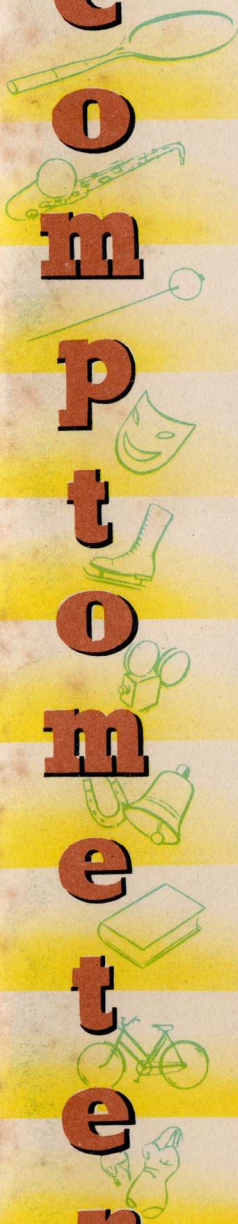
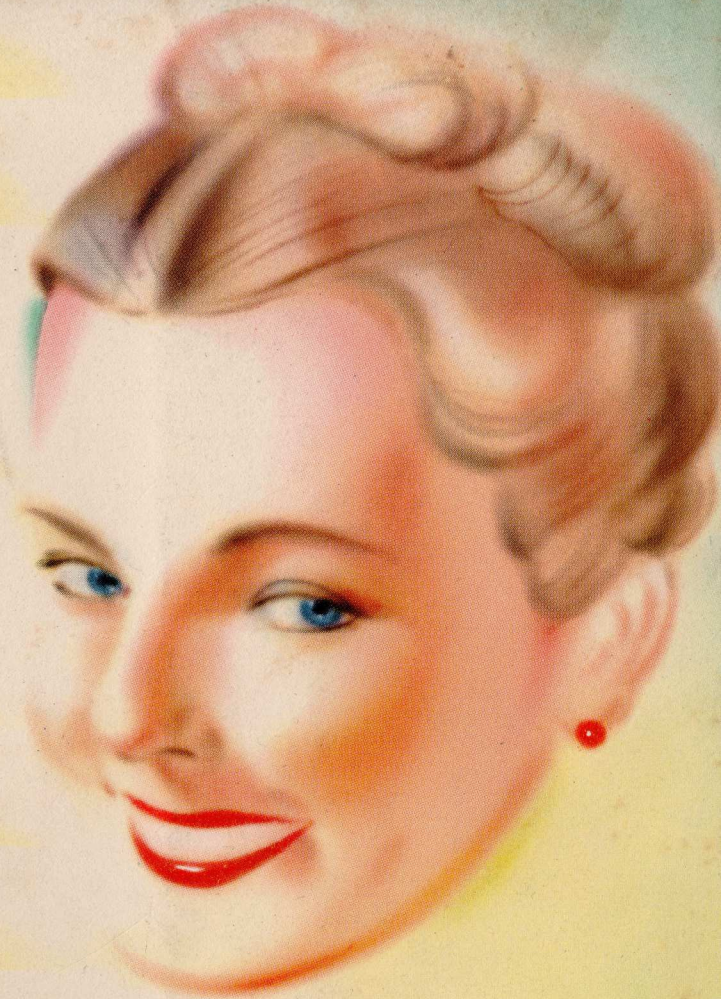


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medley



Comptometer Medley

FOR ALL
COMPTOMETER OPERATORS

New No. 7 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
REMINDE 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 1951

YOUR NEXT Reunion Date...

IT gives Felt & Tarrant much pleasure to invite all Comptometer Operators to another season of reunions. If you have not received details ten days before your date (see below) please get in touch with your school.



1951

Cardiff	27th & 28th September
Liverpool	5th October
Bradford	8th October
Leeds	9th October
Birmingham	10th October
Manchester	11th & 12th October
Bristol	17th October
Edinburgh	24th October
Glasgow	25th October
Leicester	9th November



1952

Swansea	1st February
Nottingham	19th February
Sheffield	20th February
Belfast	4th March
Dublin	6th March
Hull	18th March
London	27th & 28th March
Coventry	24th April
Middlesbrough	30th April
Newcastle	1st & 2nd May



Comptometer Schools AND YOU..

EVERY Comptometer Operator, wherever trained, is entitled to service and help from the nearest Felt & Tarrant School. Please get in touch if you need permanent or temporary work or if you want advice. Make sure you are on the mailing list so that you will get reunion invitations, magazines and calendars (all free).

Advise any change in your name or address. Claim your bonus of 10s. 6d. if you introduce anyone who is accepted as a pupil.

Whether you need help or not, your nearest School will be glad to see you at any time. They can also show you Comptometer brooches and blazer badges which, if you choose, you can buy at cost price.





Miss Staffordshire



FAIR-HAIRED, brown-eyed Mrs. Joan Teasdale (*nee* Wilson) had the honour of being elected "Miss Staffordshire" when she attended the Borough Hall, Stafford, with eleven other finalists who had won their qualifying heats. She was also crowned Queen of the Stafford Pageant.

Mrs. Teasdale was married in February, 1950, when she had just turned twenty years of age. She is a Comptometer Operator with Thomas Bolton & Sons Ltd.

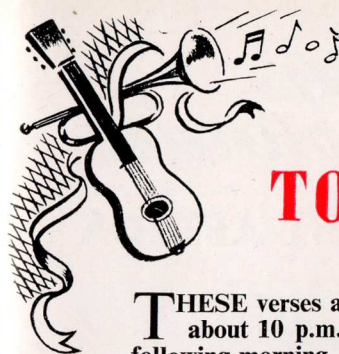
BALLROOM DANCING



Miss Dorothy Stoker and partner.

EX-PUPIL of Newcastle Comptometer School, but with ambitions to become a professional dancer, Miss Dorothy Stoker has, with partner Raymond Casey, won five cups, several medals and certificates and a voucher prize for £3 10s. 0d., all within four years.

As Dorothy is still in her teens she has plenty of time to achieve her ambitions, among which is a dancing school of her own. In the meantime, she tells us that she enjoys every minute of her day as a Comptometer Operator and would advise all young girls to take the Comptometer training.



Salute TO THE STAFF



THESE verses are remarkable in that Miss Burnett left the reunion about 10 p.m. and this contribution reached Glasgow School the following morning.

*Surfeit with chatter and with cake
Our feeble Muse is scarce awake,
Yet ere she fold her drowsy wing
We haste to call on her to sing
Our gracious hosts, such thought who give
To make this night superlative.*

*Such charm, such tact, such savoir-faire
In this commercial world are rare,
And so we are the more impressed
By their supreme disinterest,
Since clearly our entire content
Is all they seek to implement.*

*From North and South and East and West
A thousand happy damsels pressed,
Each eager to renew her touch
With friends she had not seen "For such
An age, my dear. And are you still
With Messrs. Fountain, Penn & Quill?"*

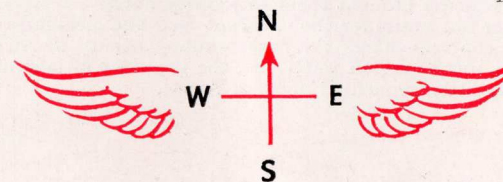
*"Oh there's the orchestra begun;
I think it's going to be such fun;
Let's go and look for Jean and Nance
And ask if they would like to dance;
Or shall we give this one a miss
And just sit here and reminisce?"*

*And so the evening goes on wings,
And all too soon the baton swings
To lead us in "God save the King;"
And not the very slightest thing
Is wanting to complete the ball -
A wizard time's been had by all.*

*And as we reach our several beds,
And on chaste pillows lay our heads,
We spare a final drowsy thought
For you, our hosts, who must have wrought
Like Hercules your task immense -
Reunion graced by excellence.*

*Upon the brilliance of this celebration
Accept our most sincere felicitation.*

Anne Burnett



Getting Around...

GIRL IN DARKEST AFRICA



HACKING through the thick bush to see an almost unknown waterfall—rescuing her dog from crocodiles—bumping along unmade roads on an ancient bus into which a man-eating lion had jumped on that same route two weeks earlier—sleeping at lonely halts with only another white girl and the native driver—carrying revolvers day and night to cope with emergencies—and Joy Paine, amongst all that adventure, concludes a letter to her parents “ Well, cheerio for now and TAKE CARE OF YOURSELVES.” Her parents live among the hazards of Ealing.

Joy was trained in London Comptometer School in 1941, but a few years later her roving spirit took her first to South Africa and eventually to Lusaka in Northern Rhodesia. She found jobs as an operator with timber merchants and building contractors. Even in Lusaka there was excitement, for Joy was nearly bitten by a poisonous snake while gardening. A much happier highlight was an invitation by H.M. Governor to a Sundowner Party at Government House. Joy says it is impossible to describe the furnishings of the house and the magnificence of the terraces and grounds. It reminded her of those super films where the settings are like a glorious dream.

The wanderlust was still working and Joy and her friend Shelagh Taylor started to plan an ambitious trip of nearly two thousand miles through Rhodesia and Tanganyika, finishing at Morogorro near Dar-es-Salaam. This involved some of the craziest transport. The railway petered out only fifty miles away at Broken Hill. Then came the most adventurous part—hundreds of miles on a sort of caravan affair built on an old motor-truck. This was their home for several days. The tracks were so rough that sometimes the girls, the luggage and the mailbags finished up in a mixed heap. The route was through M'kushi, Kanona, over the Chambesi river on a rickety pontoon, a night at Kasama and then a few days at Abercorn, one of the most beautiful districts of all. Here they visited Lake Chilwa and the Kalombo Falls and gazed at the superb Lake Tanganyika stretching away northwards. It was here, too, that they hacked through pathless bush to see some waterfalls which are only known to two or three people in Abercorn. This is indeed the original Africa. There are almost no white women in these parts, so the arrival of Joy and Shelagh was a great occasion for the few white men there and a dance was hastily organised in their honour at “ The Abercorn Arms,” as well as expeditions to surrounding beauty spots.

From Abercorn the journey was less primitive but no less beautiful. Some four hundred miles by steamer up Lake Tanganyika and seven hundred and seventy miles by rail from Kigoma brought them to journey's end.

Joy has nothing but praise for the excellent food and cleanliness of small isolated hotels, but mostly she remembers the breath-taking beauty of Africa, the splendour of crisp cold nights, moonlight on waterfalls, the grandeur of lake and mountain and the sublimity of the little-frequented areas of Africa.



Miss Joy Paine, who relates her adventures in Africa.

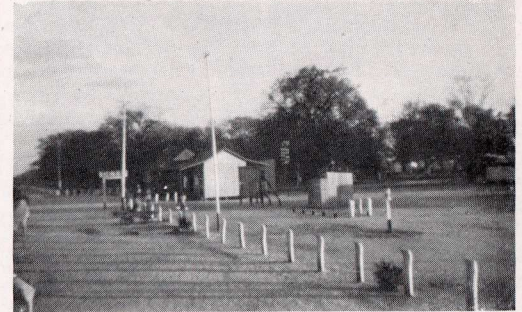


GIRL IN BULAWAYO

MRS. A. YOUNG of Bulawayo came on holiday in 1946 to Glasgow, where her parents live, and decided to take the Comptometer course as part of her holiday occupation. She knew that Bulawayo was growing and that the demand for operators would arise sooner or later. Now she operates one of the three Comptometers at Stewarts & Lloyds (Rhodesia) Ltd., and had the honour of being the first operator in Bulawayo.

“ After six months,” writes Mrs. Young, “ one of our staff was sent to Johannesburg, a distance of 550 miles, for one month's tuition.”

As you see, in vast countries like Africa “ your nearest Comptometer School ” may entail far bigger mileages than in Great Britain.



Believe it or not, this is a typical railway station in Northern Rhodesia.

GIRL IN LEBANON

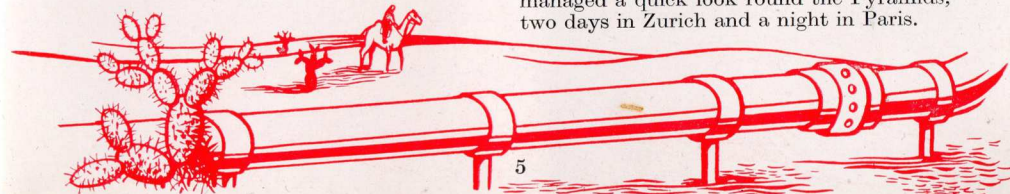
LAST year a planning group went to Tripoli in connection with the new pipeline to connect Kirkuk in Iraq with the port of Baniyas in Syria, a distance of nearly 600 miles. With them went Miss M. J. Potts, Comptometer Operator, and the only other girl in the party was the Secretary.

Miss Potts certainly found interest and excitement. The party flew from London Airport but a series of mishaps gave them two days to explore Rome and then they stayed one night in Damascus and one in Beirut. The short flight from Damascus to Beirut was quite eventful. “ The 'plane looked as old as this part of the world,” writes Miss Potts, “ and one didn't imagine it could possibly get over the first range of hills. It did, but then bobbed up and down just over the snow-capped peaks and taking about fifteen minutes longer than schedule on a thirty-minute hop. The rest of the journey from Beirut to Tripoli was by road along the Mediterranean Coast. The coastline is very attractive with blue water on one hand and the ranges of hills on the other sweeping down to the sea.”

On her return from these wonderful experiences Miss Potts came via Cairo and managed a quick look round the Pyramids, two days in Zurich and a night in Paris.



Miss M. J. Potts with wild flowers given to her by a taxi-driver



Getting Around

GIRL IN ONTARIO



WE had a wonderful evening but I felt a little homesick for Manchester."

So writes Mrs. Barclay, who will be remembered by many Lancashire operators as Vera Gee. She had been to a Comptometer banquet in Toronto in honour of a retiring Manager and one of the speakers was Mrs. Kate Aitken. This lady's name is known throughout Canada because of her regular broadcasts on all manner of subjects. She spoke of a recent trip to Europe, her audience with the Pope, listening to a House of Commons debate and witnessing the boat race. No wonder Mrs. Barclay began to think of home, especially as she had seen a *Medley* showing some of her former work-mates at Fairey Aviation, and also Mrs. Gregson who had trained her in Manchester School and whom she had followed into the Economic Research Section of Manchester University.

Mrs. Barclay finds the Canadian people wonderfully kind and says Comptometer Operators there are a friendly lot just as they are in the old country. She hopes to make a trip home this year and we can only hope that she will be lucky enough to be here for Manchester reunion.

ANOTHER GIRL IN MONTANA

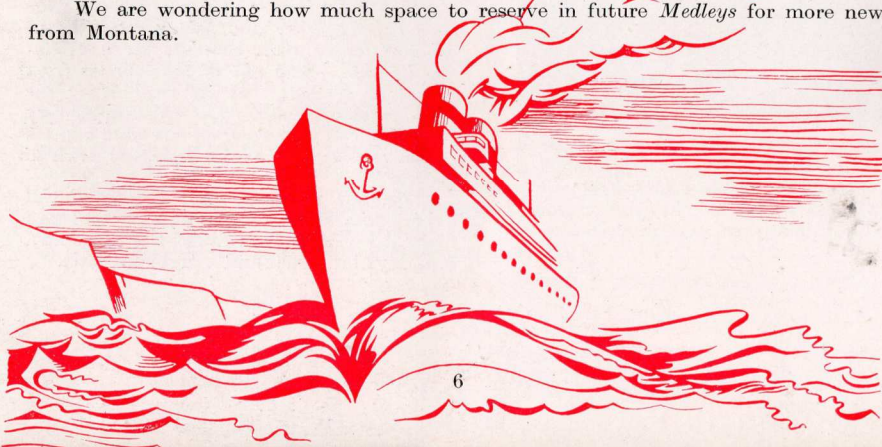
TWO years ago we told you the romantic story of Mrs. Doreen Beryl Richard who met an American G.I. in Birmingham and later became his wife on a wheat farm near the Rockies. We showed you pictures of Beryl in cowgirl costume "riding the range."



Last year we had the good news that a daughter was born. She was named Martyna Beatrice, but the christening was delayed so that Beryl's mother could be present, and, as this lady said, "*Fancy having to travel six thousand miles for a christening.*"

There was great local interest on both sides of the Atlantic before the baby arrived. At West Bromwich the neighbours organised a "Guess the Weight" competition, while in Montana a "Baby Shower" was arranged for Beryl, who is known out there as "Daughter of the British Empire." A "Shower" is a party where all the guests bring gifts for the expected baby and Beryl received presents to the value of over fifty pounds.

We are wondering how much space to reserve in future *Medleys* for more news from Montana.



H-I-T-C-H H-I-K-I-N-G

The World

DETERMINATION to see far-away places brought to our shores last year two Australian girls, Miss Melva Jacobs, a Comptometer Operator from Victoria, and her friend Miss Monnie Bowman.

For years they had been saving to begin their world-wanderings. Once started, they made up their minds they would make the money last out by "thumbing" for lifts and by doing spells of work in various places. And so it came about that Melva worked alongside many Comptometer Operators in this country, including spells at the City Hall, Edinburgh, and the Odeon headquarters in London. Her friend also worked at her own job, and this helped them to "hitch" through Great Britain and Ireland. Previously they had managed with much ingenuity to sail down the Rhine, to see the Oberammergau Passion Play and to work their way through Holland, Belgium, Denmark, Austria, Switzerland, France, Norway and Sweden. They must have covered more than 25,000 miles by the time they got back to Australia.

On their backs they carried heavy packs which bore the Australian flag. Melva says they struck friendship and kindness everywhere but were astonished to find that many British people failed to recognise the Dominion flag. You can see it in the picture on this page and may like

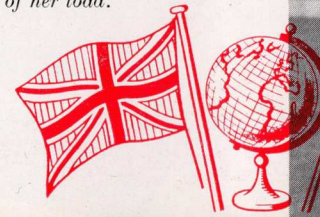
to take a good look at it, for it is surprising how many Australians save up to visit the mother-country in much the same way as Melva and Monnie did. Several of them are Comptometer Operators and from time to time they look us up in London School and often in other towns as well. Their tales are always interesting and sometimes exciting.

It is undoubtedly an excellent thing that friendship and understanding between Commonwealth nations should be fostered in this way.



The world-travellers pause in front of Lady Godiva's statue in Coventry. Miss Melva Jacobs is on the right and seems glad to drop her pack for a moment, while Miss Monnie Bowman still smiles in spite of her load.

Photo by courtesy of Arthur Cooper, Coventry





BELFAST

Happy Interlude.



GALLERY OF HONOUR

A worthy addition to our long service roll is Miss Smith who has been an operator for over twenty-eight years. She is with Belfast Tramways. The camera caught her in happy mood at Belfast reunion.



Photos on this page by Francis McNeill, Belfast

IT has given great pleasure to Felt & Tarrant to include Belfast and Dublin in their reunion arrangements. Judging by the results, the reunion committees at both centres did a good job of work. The attendances were bigger than expected and a tremendous number of letters and phone calls came in after the events. All were enthusiastic in their approval. On this page are four pictures of the Belfast "do" and you will find some "good company" groups on page 26. Many operators told us how grand it was to meet other girls they had not seen for years. On the entertainment side were Billy Livingstone to raise laughter, James McDowell to sing and Jimmy Ferguson's band with vocalist Jack Harrison. As you will see by the top picture, there was an interval for refreshments. As for the community singing, we heard rumours that it re-echoed throughout most of Northern Ireland.

TRAVELLERS (centre)
These two girls came in from the country. They are operators at Johnston, Allen & Co., Lurgan.

THE HUNT IS UP (below)
Autograph-hunters besiege vocalist Jack Harrison. He smiles and signs.



DUBLIN

Time Off for Ices



THE pictures on this page show a few facets of the Dublin reunion which was every bit as jolly as the Belfast occasion. The pleasure of renewing old acquaintances was much in evidence. Any doubt about the success of reunions in Ireland has been firmly squashed. Your committees will therefore be planning for next season and any suggestions from you will be welcomed. You will receive details when the time comes, but in the meantime please tell us if you change your name or address. Also tell other operators about it if you think they are not on the mailing list.

The Dublin audience had a good laugh at Milo O'Shea and heard with pleasure the songs of John Martin. Phil Murtagh conducted his Metropole Orchestra and featured Ernie Noble and the speciality vocalist "Doreen." Refreshments and community singing were also part of the evening's programme.

There are some more Dublin photos on page 27.

(below)
THANKS FOR THE MEMORY
New and old friends sign each other's programmes - another souvenir of a happy evening.



Photos on this page by "Studio One," Dublin

GALLERY OF HONOUR (below)
A charming and honourable quartette. To look at them it seems incredible that each of these ladies has over thirty years' service to her credit. L to R, Miss M. O'Connor, Mrs. M. Whittle, Mrs. D. Metcalfe (Miss D. Greene) and Miss K. Mulligan.



LONG DISTANCE
These three operators deserve a special mention for travelling all the way from Cork. They told us it was worth it too. L to R, Miss R. Rhatigan, Miss M. Neenan and Miss M. Cronin.



Adventures of a —



MOST girls tell us of their experiences *after* they become Comptometer operators but here is the tale of a young girl who packed quite a few thrills into four years *before* settling down as an operator.

EXCITEMENT and overseas travel came early in life to Miss Audrey Smith of Birmingham. In 1946, when only sixteen, she won a Health and Beauty competition organised by Pontin's Holiday Camps and became a guest at their seven camps, spending one week in turn at each. This was in addition to a prize of a hundred guineas and a visit to Elstree Studios for camera tests. Later she was invited to go to Elstree again for further tests, but Audrey was not interested in a film career and declined the offer.

In 1948 she was thrilled by an invitation from the South African Wool Board, in conjunction with *Photo News*, a South African magazine, to visit South Africa as Miss Great Britain and to act as a judge in a competition being held to find Miss South Africa. The other judges were Miss America and Miss Europe. All expenses were paid, of course, and Audrey had the delightful experience of a week's beauty treatment at Elizabeth Arden's and selecting a wardrobe of clothes from Paul de Lange in the West End of London.

Audrey will always remember her eighteenth birthday for that was the day she started out for South Africa. She visited Malta, Rome, Athens, Khartoum, Nairobi and other interesting places on the way. There was a grand reception at Johannesburg and then began a gay round of luncheons, dinners, balls, cocktail parties and garden fêtes. The late General Smuts was the guest of honour at the crowning ceremony of Miss South Africa. There were exciting visits through glorious landscapes to the large game reserves and to several South African towns. One of Audrey's pleasant finds was that Mr. Slaughter, Secretary to the Mayor of Johannesburg, originated from her own hometown of Birmingham. There were other discoveries too, and here are some of them in Audrey's own words: "To know how they live in South Africa I made friends with an ordinary everyday family and spent the day eating and eating beautiful coconut pyramids which we were unable to get in England. The steaks and fruit I ate were like I'd never tasted, not remembering before the war in England."

★ Miss Audrey Smith, who had many interesting experiences before deciding to become a Comptometer Operator. The gown was a gift from the Wool Board of South Africa.



★ BEAUTY QUEEN ★



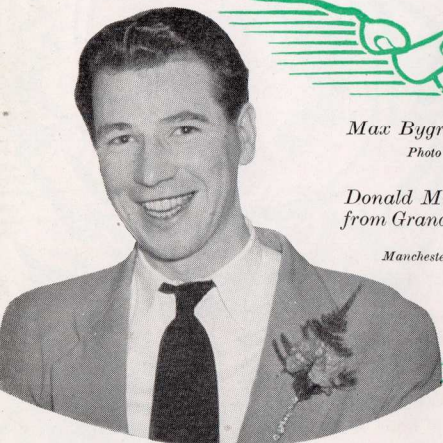
Shortly after she returned to England, Audrey was invited by a French newspaper to be their guest and she had a marvellous tour of France and Switzerland. Then she came home and "didn't do much except relax."

It was her younger sister, Pat, who apparently settled Audrey's future from that point. Pat passed through Birmingham Comptometer School in 1949 and introduced her much-travelled sister to the same school last October. So Audrey has found a happy sequel to her adventures, for this is what she writes: "It was a most pleasant three months I spent going through the Course and I am now enjoying my job very much and find it very interesting."

★ (Below) In Africa are autograph hunters as well as big game hunters. On the right is Audrey Smith as Miss Great Britain. In the centre is Jacqueline Donny, the French girl, as Miss Europe. She later became a model for Antonio, the hairdresser, whose distinguished clients include the Duchess of Windsor, Marlene Dietrich and Rita Hayworth. This started a romance which led to Jacqueline and Antonio becoming engaged.



Round the



Max Bygraves (left)
Photo by Bradford and Dist. Newspaper Co. Ltd

Donald Munro, baritone
from Grand Hotel, etc. (right)
Photo by Manchester Weekly Newspapers.



★
IT was indeed fortunate that some of our audiences were able to see the much-sought-after Max Bygraves. This friendly and unassuming young man has come rapidly to top of the bill fame during the last year or two. Apart from his personal success in the B.B.C. feature, "Educating Archie," he appeared at the London Palladium where he remained quite undimmed by the brilliance of the visiting Americans.

These Three

worthies entertained our audiences at Manchester (two nights) and at Leeds and Bradford. Donald Munro and Max Bygraves also appeared at Birmingham with the bright-eyed Cyril Fletcher.

Nick Nissen
The "Fiddling Fool"

Photo by Manchester Weekly Newspapers.



★
Embarrassing moment told by Pat Wibley to Cardiff operators.

Photo by H. J. Whitlock & Sons, Cardiff.

REUNIONS

HUNDREDS of enthusiastic letters from all parts of the British Isles make it clear that last season's reunions were the "best ever." The gatherings were certainly larger, and several local newspapers seem to have "cottoned on" to these annual affairs and have made kind references to the jollity and family atmosphere that pervade Comptometer parties.

Much credit is due to the reunion committees at the Felt & Tarrant schools for the hard work and thought they have given to the pleasurable task of ensuring success. Their reward is the enjoyment so clearly shown by thousands of operators.

The fun does not spring only from the professional entertainers and musicians; operators themselves make an important contribution. Apart from raising the roof when it comes to community singing, they appear on the stage and let everyone share some interesting anniversary or incident. During this last season an innovation was the "embarrassing moment" related by operators in all parts of the country. These frank narratives brought some of the biggest laughs of all.

There can be little doubt that the majority of operators hope that the reunions will continue from season to season. It is therefore a pleasure to read on Page 1 of this magazine that Felt & Tarrant are inviting all Comptometer Operators in the British Isles to be their guests between the 27th September and 2nd May next. A hearty welcome awaits you.
Do come!



★
Margaret Foster tells Bradford operators of her embarrassing moment.

Photo by Bradford and Dist. Newspaper Co. Ltd.



Leicester Choc-ices and Smiles



Laughter and applause at Birmingham.



Photo by Yeldham Urcin.

Hearty Laughter at Leeds —



Photo by The Yorkshire Post.

—But Bradford says "That's the funniest of them all."

Photo by Bradford and Dist. Newspaper Co



REUNION

Smiles &

NIION

Journeys

And this octette (Boots Ltd.) came to Nottingham from Derby.

Above two photos by Studio Raeburn, Nottingham



They travelled from Lincoln to Nottingham.



This merry group travelled to Bristol from Gloucester and Cheltenham areas.



This large party of Scottish operators invaded Edinburgh from Fife and district.



Not to be outdone, this group descended on Edinburgh from the Falkirk region.



Two Edinburgh photos by Campbell Harper Ltd.

FAMILY Fortunes



THREE LESS ONE
Above is Miss Dulcie Morris and below is her younger sister Kitty. They live at Swansea.



There is a third sister, Cynthia, who was also an operator, but she married and passed her job on to Kitty.



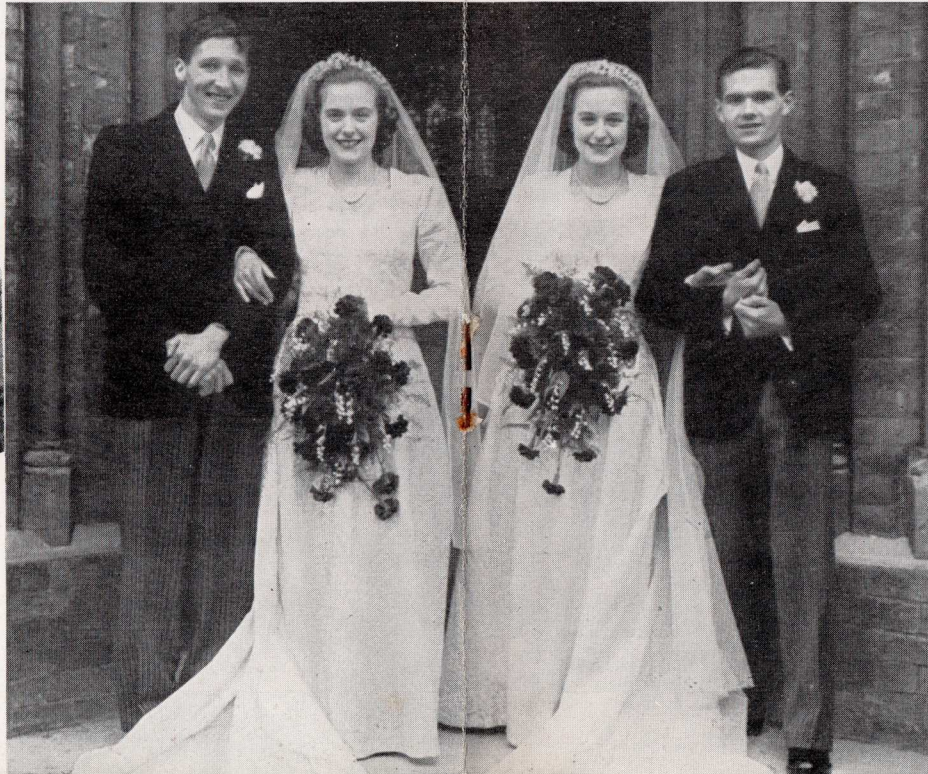
THREE McCONNELL SISTERS

All trained in Liverpool Comptometer School, Joyce (left) completed training in London before being employed by Unilever; Patricia (centre) emigrated to Canada and was sent to a good job by Toronto Comptometer School; Jessey (right) has remained in Liverpool so far.

THEY are fortunate families indeed where two or more members have become Comptometer Operators. If the smiles on these pages are not sufficient proof we need only recall the hundreds of family groups that have appeared in previous issues of your magazine. The good word is passed from mother to daughter, from sister to sister, from aunt to niece, from cousin to cousin, and good fortune follows.

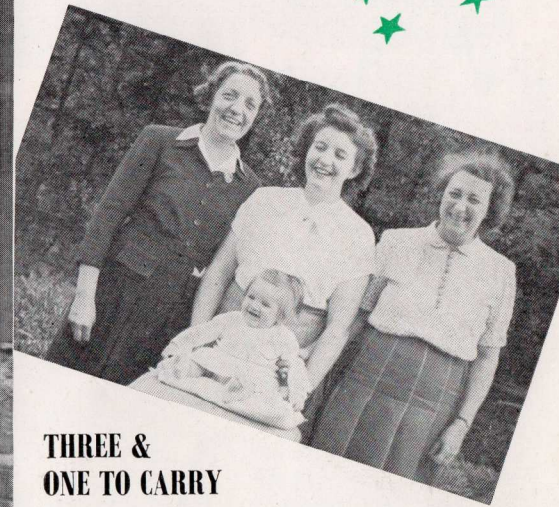
AND TWINS, HAPPILY, ARE ALWAYS WITH US

THE number of twins in Comptometer Schools has always been remarkable and it has been a great pleasure to show pictures of some of them in successive *Medleys*. Below are the London-trained Larcher twins at their double wedding. Audrey (left) became Mrs. Herriott and Shirley became Mrs. Turner. They always dressed alike, took the same sizes in clothes and worked in the same offices. Both have blue eyes. By the way, we are still hoping to hear of triplet operators.



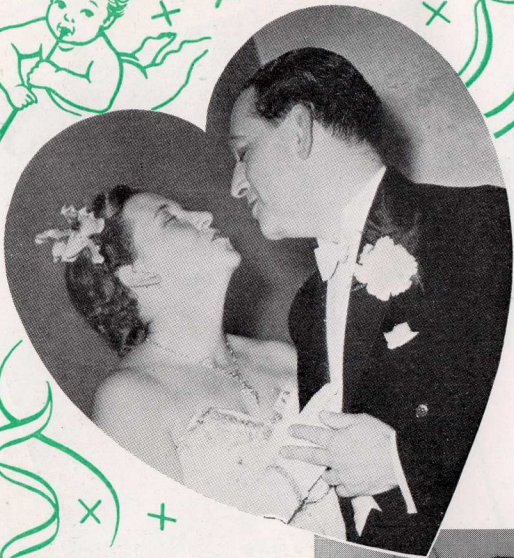
ANOTHER DOUBLE

These Bonas sisters (above) were trained in Coventry School and have been operators for ten and eleven years respectively. The younger daughter Olive Margaret (left) became Mrs. Kerby just when Eileen Lenore became Mrs. Brown.



THREE & ONE TO CARRY

In the centre (above) is Mrs. Rose Jr. On the left is her mother, Mrs. Crickett, and on the right is her mother-in-law. All three are London-trained Comptometer Operators. The delightful bundle in front of Mrs. Rose Jr. is her first-born, named Gillian.



THE singers of romantic songs are deservedly popular. An occasional trip to dreamland is a pleasant contrast to our workaday world, and Bristol guests gave a great ovation to Eileen Vaughan and Peter Williams (left) who featured "Love Songs That Never Die."



HULL WAY

The merry quintette in the above picture are operators at Sissons Bros. & Co. Ltd.

The happy half-dozen (left) are at Priestman Bros. Ltd.

They were captured by the camera at Hull reunion.

Two photos by Hull Daily Mail

GOOD COMPANIONS

& more

THE chief interpreter of romance at Swansea reunion was Dan Donovan (right). Operators will have heard his delightful singing on the air in "Welsh Rarebit" and "When Day is Done." It need hardly be said that singing which comes from Wales is mostly just right.

LIVERPOOL WAY

THE eight operators below work for the Dunlop Rubber Co. Ltd. They took time off at Liverpool reunion to pose for this delightful picture.

Photo by Elsam, Mann & Cooper Ltd. Liverpool



GLASGOW WAY

ABOVE is a happy dozen separated for a few minutes from the thousand guests at Glasgow. They are operators at Wm. Beardmore & Co. Ltd. Enjoyable dancing, including displays by the Scottish Country Dancing Society, together with a perfect buffet, made this an evening to remember. It is expected that the next Glasgow 'do' will be a record.



...and more REUNIONS

"Well, I've only got four minutes," said Bill Kerr, but he stayed long enough to captivate London guests with his leisurely humour and quiet crooning.

"Eee! It was agony Ivy."
 "What happened, Mrs. Hoskins?"
 The popular singers and character actors, Bob and Alf Pearson, treated London audiences to one of their famous "young Dr. Hardcastle" sketches which "Ray's a Laugh" made famous.



Two operators help Whittington-Wickes to demonstrate a spot of crazy cooking at Coventry reunion.

Photo by Feldham Unwin, Coventry



All sitting together at one of the many tables at Sheffield was this group of operators from Samuel Fox & Co. Ltd., Stockbridge.



Newcastle audiences appreciated a good tuck-in and a grand programme at the greatly improved Assembly Rooms.

Photo by Phillipson Studios



There was an exceptionally fine turnout for Middlesbrough reunion and here are a few of the guests enjoying the "Favourites" Concert Party."

Photo by L. W. & C. D. Richardson & Son, Redcar



A corner of the London audience is obviously amused by the comedy of Nan Kenway and Douglas Young.

London Photos by London News Agency Photos Ltd.

The BOOKWORM

By Mary Gallagher



THE young man walked slowly along the station platform and approached the bookstall with an air of uncertainty. The lady in charge was immersed in a yellow-backed novel on which was shown a gruesome picture of a man swinging from a gallows. The title of the masterpiece was "The Hangman's Holiday."

The young man blinked nervously first at the novel and then at the girl. He caught discreetly and stood on one leg. The bookstall girl moistened her finger with the tip of a pink tongue and turned over another page. The young man coughed again, stood on the other leg and ran a finger around the inside of his collar.

"Excuse me," he began apologetically.

The girl took a toffee from a paper bag, removed the wrapper, placed the sweet in her mouth and plunged into Chapter Nine.

The young man pushed his fingers nervously through his mop of carrot-coloured hair. The station clock ticked away the minutes and when several of these had passed slowly by he tried again; "I'm awfully sorry. . . ."

The girl sighed deeply, turned down the corner of the page and closed the book with a weary gesture. "Did you want something?" she queried in mild amazement.

"Er, yes." He smiled a large-toothed smile, his eyes running desperately over the array of books on the stall. "Is there . . . I mean have you . . . I'd like a copy of London Illustrated, please."

"Sorry," replied the girl, "haven't one left." Her hand was already straying towards "The Hangman's Holiday." The young man hurriedly intervened.

"Well, could I . . . perhaps a John Bull then?"

The female bookworm was already deep in Chapter 10. Her voice seemed to come from far off. "Sorry," she repeated vaguely, "haven't one left."

The young man stared in a puzzled manner at the little stack of John Bulls lying at the front of the stall, picked up a copy and held it out. "How much?" he asked.

The girl flicked her eyes for the space of a second. "Sixpence," she replied, holding out a limp hand. The young man felt in his pocket, took out a ten-shilling note and placed it tremblingly in the extended palm.

"I'm terribly sorry; I don't seem to have any change."

The expression on the girl's face was that of one who suffers much in the cause of duty. She bestowed on the offender a look of extreme coldness and retired to the back of the stall to find some change, the ten-shilling note held in the fingers of one hand and "The Hangman's Holiday" still clutched in the other.

A bell rang sharply on the station and a train—his train—could be heard approaching. The bookstall girl had forgotten the change and was deep in her thriller again. Her features were ecstatic—out of this world. The man wriggled his shoulders impatiently and cleared his throat loudly. The strain was beginning to tell.

The train drew in, disgorged two or three passengers and quickly drew out again so that the young man had no chance of catching it. Then very deliberately he walked round to the little door leading into the bookstall.

The offensive female was about to dive joyously into Chapter Eleven when a large hand appeared over her shoulder and pulled the book from her grasp. Another hand, unmistakably the companion of the first, drew the ten-shilling note from her unresisting fingers. As she gaped with dropped jaw and startled eyes, the man took "The Hangman's Holiday" and ripped it first into halves and then into quarters. Then, scattering the pieces on the ground, he quietly walked away to enquire about the time of the next train.

FASHIONS

in Hats

DURING his recent visit to South Africa, Mr. H. C. Davidson, General Manager of Felt & Tarrant, Ltd., London, used several forms of transport. This photo shows the picturesque way in which he kept some of his appointments around Durban. You will no doubt recognise the one-man-power vehicle as a rickshaw.



VERY busy at Commercial Calculating Company's staff Christmas party were Miss Cicely Croome, Managing Director (right) and her assistant, Miss Winifred Bird. The party was for some 150 operators and their relatives and friends and is eagerly looked forward to each year. The festive spirit was enhanced by hats of all sorts and sizes and by other reasonable frivolities.



Mrs. Barbara Smart.

Photo by courtesy of The Sunday Mercury, Birmingham

OPERATOR'S "NO" TO FILM CAREER

FOUR years ago Mrs. Barbara Smart of Birmingham won a Midland beauty contest. Her prize included a visit to Elstree, where they were making "The Ghosts of Berkeley Square." It so happened that an actress had been taken ill and Barbara was asked to "have a go." She was thrilled, of course, and learned her lines and posed for stills. But when the Director asked her if she would like a film career she told him she was not interested. She had been married only twelve months and didn't think marriage and filming would mix. Besides, she preferred her job as Comptometer Operator.

Well, that was four years ago. Barbara and her husband, P.C. George Smart, now live at Stourport-on-Severn and their son David is nearly three. They are an extremely happy family and Barbara has never regretted the decision she made at Elstree.



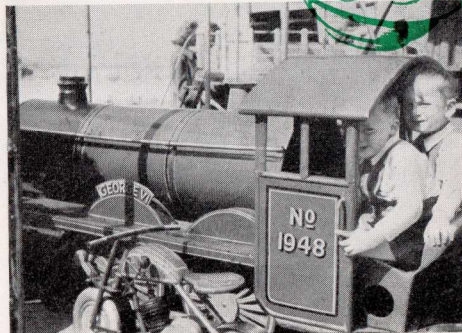
WE have had photos of twin operators; why not a page of operators' twins, and, who knows, perhaps even triplets?

So writes Mrs. Marjorie Forster of Middlesbrough, and sends us a happy picture of her twins to set an example. Well, we are always

glad to publish interesting pictures of operators and their relatives, so please send them in.

Mrs. Forster says her twins were born only 35 minutes apart and yet their birthdays fall on different dates. Yes, Mrs. Forster, we can just work that one out.

The Forster Twins seem to have their future planned. Alan Graham is on the left and the other is Trevor Morton.



THE MALE

Point of view



AS a mere male I am somewhat diffident about gate-crashing into the pages of a journal produced, pre-eminently, for women. Yet having had over thirty years' experience of Comptometers and operators, and being a member of the executive of a large engineering works in the North, I feel there are a few things I can rightly say.

I am reminded, as I address the ladies, of the vicar who was asked by the clergyman of a neighbouring parish to take part in a special women's meeting. The vicar was a bachelor and by no means fond of the opposite sex, but, being of the opinion that one good turn deserves another, agreed to the request. When the day arrived he found that he was expected to propose a toast to the ladies. He rose to his feet and said: "To the ladies—God bless 'em"—he paused, and then added with emphasis—"and keep 'em."

I know that many of us can, and do, echo sincerely the vicar's toast "God bless 'em," and perhaps when things are not going too well and work is not coming from the Comptometers as quickly as we desire, we might add under our breath, "and keep 'em." But we don't mean it.

Having been a visitor several times at your reunions, I am sure that no other body of clerical workers are so well looked after and made to feel that each is a worthy member of a large happy family known the world over.

A friend of mine, hearing that a member of the office staff was a stamp collector, said to her: "I hear you are a philatelist." The young lady immediately replied: "Oh no, I'm Church of England—when I go." There may be doubts as to the meaning of the word philatelist, but there is no ambiguity about Comptometers to anyone in business.

I feel that a word should be said concerning this excellent publication in which so many of you appear. It is unique, exceedingly well produced and helps, in no mean way, to foster the team spirit—the spirit we need today perhaps more than ever.

So, on behalf of many holding similar positions to myself, I say to all Comptometer Operators: "Many thanks for work well done: make the most of your remarkable machine, your reunions, your magazine. The best of good fortune to you all."

W. A. R.

Youngest Reader?

"I enjoy seeing all the talent in our ranks but my old school, Middlesbrough, never seems to contribute."

So writes Mrs. Joyce W. Lax of Stockton-on-Tees, and we are glad to show the delightful picture of her small son, John, studying the last edition of the *Medley*. There was another amusing snap, not quite clear enough to print, showing little but the *Medley* and two chubby hands, John being almost buried behind them.

Perhaps this contribution by Mrs. Lax has broken a spell, as we notice other Middlesbrough items in this number. May we use this example to remind you that we like items of interest from all districts. There is talent everywhere but some readers are too shy.

Little John Lax says "Is Comptometer *Medley* worth reading?"





More



AS Ireland has just had its first reunions it seems right that emphasis should now be given to Belfast and Dublin in this "company" series. On these two pages, therefore,



TOP: *Wm. Ewart & Son, Belfast.*
CENTRE: *Ulster Transport Authority, Belfast.*
RIGHT: *Wm. Barbour & Sons, County Antrim.*
BELOW: *Steel Co. of Wales (Lysaght Works), Newport.*

Belfast photos by Francis M. Neill

Newport photo by H. J. Whitlock & Sons, Cardiff



GOOD COMPANIONS



are a few reunion guests grouped by the firms they work for. They are mostly Irish, but two firms have slipped in from the other side of the water.



TOP: *Pilkington Bros. Ltd., St. Helens.*
CENTRE: *Lever Bros. (Ireland), Ltd.*
LEFT: *Irish-American Oil Co., Dublin.*
BELOW: *W. & R. Jacob & Co., Dublin.*

Top photo by Elsam, Mann & Cooper, Ltd. Liverpool

Other three photos by "Studio One", Dublin





Things

they DO

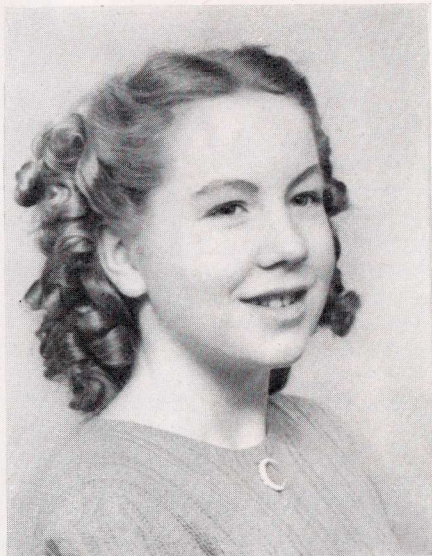


Childrens MAYOR

TO be Mayor at sixteen is the distinction gained by Miss Thelma E. Coppin who was a pupil in Liverpool Comptometer School last year. She had been a member of Bootle Children's Council for nearly three years before being made their Mayor-elect.

The Council organises events to raise money for what they hope will be a Children's Social Centre catering for youngsters from five to sixteen. We wish them success in their worthy cause.

Thelma is also the leader of the Bootle Morris Dancers.



Thelma Elizabeth Coppin.

A YOUNG SONGSTER

THOUGH barely old enough, fifteen-year-old Pamela Hall, of Redcar, won the Eskdale Tournament of Song at Whitby last year. Qualifying for the 16 to 19 section by only a few days, she beat five older competitors and received high praise from the judge for her poise and sense of artistry and rhythm. Total entries were nearly five hundred.

Pamela was a pupil at Middlesbrough Comptometer School and we hope to hear more about her singing career as she grows older.



Pamela Hall.

SHOW BUSINESS

THE unusual hobby of breaking and training hunters and show jumpers takes up all the spare time of Miss Joan Collier.

Last season she became joint secretary of the annual open show of Preston and Ribble Valley Horse Club. This was only its second year, but the press reports show that remarkable progress had been made. It was, in fact, the biggest of its kind in the North of England and was carried through with slickness and precision.

Miss Collier was trained in Liverpool Comptometer School. She has been an operator for ten years and has been with the North Western Gas Board at Preston for the last seven years.



Miss Joan Collier at the Show with Lady de Hoghton and Bernard de Hoghton.

BACK TO THE LAND

THE romantic address for telegrams is "Trees, Alnwick." The letter paper shows that the Firm is concerned with Timber and Forestry, Planting and Felling. The area of operations is around the River Aln in the north-east corner of England.

It is difficult to trace the connection between Comptometer Operating and becoming a Director of a Firm devoted to "Forest Services," but Miss I. Mitchinson, who was trained in the Newcastle School less than twenty years ago, has bridged that very gap. Some Northumberland operators will remember that Miss Mitchinson was employed in the 1930's by Northern General Transport at Chester-le-Street and by Thomas Hedley Ltd. at Newcastle. She joined the A.T.S. in 1939 and on demobilisation went to live with her parents near Alnwick, where she became interested in Land Agency. All this led to the formation of the forestry firm of Gowans, Mitchinson and Lambert Ltd. It was a happy chance that a Comptometer leaflet reached this firm and prompted Miss Mitchinson to send an interesting account of her career to Mr. Haigh at the Newcastle School.



COVER GIRL *Visits Canada*

READERS may remember that our Cover Girl two years ago was Miss Barbara Hicks, the young Harrogate soprano who won the *Yorkshire Evening Post* "Sing with Silver" contest against 380 other singers. Barbara was a Comptometer Operator with West Yorkshire Road Car Co., but left to take up a singing career. She has since made considerable strides although still no more than twenty years old.

Singing this year at the annual conference of the Weston Biscuit group, she

was heard by Mr. Garfield Weston, who was so delighted that he invited her to make a five-week tour of Canada as his guest. Mr. Weston, said to be the sixth richest man in the world, had already invited fifty youth hostel girls, accompanied by Mrs. Odette Churchill, to make the tour at his expense. Barbara's was a special invitation and she was due to sail at the end of July with one of Mr. Weston's six daughters. She was most excited at her good luck. Incidentally Mr. Weston has three sons in addition to six daughters.

London School

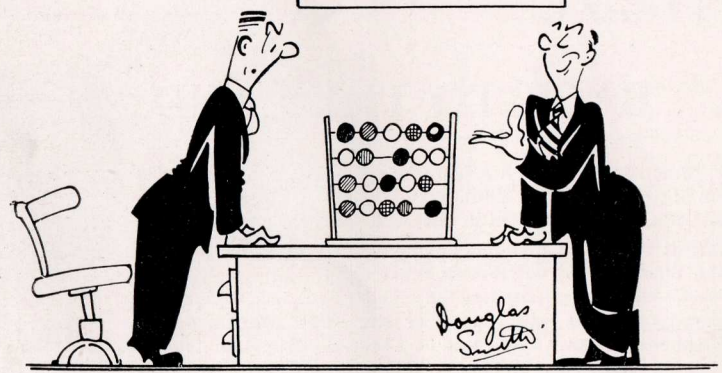
THOUSANDS of operators in London and South-East England have passed through London School during the years that Mrs. I. Darby has been in charge. Last March Mrs. Darby retired from business on the occasion of her marriage and went to live in Manchester. Her wide circle of friends will wish her every happiness. Miss Catelinet has been appointed London School Principal under the supervision of Miss M. E. Harper, who

also supervises the Employment Department.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

ON page 25 of our last issue we reproduced an excellent photograph taken by the *Sunday Mercury*, Birmingham. We regret that we omitted to make this acknowledgment at the time owing to a slip in preparation.

PATENTS
OFFICE



"THIS LITTLE IDEA SHOULD MAKE FELT AND TARRANT COUGH A LITTLE, EH?"

WELFARE Queen

MISS BARBARA JONES, an operator at Woolworths in Liverpool, was elected for popularity and crowned Queen of the Chelwood and District Welfare Association. Dressed in a white satin gown, with a cloak of red velvet edged with white ermine, Barbara received her crown from Mrs. B. Liddell. The ceremony was followed by a garden fete. Also in the picture is Mrs. Liddell's husband. Football fans may recognise him as the Scottish Football Internationalist and right wing of Liverpool.



Mrs. Liddell, wife of the famous footballer, placed the crown on Barbara's head and also presented her with a diamanté brooch.

APOLOGY

THE Editor regrets that in the last issue of the *Comptometer Medley*, a reunion group photograph was published under the title of Edward R. Buck & Sons, Stockport, and Stockport Corporation. These charming operators are, in fact, members of the staff of Messrs. Richard Sharrock & Sons, Ltd., the well-known Manchester bakers.



H.O.M.A.D.S.—again all smiles on the occasion of their annual social. The initials stand for Head Office Maintenance Annual Dinner Social. Operators in London and South-east England will probably spot at least one smile that is familiar to them when the owner of the smile has attended to the "innards" of a Comptometer.



OPERATORS' Prize List

Once again the editor has much pleasure to congratulate operators on many excellent entries. The best of these are printed in this issue and prizes have been awarded as follows :

GENERAL

Miss A. Burnett, Paisley (Glasgow) :	Mrs. V. Barclay, formerly Manchester :
“ Salute to the Staff ” £3 3 0	“ Girl in Ontario ” £1 1 0
Miss M. Gallagher, Edinburgh :	Miss J. L. Collier, Preston (Liverpool) :
“ The Bookworm ” £3 3 0	“ Show Business ” £1 1 0
Miss J. Paine, London	Miss T. E. Coppin, Liverpool :
“ Girl in Darkest Africa ” £3 3 0	“ Children’s Mayor ” £1 1 0
Miss A. Smith, Birmingham	Mrs. M. Forster, Middlesbrough :
“ Adventures of a Beauty Queen ”	“ Family Matters ” £1 1 0
£3 3 0	Miss P. Hall, Redcar (Middlesbrough) :
Mrs. J. Teasdale, Alton (Birmingham) :	“ A Young Songster ” £1 1 0
“ Miss Staffordshire ” £3 3 0	Mrs. J. Lax, Stockton-on-Tees
Miss M. Jacobs, Australia :	(Middlesbrough) :
“ Hitch-hiking the World ” £2 2 0	“ Youngest Reader ? ” £1 1 0
Miss B. Jones, Liverpool :	Miss I. Mitchinson, Alnwick (Newcastle) :
“ Welfare Queen ” £2 2 0	“ Back to the Land ” £1 1 0
Miss M. J. Potts, London :	Mrs. B. Smart, Birmingham :
“ Girl in the Lebanon ” £2 2 0	“ Operator’s ‘ No ’ to Film Career ”
Miss D. Stoker, Newcastle :	£1 1 0
“ Ballroom Dancing ” £2 2 0	Mrs. A. Young, formerly Glasgow :
	“ Girl in Bulawayo ” £1 1 0

FAMILY FORTUNES £1 1s. 0d. each to

Miss D. Morris, Swansea (Cardiff)	Mrs. S. Turner (London)
Miss K. Morris, Swansea (Cardiff)	Mrs. O. M. Kerby (Coventry)
Miss J. McConnell (now Mrs. Banks) (Liverpool)	Mrs. E. L. Brown (Coventry)
Miss P. McConnell (formerly Liverpool)	Mrs. K. Rose (London)
Miss Jessey McConnell (Liverpool)	Mrs. B. Rose (London)
Mrs. A. Herriott (London)	Mrs. K. M. L. Crickett (London)

MORE PRIZE WINNERS WANTED

WE hope to award more prizes than ever in our next *Medley*. What can YOU do about it? What about that exciting experience, that embarrassing moment, that competition you won? We want anything that is of interest to your fellow-operators, and a glance through these pages will give you some ideas. Prizes up to £3. 3. 0. are given for operators' own original entries. You can send them through your nearest school or else direct to: *The Editor, Comptometer Medley, Felt & Tarrant Ltd., Aldwych House, London, W.C.2.*

PLEASE PASS IT ON

WE sincerely hope you have enjoyed this magazine. If you have finished with it, perhaps you could pass it to a girl or her parents and so help to introduce someone else to the progressive career of Comptometer Operating. Alternatively, 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 great demand for operators. What is more, you will share in the bonus scheme by receiving half-a-guinea for each new pupil introduced and accepted.



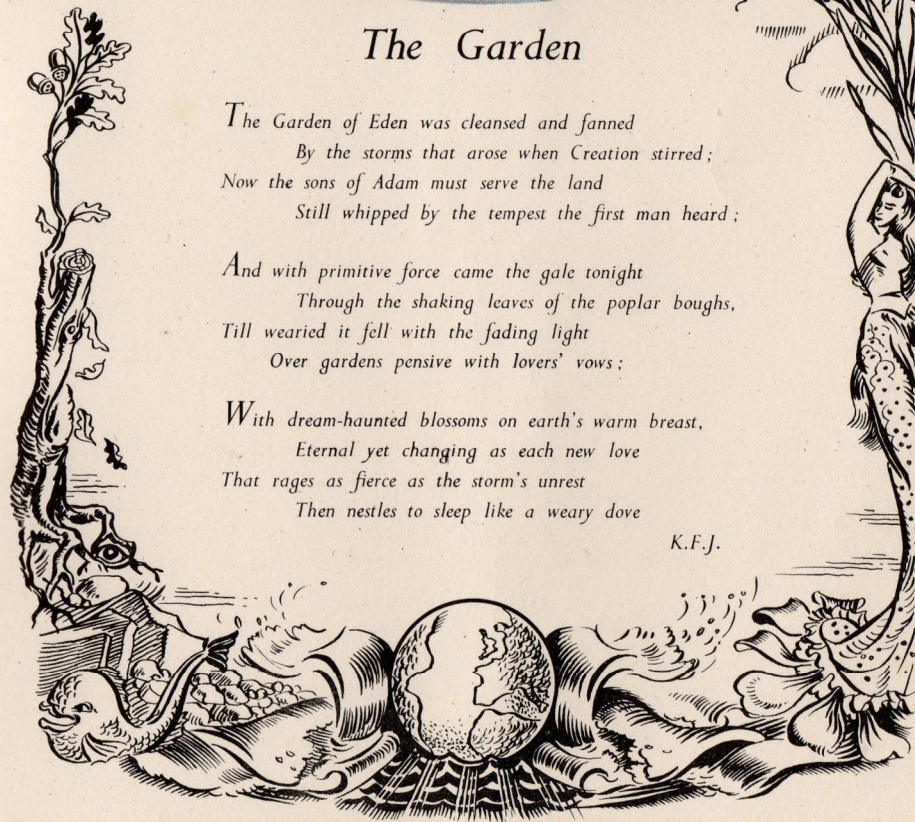
The Garden

*The Garden of Eden was cleansed and fanned
By the storms that arose when Creation stirred;
Now the sons of Adam must serve the land
Still whipped by the tempest the first man heard :*

*And with primitive force came the gale tonight
Through the shaking leaves of the poplar boughs,
Till wearied it fell with the fading light
Over gardens pensive with lovers' vows :*

*With dream-haunted blossoms on earth's warm breast,
Eternal yet changing as each new love
That rages as fierce as the storm's unrest
Then nestles to sleep like a weary dove*

K.F.J.



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WE ARE ALWAYS GLAD TO SEE YOU
