometer Operator, I should like to say in these pages a sincere 'Thank you' to the staff of the School who have been so kind and helpful, particularly during the blitzes when my family were bombed out and I was compelled to find a position in Chester to where I was evacuated. The School lost no time in providing me with a suitable position."

# Operators' Baseball Team

MANY good things come from America and the Felt & Tarrant Comptometer School at Cardiff think Baseball is one of them. Their team, shown below, was organised last year by Miss J. C. Sadler, a teacher at Cardiff School. They played several matches and have now been accepted into the South Wales Ladies' Baseball League. Their first captain was Miss Eva Smith and they are coached by Mr. E. G. Cottrell. Miss B. Dittmer, School Principal, is secretary. We hope their games will be as rousing as some we have seen in American films.



# Bournemouth Regatta Queen

THE slim and lovely lady opposite is a Comptometer Operator in charge of analysis work at Bournemouth Corporation Transport. Much of her spare time is spent on the beach at Honeycombe Chine, Boscombe, where she acquires that delightful tan that appeals to judges of feminine charm and beauty competitions.

Wearing a royal blue two-piece swimsuit, this twenty-two year old Miss Margaret Welch won the title of Bournemouth Regatta Queen of 1949. She thus achieved a childhood ambition, for just ten years earlier she was junior queen of Boscombe Carnival and thereupon decided that one day she would attain the higher honours that she now holds. Another distinction in 1949 was second place in the Carnival beauty competition.

The crowning was part of a big Regatta programme and Margaret's selection was cheered by thousands who had waited in the Pleasure Gardens for two hours while the judges made their choice. Among the crowd were many French students on holiday, and they yelled their approval when Monsieur Charles Antoni, Mayor of the

Riviera town of Cannes, placed the crown on Margaret's head. In the excitement of the usual kiss of congratulation the crown fell to the ground. Monsieur Charles swiftly retrieved it and, with typical French gallantry, gave Margaret a second kiss—all for luck. The crowd roared their appreciation.

Margaret, whose hobbies are dancing, skating, fencing, riding and swimming, said later "This is the happiest moment of my life so far. I have been sun-bathing for weeks in preparation for the competition but never thought I stood a chance." To a further enquiry she replied "No, I'm not engaged or anything."

Her reward for winning the competition, apart from the honour of the title, was a Max Factor beauty case valued at ten guineas. Fellow-operators may like to know that Margaret has brown eyes, dark hair with natural curls and is 5ft. 6½ins. tall. Bust and hips are 34 inches and waist 23 inches.

Best of luck to you, Margaret, wherever you go!



## Irish Loveliness

THROUGHOUT the green length and breadth of Ireland there are Comptometer Operators as fair as their own fair counties.

The lady on your left is Miss Catherine Mary Blackmore, winner of the Dawn Beauty Competition of Ireland in 1947. Catherine has been an operator with Clover Meats Ltd., Waterford, for six years. This is in Southern Ireland.

We are happy to receive evidence of Irish interest in this magazine and hope it will encourage many more entries from the Emerald Isle.



Margaret Welch  
after the  
Crowning  
Ceremony

# Essay Competition

## I. MY MOST EXCITING EXPERIENCE

*Holidays abroad, however exciting to those taking them, often sound rather like travel brochures when recounted to friends later. Several essays came within this category and none was quite good enough. It was finally decided that the following two episodes are well written and strike the right note of excitement that should appeal to everyone. Three guineas has been awarded to each competitor.*

### A NOCTURNAL VISIT

By Margaret Bannister, Cardiff

FIVE interesting years in the W.A.A.F.s as a Radio Telephony Operator on Direction Finding Stations has left me with many incidents to look back on, but one particular episode comes to my mind whenever I remember those long night duties.

It was during the time that the enemy was at his most troublesome and rumours were rife of impending invasion. We D/F operators had been instructed on our line of action should German Para-troopers land near the radio tower. We were rather isolated from everyone else, the nearest help being at the camp three miles away across four or five fields. We were only two girls in charge of valuable secret radio equipment, which must be destroyed rather than fall into German hands. Two hatchets were provided for this purpose.

Here, then, you have the scene. The rolling Yorkshire moors, the dark fields with sheep and cows dotted about, and in one field a small wooden tower with a blast wall around it, looking like a windmill without sails, and inside that tower, two little W.A.A.F.s busily making a cup of tea during a lull.

It had been a hectic couple of hours, and now that the crackle of the headphones had died down, the silence was something that could almost be felt.

And then—from outside came the unmistakable sound of footsteps on the concrete path between the blast wall and the tower. We stopped, looked questioningly at each other, and listened. Yes, there it was again—stealthy footsteps slowly making their way around the tower, and an occasional gusty sigh as if the intruder were carefully releasing his breath in an endeavour to make as little noise as possible.

The word "Paratroopers" flashed across my mind as I reached for the shiny hatchet, and my heart sank to my heavy W.A.A.F. shoes. One glance at my companion told me that she too had come to the same conclusion for she was grasping the other hatchet.

So with bated breath we waited. The intruder seemed to be waiting too, only a gentle rubbing on the wooden walls under the shuttered window indicating that he was still there.

At last I could bear the inactivity no longer. Summoning my courage I yelled "Who's there?" That brought results quickly enough.

All at once there was a violent commotion, a patter of scurrying feet, and the intruder found his voice in a loud "Baa-aa." Going to the exit, we heard our nocturnal visitor tearing away down the field as fast as his four spindly legs could carry him, uttering terrified bleats all the way.

We laughed shamefacedly, replaced our weapons, and soothed our shattered nerves with the much-needed cup of tea.

### MEETING DANNY KAYE

By Sylvia Kerr, Hayes (London)

IT is always a thrill to meet one's favourite film or stage star, and it was certainly an achievement for my three Comptometer friends and myself when, through our hobby of modelling, we had the pleasure of presenting personally to Danny Kaye, in his dressing room at the London Palladium, a doll model of him that we had made completely ourselves, even to the clothes he was wearing.

We have all been great admirers of this comic genius from the time we saw him in his film "Up in Arms" to the time when, a few years later, he came to these shores and captured the hearts of all from our Royal Family to the working class with his charm and personality. After having the wonderful chance of seeing him perform in person, we all wished that we could find some way of expressing our appreciation of him. It was then that the idea of making a model was born. Plans were made and we all started work, my friends stitching the body, and myself on the actual clay modelling. I

sat with a photograph as a guide and almost gave up in despair before the face really began to resemble him. The hands were also an important feature and I had to be careful with the moulding of them.

Gradually the model, twenty inches high, began to take shape. He was dressed in a perfectly tailored suit, white shirt, brown knitted tie, knitted socks and brown shoes. No detail was overlooked, even to the handkerchief in his breast pocket and the gold signet ring on his little finger.

Finally, I added the hair, which was a golden curly wig made from doll's hair. After weeks of work and concentration, and a terrific amount of fun, our model was complete. Now we faced the biggest problem. We were very anxious to deliver our gift personally, and it proved no easy task. The Palladium stage door was always closely guarded and we received no replies to numerous letters asking for an interview.

Towards the end of Danny's performances at the Palladium we made our last effort and, taking the doll with us, went to see the Manager. He was impressed enough with our story to send a message backstage asking if Danny Kaye would see us. It seemed like years waiting for a reply, and when we found ourselves being escorted to the great star's dressing-room we still couldn't quite believe it.

We soon felt at ease, and spent half-an-hour chatting with this friendly and surprisingly quiet American who has become one of the most admired artistes of our generation. When we said goodbye, he



Sylvia Kerr is seen holding the famous doll.

shook hands and said he was very moved by our gesture and would take the doll back to Hollywood for his little daughter's bedroom. We felt that all our work had been worth while. It was a great thrill and an evening we shall never forget.

## 2. REUNIONS

### WHAT I THINK OF REUNIONS

By K. M. Bragg, Birmingham

I ENJOY the Reunions, not mainly because we have a good variety show or a free night out, but because we renew old acquaintances and recall many happy days. I especially enjoyed the 1949 one, and I have been to them all, as I met friends I worked with six or seven years ago that I had not seen since we worked together. It is grand to recall experiences with folks we worked with.

The main questions among the girls were "Where are you working now?" "Are you married yet?" and "Did you marry that fellow you were courting when I

*Some essayists suggested competitions, dances and games, but these things are mostly impracticable owing to the large numbers involved and lack of space. For the same reason a buffet is often impossible. Almost every entry, however, emphasised the pleasure of meeting old friends. Some pointed out that newcomers may feel lonely at first, so we appeal here and now to all operators to chat with their neighbours, especially the youngsters, and forget formality. A prize of three guineas is awarded for the following essay because it expresses the true spirit of "Reunion" more clearly and concisely than other entries.*

worked with you?" Typical questions for a girls' natter session, but all part of the "happy family" spirit. It is something to realise that we are all working the same machines and are given the chance to catch up on past history.

In all my twelve years as an operator, I have never regretted learning the machine

### 3. THE MEDLEY

*The Editor selected this subject in the hope of getting suggestions for the improvement of your magazine. Surprisingly few ideas have been sent. One or two competitors suggested beauty hints and knitting patterns. These would be printed if they seemed good enough, and were operators' own work. The main distinction of the Medley is that it is for, and by, Comptometer Operators. We do not go to experts for articles on special subjects; these are amply provided in regular publications. Nor do we favour fashion notes. Fashion changes so quickly that its rightful chroniclers are the daily and weekly press.*

*To the essayist who thought her locality was not sufficiently in the news, all we can say is "if you don't send it we can't print it."*

*For the above suggestions we thank the writers and hope they will regard these answers as satisfactory. The remaining essays were, we modestly think, too fulsome in their praise. We have selected one of the less effusive examples because it neatly associates the Medley with the average operator's chores and thoughts. It expresses what your Editor always has in mind, which is, to create added interest and zest for all Comptometer Operators by letting them know what goes on in their great world-wide family. A prize of three guineas has been sent to Mrs. Evans.*

#### MY CANDID OPINION OF THE MEDLEY

By Olive Evans, Selsdon (London)

WHEN I slipped my Comptometer Medley out of its envelope at breakfast the other morning, my husband enquired if it was another flower catalogue. He was disappointed, because we enjoy

in spite of regular cries of "The Compts. will do it" and "Give it to the Compts." We are some of the most hard-worked people in offices, but the majority of us enjoy it.

I think in the stage show which is given us there is always some artiste who appeals to every one of us, thus making it all a thoroughly enjoyable evening.

browsing through them together in the winter evenings, but to me it brought the same feeling as if I had been given a bouquet on a special occasion. I could not settle to the housework properly until I had read it through, and now I write to express my deep appreciation of it.

It is said "The best things in life are free." In these days of high cost of living, it warms the heart to receive such a beautifully produced magazine "With the compliments of Felt and Tarrant."

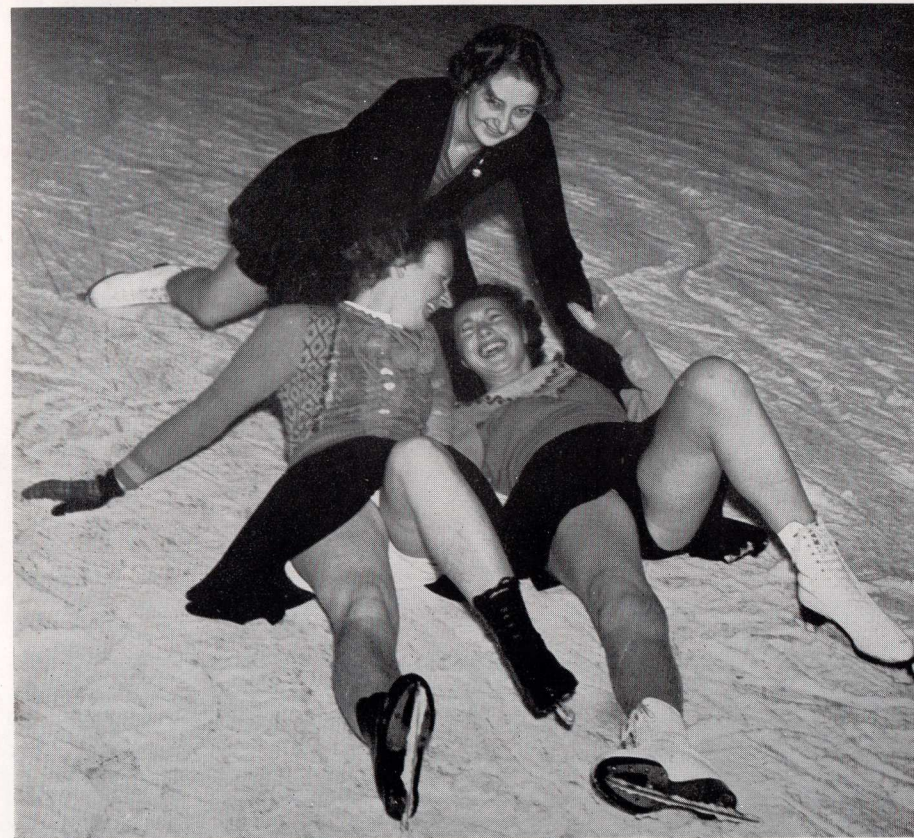
My first reaction on receiving the Medley is to scan the pages for photographs of operators I have personally known. You can imagine that my joy is heightened when, as with the last two copies, there was a photograph of twins who were at Aldwych House with me in 1940, and mention was made of one of their bridesmaids who sat next to me in School.

The standard of contributions, like the standard of operators, is high, and the sketches and photographs are excellent.

I shall have to wait years before I can visit Montana or Australia, but I got a real thrill out of reading the experiences of fellow-operators in these distant lands. I have not even been to a Reunion yet, but that does not lessen my pleasure of seeing the photos of the lucky ones who have. And oh! how I laughed over that delightfully odd ode. I shall hate parting with my copy of the Medley, but those verses are too good to be missed by my balletomane friends. And how versatile my fellow-operators are!—not only on their machines but in their hobbies. I am merely a good housewife—or so my husband says—but I take my hat off to those who have achieved success in so many spheres.

Now to end as I started, with flowers. A bumper bouquet to the Editor for a splendid Medley—a grand magazine that stimulates interest in fellow-operators everywhere.

Speed the next issue!



*Is it cold down there?*

OUR only male competitor humorously recalls that he was "fortunate enough to spend fourteen blissful days surrounded by pretty faces and fascinating curls" at our London School. He thinks the Medley is "jolly good" but finds most of the photos too formal. For his special benefit,

therefore, we have chosen the above and hope he will like it. Testing the ice are June Bushell (right) sitting pretty with her friend Joan Cheslim (left). Behind them is another friend, Betty Cockayne. June was trained last year at Birmingham Comptometer School.

## Good News for Belfast and Dublin

FELT & TARRANT are happy to announce that they hope to arrange reunions in Dublin and Belfast in February, 1951.

We hope that all operators who possibly can will attend, even if they live some distance away. If you receive the Medley it means you are on the Mailing List and will get an invitation. If you know any oper-

ators who may not be on the Mailing List, would you be good enough to tell them to get in touch with Felt & Tarrant at once.

We send to all operators "across the water" our cordial greetings and hope to hear that there have been bumper gatherings and high spirits at their first post-war reunions. In addition to invitations, there will be announcements in local papers.

## It Had to Come

FROM time to time we have put the spotlight on Comptometer relationships of several kinds—mothers and daughters, wives and husbands, aunts and nieces, cousins, sisters (including lots of twins) and no doubt many more will appear in these columns from time to time.

This page, however, is in honour of grandmothers who are still working as operators. We have tracked down some of these gallant ladies at two or three reunions and the audiences have paid worthy tribute to them as they stepped up for their vouchers. Now, for the first time, we are able to show a picture of a grandmother and two of her grandchildren. Mrs. L. Watkins, pictured below, lives at Hounslow and works for a well-known firm on the Great West Road. She has a third grand-

child in Australia but has not seen her yet.

Mrs. Watkins learned the Comptometer in 1914 when her name was Miss Notman. In the first world war she was employed in a Command Paymaster's Office. The Comptometer was then a comparative novelty and senior officers would crowd round to see how it worked. In the second world war Mrs. Watkins was in charge of all female staff in the cost office of Heston Aircraft.

Since her marriage in 1920, Mrs. Watkins has brought up four children, taught ballet dancing and sung at numerous concerts. We congratulate this evergreen operator on her full and interesting life so far, and hope she will realise her next ambition, which is to visit her eldest daughter and the grand-daughter in Australia.

*A worthy Gallery of Honour portrait —*



*Mrs. L. Watkins with two of her grandchildren*

## GALLERY OF HONOUR

THE distinction of being trained in Cardiff as the first Comptometer Operator for the Newport district seems to belong to Miss Dorothea Algar. That was thirty-four years ago, and Miss Algar recalls it in a letter which also tells us how much she enjoys reunions and these magazines, and of her happiness in being associated so long with the Felt & Tarrant "family."

Miss Algar is now chief operator with Messrs. F. James (Newport) Ltd., and was recently presented with a clock on the completion of twenty-five years service with this Firm. We heartily wish her continued happiness and good health



*No "time" like this "present" for Miss D. Algar when tribute is paid to her long and excellent record*

*Photo by courtesy of South Wales Argus*

## SHE FLIES SOLO

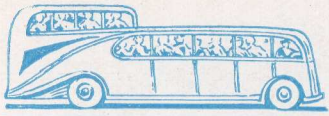
CANADIAN born Mrs. Stanton was a Comptometer Operator in Montreal but has been working for some time in the Newcastle area where she lives with her husband and daughter, Patricia Anne.

In 1942, while still Miss Kelly, this lady made the headlines on both sides of the Atlantic as the first woman wireless operator appointed to R.A.F. Ferry Command. She also realised her ambition to fly solo and gained her pilot's certificate. While stationed in Newfoundland she met her future husband and they were married in Montreal

Mrs. Stanton misses her sailing, skiing and ice-hockey, but speaks highly of our social services, concerts and theatres. She was hoping to fit in some weekend flying at Longbenton.



*Mrs. Harriet Stanton, Newcastle.*



# COACHING

HERE are four more pictures in our good "Company" series, but with the added interest that all these operators came to Birmingham reunion by coach.

It is highly satisfactory to your reunion committee that many girls think it worth while to make a lengthy journey to spend a happy evening with their sister-operators.

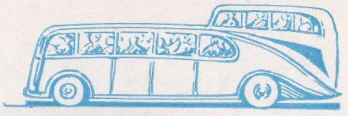


*Stanton Ironworks Co., Ltd., Stanton, Derbyshire.  
Return Journey 100 miles*

*English Electric Co., Ltd., Stafford.  
Return Journey 60 miles*



# COMPANIES



*Marston Excelsior (I.C.I.) Ltd., Wolverhampton and  
I.C.I. Ltd., Bilston, Staffs.  
Return Journey 50 miles*



*These four photos  
by  
Yeldham Unwin,  
Coventry*



*In one coach from Wolverhampton, Staffs, came these operators  
of Wolverhampton Steel Co., Weldless Steel Tubes, Ltd., and  
H. M. Hobson, Ltd.,  
Return Journey 50 miles*



# From the Postbag



Liverpool.

"I would like to express my thanks for the copy of the "Comptometer Medley." This magazine is, in my opinion, one of the best I have read. Its homeliness and layout are most attractive.

This letter enables me to express appreciation of the excellent service and kindly co-operation extended to us by you personally and your mechanics, and I would also like to take this opportunity to place on record our pleasure in being so satisfied with the young ladies recommended from your organization. I am sure you will feel gratified to note that I cannot recollect a single case where we have been disappointed.

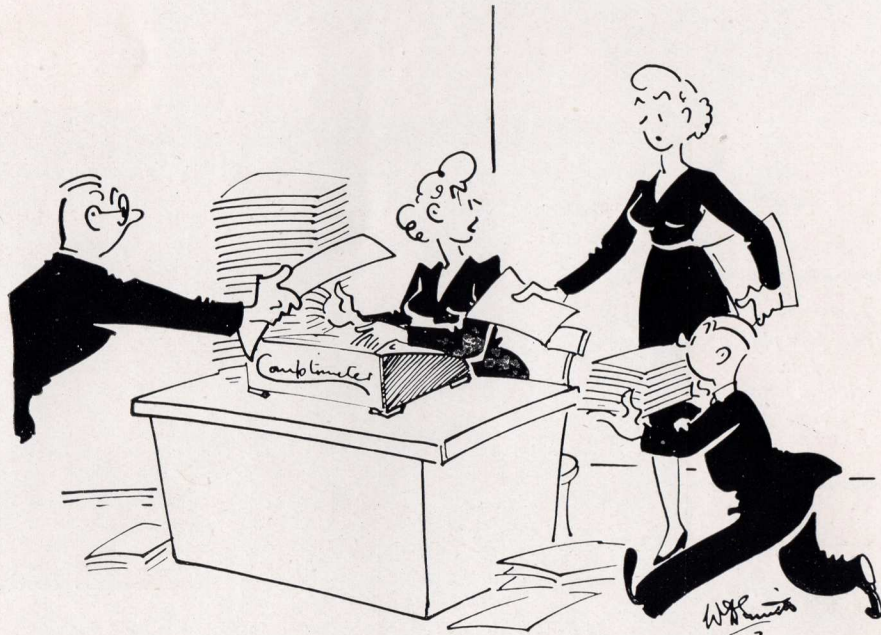
J. Bibby & Sons, Ltd."

Clifton,  
Manchester.

"My wife and I tender you and your staff our very sincere thanks for all your care and painstaking attention towards our daughter Muriel during her initial training at your school. This has enabled her to be now happily and comfortably situated in a post as a Junior Operator. We hope she will avail herself of all the facilities to gain further knowledge for future advancement in the career now open to her by keeping in close touch with the School, and being always a credit to her teachers.

We shall never hesitate to recommend the course to any parents who may be interested.

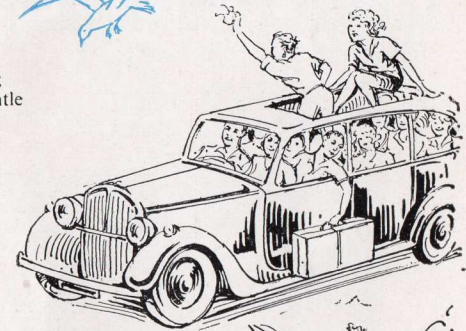
I. & E. L. Anderton."



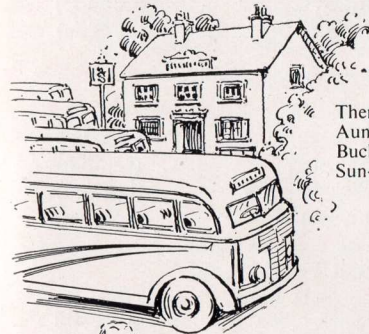
Operator: "Sometimes I wish Felt & Tarrant had found something better to do with their time"

# "Basic" Sea Shanty

In wintertime the cold air blows  
With fogs and winds and icy snows:  
Then spring breaks through, like gentle  
laughter,  
And bids the summer follow after.

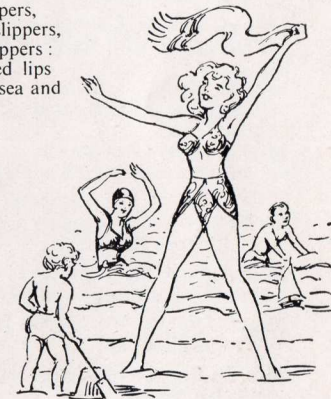
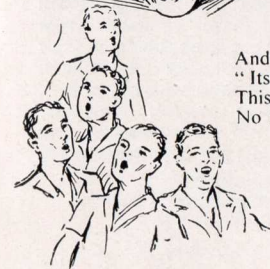


Then shoals of merry motorists start  
(No more can coupons break their heart)  
To hatch new plans for far-off pranks,  
Their "spirit" high as in their tanks.

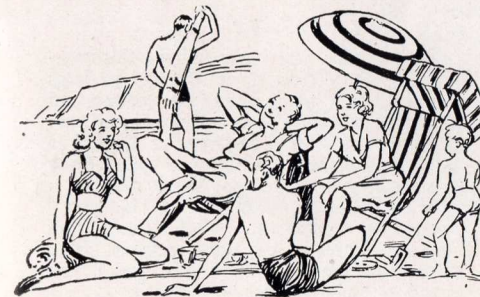


There's Pa and half a dozen nippers,  
Aunts and uncles packed like kippers,  
Buckets and spades and bathing slippers,  
Sun-tanned beauties and lovely dippers:  
Shrieks of joy from a hundred lips  
When Ma goes down to the sea and  
strips.

And here's a coach in blue and grey;  
"Its cheaper by coach" the posters say:  
This is a trip for the Male Voice Choir  
No longer dressed in their Sunday attire,  
They sing of the sands and salty dips,  
These folk who go down to the sea in  
slips.



Now look at what the road reveals—  
An endless line of automobiles  
Stopped outside the local pub,  
The smart hotel or country club:  
Progress here is rather slow  
But that is the way of the world you  
know:  
Some folk plaster their trips with nips,  
And many go down to the sea in sips.



Anne Walters.

## Operators' Prize List

THE Editor takes pleasure in congratulating operators once more on many excellent entries. The best of these are printed in this issue and prizes have been awarded as follows.

### GENERAL

- Miss B. Waterhouse, Birmingham—  
 "World Archery Champion" £3 . 3 . 0
- Miss M. Giles, Liverpool—  
 "Twelve Thousand Watched" £3 . 3 . 0
- Miss M. Welch, Bournemouth (London)—  
 "Bournemouth Regatta Queen" £3 . 3 . 0
- Miss J. Allen, Aintree, Liverpool—  
 "British Legion Queen" £2 . 2 . 0
- Mrs. J. Crawford, formerly Liverpool—  
 "Girl from Madagascar" £2 . 2 . 0
- Miss A. Walters, Manchester—  
 "Basic Sea Shanty" £2 . 2 . 0
- Miss C. M. Blackmore, Dublin—  
 "Irish Loveliness" £2 . 2 . 0
- Miss A. Robins, London—  
 "Broadcast with Kenneth Horne" £2 . 2 . 0
- Miss E. Piercey, London—  
 "Broadcast with Kenneth Horne" £1 . 1 . 0
- Miss S. Kerr, London—  
 "Broadcast with Kenneth Horne" £1 . 1 . 0
- Mrs. H. G. West, formerly Glasgow—  
 "Girl from Rhodesia" £1 . 1 . 0
- Miss A. Dribble, London—  
 "Public Speaking" £1 . 1 . 0
- Miss D. Reavy, Warrington (Liverpool)—  
 "Tennis Trophy" £1 . 1 . 0
- Mrs. D. Rae, Droylsden (Manchester)—  
 "Table Tennis" £1 . 1 . 0
- Miss E. Andrews, London—  
 "Public Singing" £1 . 1 . 0
- Mrs. H. Stanton, Fenham (Newcastle)—  
 "She Flies Solo" £1 . 1 . 0
- Mrs. H. Smith, formerly Sheffield—  
 "Girl in Egypt" £1 . 1 . 0
- Miss V. Rutledge, Leeds—  
 "Parkin for Australia" £1 . 1 . 0

### GALLERY OF HONOUR

- Mrs. L. Watkins, London—  
 "It Had to Come" £3 . 3 . 0
- Miss D. Algar, Newport (Cardiff)  
 See Page 27 £2 . 2 . 0

### RELATIVES' PHOTOGRAPHS

- £1 . 1 . 0 each to
- Mrs. M. King, Paisley (Glasgow)
- Miss Moira King, Paisley (Glasgow)
- Miss S. G. Chant, Ebbw Vale (Cardiff)
- Mrs. R. Williams, Ebbw Vale (Cardiff)
- Miss E. Gresham, Wallasey (Liverpool)
- Miss A. Gresham, Wallasey (Liverpool)
- Miss B. Gresham, Wallasey (Liverpool)
- Miss M. Dexter, (London)
- Miss B. Dexter, (London)

### ESSAY COMPETITION

- £3 . 3 . 0 each to
- Mrs. K. M. Bragg, (Birmingham)
- Miss M. Bannister, (Cardiff)
- Mrs. O. Evans, Selsdon (London)
- Miss S. Kerr, Hayes (London)

### LET'S HEAR FROM YOU

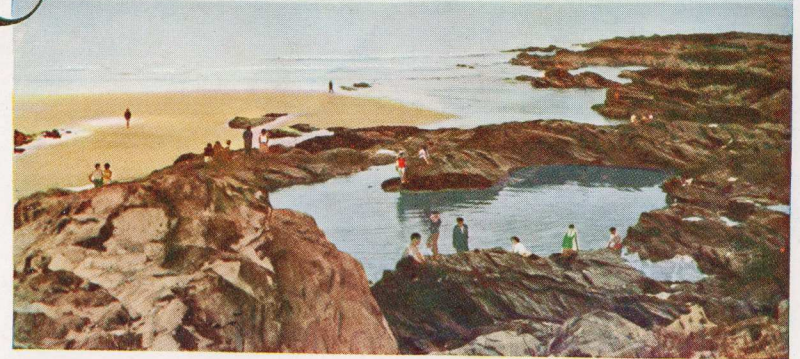
The above prize money is more than we ever paid before. Next time we hope it will be bigger still—but have we heard from YOU yet? You can see from this issue what is wanted—photos, exciting experiences, championships, competition winners, in fact, anything of outstanding interest. Prizes up to £3 . 3 . 0 are given for operators' own original entries, and all will be acknowledged if sent to:

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

### AND MAY WE SAY?

We do hope you have enjoyed this magazine. Rather than throw it away perhaps you could pass it to a girl or her parents and so help to introduce someone else to the progressive career of Comptometer Operator. Or we will gladly post copies to your friends if you will send us their names and addresses. Your co-operation will help to meet industry's demand for operators. What is more, you may also share in the bonus scheme, 10/6 being awarded for every new pupil you introduce provided she is accepted.

# Cornish Summer



Natural pool at Treyarnon Bay, near Padstow.

Treyarnon Bay, Treyarnon Bay,  
 Where slanting crag meets flashing spray,  
 Your lustrous waters wash the shore  
 And flood the creeks with joyous roar ;

But when the lusty tide withdraws,  
 When all the swirling echoes pause,  
 Then softly falls, on sea-carved bowers,  
 A symphony of halcyon hours,

And like a turquoise, rock-set, cool,  
 There shines a pool—a sky-blest pool—  
 Where swimmers meet; the buoyant air  
 Vibrates with fluting laughter there.

No cares obtrude, nor any fears,  
 No phantom night, no grisly years,  
 But only sweet abiding dawn,  
 Eternal nymph and ageless faun.

Treyarnon Bay, Treyarnon Bay,  
 Though summers fade and go their way,  
 Still those auroral visions seem  
 To thrill with rose each fleeting dream.

K.F.J.

THE  
CONTROLLED KEY  
**Comptometer**  
TRADE MARK

HIGH SPEED ADDING AND CALCULATING MACHINE

FELT & TARRANT LTD.

---

THESE ARE YOUR OFFICES AND SCHOOLS

---

**BELFAST** : 58, Howard Street  
Telephone : Belfast 27052

**BIRMINGHAM** : 11, Albert Street  
Telephone : Colmore 4448 (Birmingham)

**BRADFORD** : Britannia House, Leeds Road  
Telephone : Bradford 27888

**BRISTOL** : Pearl Assurance Buildings, Marsh Street  
Telephone : Bristol 24753

**CARDIFF** : 15, Working Street  
Telephone : Cardiff 2257

**COVENTRY** : Halifax Chambers, High Street  
Telephone : Coventry 4806

**DUBLIN** : College Park Chambers, 11, Nassau Street  
Telephone : Dublin 62443

**EDINBURGH** : 42, George Street  
Telephone : Central 5457

**GLASGOW** : 62, Robertson Street  
Telephone : Central 8094 (Glasgow)

**HULL** : Bank Chambers, Lowgate  
Telephone : Central 36246 (Hull)

**LEEDS** : Merrion Chambers, 31-37, Merrion Street  
Telephone : Leeds 23453

**LEICESTER** : Eagle House, Friar Lane  
Telephone : Leicester 22577

**LIVERPOOL** : 3, The Albany, Old Hall St.  
Telephone : Central 1893 (Liverpool)

**LONDON** : Aldwych House, Aldwych, W.C.2  
Telephone : Holborn 4374

**MANCHESTER** : 196, Deansgate  
Telephone : Deansgate 3887 (Manchester)

**MIDDLESBROUGH** : Bank Chambers, Wilson, Street  
Telephone : Middlesbrough 2513

**NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE** : 12, Ellison Place  
Telephone : Newcastle 21831

**NOTTINGHAM** : Gordon House, Carrington Street  
Telephone : Nottingham 43664

**SHEFFIELD** : Parade Chambers, East Parade  
Telephone : Sheffield 26082

---

WE ARE ALWAYS GLAD TO SEE YOU

---