

RADIO HAM MAKES EAST-WEST CONTACT

The announcement of our first Russian orders has caused a great deal of excitement, but one member of our staff is in regular contact with Russia to discuss matters other than computers.

Maurice Stapleton, Electronic Wireman, became a radio ham in 1972 and since then has contacted most countries in the world, the most distant being Japan. He has tapped away many happy hours in his living room with his faithful companion, Lopy the sheepdog.

Maurice says that definite national characteristics are revealed during his conversations. The Americans are very verbose and want to talk all night and the Italian operators (a lot of whom are priests) are very polite and send greetings to the whole of Maurice's family. The most efficient operators are the Russians, especially the Russian women. "They are wonderfully fast, efficient morse operators," says Maurice, "although they are inclined to get a bit saucy, Mrs Stapleton never gets jealous."

Maurice's log book lists countries which seem curiously mixed, Kalsbourg in Sweden, Cralova in Rumania, Montreal in Canada and Stockport! When contact is made with another ham the two operators exchange

greetings, indicate signal strength, reception conditions prevailing, state the name of the town and current weather conditions. Redifon is unlikely to obtain any Eastern European orders through Maurice's hobby since it is one of the golden rules of the Ham Radio Club that operators never discuss their work.

Brian Cnudde, the Cycle Speedway enthusiast

Fast bikes and the sheer test of skill and nerves involved in cycle speedway have become a passion with Brian Cnudde, Trainee Wireman.

Brian is a member of the Crawley Tigers Cycle Speedway team, affectionately known as 'The Tiggers' to their supporters. Their home ground is the Langley Playing Fields, Crawley and the team are top of the Southern League for 1977. One team member is the current British

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Maurice Stapleton, Electronic Wireman, working on a Seecheck terminal.



Maurice Stapleton and his dog, Lopy, spend many happy hours tapping out Morse to people across the world.



Brian Cnudde winning at Poole. Photograph taken by W. Roger Nicholson.

He loves to go a wandering

With a napsack packed with baked beans, sausages and tinned hamburgers on his back, Allan Martin, Works Foreman at Peacehaven, set out on a marathon 250-mile hike along the Pennine Way in August this year.

Not a very restful summer holiday, you may be thinking but Allan likes a challenge and this stint was a test of physical exertion and endurance against appalling walking and weather conditions.

To limber up for this mammoth trek, earlier in the year Allan had walked the South Downs Way covering some 100 miles in a week.

The Pennine Way, which runs through the middle of England from the Peak District to the Scottish Border is the longest footpath in Britain. It took some 30 years of patient negotiation by enthusiastic ramblers before the whole length of the Way was opened — averaging 8½ miles a year.

Near to the time of Allan's departure, he learnt that his colleagues at Peacehaven wished to sponsor his walk, with the proceeds going to the Newhaven Work Centre for the Mentally Handicapped . . . so there was no turning back on his plan now.

Allan set out from Edale at 8.00 a.m. on the 27th, planning to walk an average of 16 miles a day. In addition to his modest food pack he carried a space blanket, three rockets, flares, one smoke signal, one signal mirror, five firelighters, one whistle and a note of the Mountain Rescue Telephone numbers — all vital items of safety equipment. He also had to cope with a 6' x 4' x 3' tent and cooking utensils.

Even though the weather conditions were good on the first day, walking conditions were hazardous and he had to battle with peat channels or 'grouches' as they are known. Nevertheless he managed to cover 15 miles that day and 19 the next.

When Allan left Crowden he knew that he had to face a particular boggy area, but he overcame the difficulties with the popular pastime of 'bog hopping' — many a weary traveller has had to be rescued from the bog having sunk waist deep. Not a pleasant experience!

The weather then became very nasty and Allan felt very

disenchanted with his surroundings. The walk was proving very difficult and Allan told us if it had not been for the fact that he was doing this for a worthy cause, he would have packed up and come home. However, determined to succeed, he won the day.



After a week, Allan had walked 110 miles over rough and treacherous ground and was by now 1732 feet above sea level. On one particular day, just before he reached Cauldron Snout, the weather was so bad that he only managed to travel five miles.

Hadrian's Wall was the next landmark and here Allan took some time out to tour the ruins of the Vindolanda Fort, a well preserved reminder of what



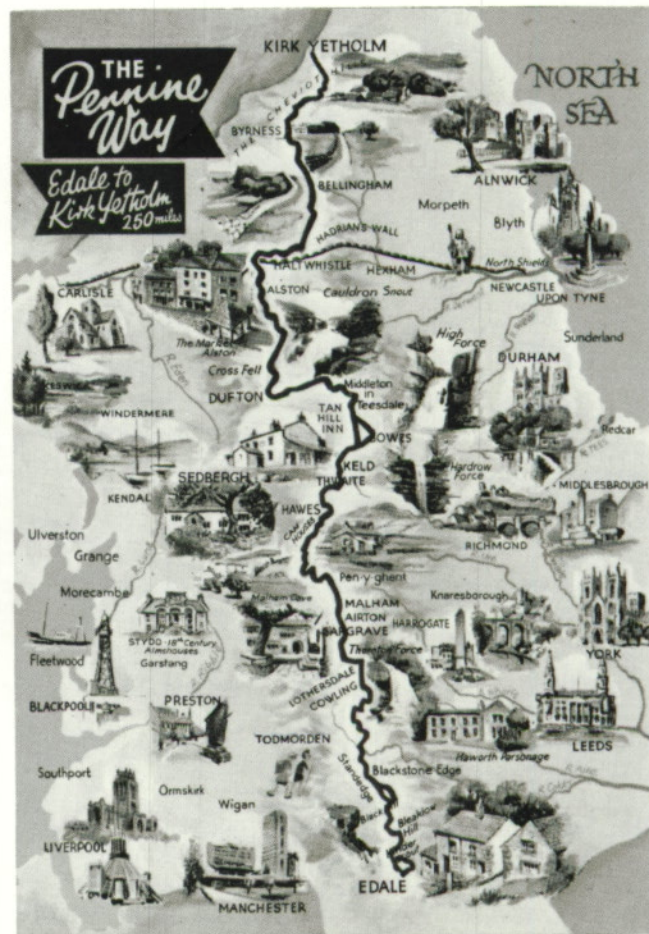
Roman civilisation was like.

Our walker was now on the final leg of the walk — after leaving Hadrian's Wall he spent the night at the Bellingham Youth Hostel which set him up for doing a further 22 miles the next day.

Sunday, 11th September and just 21 miles before he could enjoy the comforts of a square meal, hot bath to ease his aching limbs and a soft bed to rest his head.

Monday, 12th September
 Sunday, 11th September
 Saturday, 10th September
 Friday, 9th September
 Thursday, 8th September
 Wednesday, 7th September
 Tuesday, 6th September
 Monday, 5th September
 Sunday, 4th September
 Saturday, 3rd September
 Friday, 2nd September
 Thursday, 1st September
 Wednesday, 31st August
 Tuesday, 30th August
 Monday, 29th August
 Sunday, 28th August
 Saturday, 27th August

Kirk Yetholm 254 miles
 Mountain Hut 234 miles
 Bellingham 212 miles
 Twice Brewed 196 miles
 Slaggyford 179 miles
 Great Dun Fell 162 miles
 Cauldron Snout 146 miles
 Langdon Beck 141 miles
 Bowes 122 miles
 Keld 110 miles
 Cam Houses 93 miles
 Tennant Gill 78 miles
 Gargrave 64 miles
 Haworth 45 miles
 Stoodley Pike 34 miles
 Crowden 15 miles
 Edale Start 8.00 a.m.



As usual, the last mile seemed the longest and he tells us his steps quickened as he saw before him the Border Hotel at Kirk Yetholm. He had made it! This was now a time for celebration and to enjoy the sweet smell of success.

Our intrepid walker had not wavered in his ambition — in fact he had covered a distance of 254 miles.

Allan arrived back home on 13th September and reported for

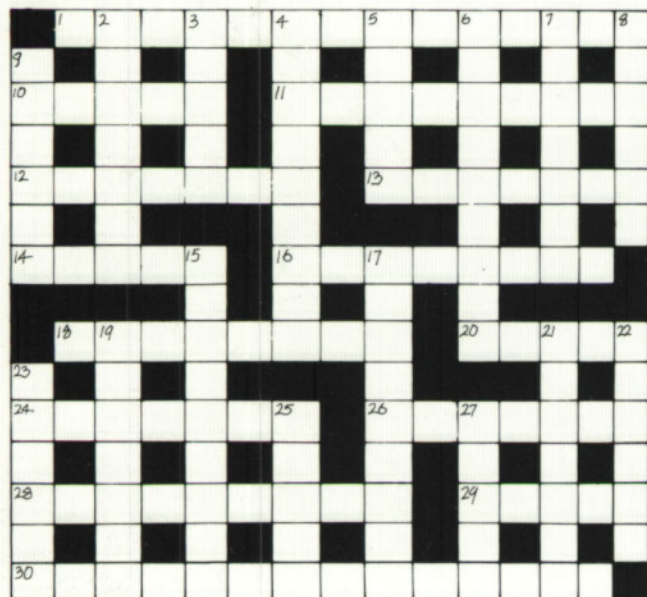


work promptly the next day. His colleagues' enthusiastic welcome upon his return really had made it all worthwhile, although he admits that he would never do it again. A sum of £30 was raised for the Work Centre.

Just one thing we have forgotten to mention — the birds that Allan encountered on route — buzzards, peregrine falcons, curlews, ravens, warblers, grey wagtails, grouse and the occasional kingfisher!

CHRISTMAS CROSSWORD

by Neil Green — Branch Manager — Midlands



The first two correct entries opened on 14th December, 1977, will be able to choose between a Christmas Hamper or a year's subscription to either 'Playboy' or 'Playgirl'. Entries are invited from employees of Redifon Computers Limited, and results will be printed in the Spring edition of Redifon Computer News.

ACROSS: 1. Deck out and prepare into 9, 20, 18 and 22 for 13, 23 or 26 to give 30 (7,3,4) 2. Fear of losing the junction — wrong! (5) 11. Map used by Hadrian? (9) 12. About, end, about, back for making smoother (7) 13. Vingt-et-un supporting 23? (7) 14. Spirit in the sky? (5) 16. Think highly of an uneven even rate (8) 18. Are not forever when like 9, 20 and 22 (8) 20. Night ones are ideal for 30 (5) 24. As 28 in France, rise and mature (5,2) 26. Game Chan used to 1 to get up to his tricks (7) 28. The first of 22 foretells this appearance (9) 29. I value anger (5) 30. Diversions? (14)

DOWN: 2. A half rum mixed will do you no good (7) 3. Back in Ventnor a fair way away (3,2) 4. These balls never rise to the occasion (3,6) 5. Put back half a lime in for the flower (5) 6. The entire three hundred strange, strange? (9) 7. What price staccato — a hundred less (2,1,4) 8. Flying objects for 30 (6) 15. Un homme et une femme? (3,3,3) 17. Organ blowing? (4,5) 19. To infiltrate of the interim plan takes time (7) 21. 24 end, begin and get on fast (7) 22. Call them 22 for absolute honesty (6) 23. Do you use it to get over your nose? (6) 25. Donna is the first lady (5) 27. Loud negative is a point (5)

Engineers rule O.K.

The two winning entries in the Summer Crossword were submitted by members of the two Engineering Departments — John Smallridge of the Engineering Drawing Office and Malcolm Stanbridge who is a Customer Services Engineer based in Bristol. The lucky winners have been awarded their Parker Pens and 'T' shirts and if you are still puzzling over the clues here are the solutions:—

Across: 1. Restore; 5. Incant; 9. Observe; 10. Top-it-up; 11. Bye; 12. Materialist; 13. Sisal; 14. Unabashed; 16. Contracts; 17. Attic; 19. Culmination; 22. Nee; 23. Upstart; 24. Emotion; 26. Ascend; 27. Stagger. **Down:** 1. Rhombus; 2. Systems Analysis; 3. Our; 4. Event; 5. Intervals; 6. Copra; 7. Notwithstanding; 8. Spited; 12. Molar; 14. Uncharted; 15. Again; 16. Cactus; 18. Cleaner; 20. Inane; 21. Ideas; 25. Ova.

Daisy, Daisy is all at sea



Reg Kast sets off on his marathon tandem ride.

Six Officers, Instructors and seven Cadets, aged between 11 and 14 enthusiastically involved themselves in a 380 miles relay tandem ride to raise much needed funds for T.S. Swiftsure. We are proud to say that the successful exercise was masterminded by our own Reg Kast, Senior Storeman at Redifon.

The ride started at Copthorne past Folkestone then on to Ashford for the first overnight stop.

Near Ashford the first mishap occurred when the handle bars snapped off on two occasions and emergency welding repairs had to be done.

The next day the riders headed for London and it was here in the middle of the rush hour with the rain beginning to fall quite heavily that Reg saw one of the lady riders disappearing in the wrong direction. In faded

sunhat, 'T' shirt and frayed shorts he approached a policeman explaining that he had "lost a lady on a tandem". It took the policeman a great deal of self-control to contain his laughter as he tried to help Reg out of his predicament . . . and 45 minutes later rider and organiser were reunited.

After a night's rest at Camp Ripley the team rode on to Portsmouth and spent the following evening at Arundel before pedalling to Brighton where the last leg of the ride was in sight.

When they returned to Copthorne they had covered a distance of 410 miles raising £400 after expenses. A very happy and contented team of relay riders departed for home delighted with their success and achievement.

**The Christmas Buffet and Dance
will be held on
Friday, 16th December, 1977
at the Europa Lodge Hotel
Tickets £3.25 each**