



Visit of
Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth
The Queen Mother

TO THE
CENTRAL OFFICE
OF THE
MINISTRY OF PENSIONS AND NATIONAL INSURANCE
NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE

To Open The New
COMPUTER BUILDING

2nd July 1962



Monday, 2nd July, 1962

HER MAJESTY QUEEN ELIZABETH THE QUEEN MOTHER

accompanied by

The Lord Lieutenant of Northumberland
His Grace the Duke of Northumberland, K.G.,

and attended by

The Dowager Viscountess Hambleden, D.C.V.O.
(Lady of the Bedchamber)

and Lieut.-Colonel Sir Martin Gilliat, K.C.V.O., M.B.E.
(Private Secretary and Equerry)

will arrive at the Central Office of the Ministry of Pensions and
National Insurance, Newcastle upon Tyne, at 10.50 a.m.

HER MAJESTY

will be received by

The Minister of Pensions and National Insurance
(*The Rt. Hon. John Boyd-Carpenter, M.P.*)

The Minister will present

The Lord Mayor of Newcastle upon Tyne and the Lady Mayoress
(*Alderman George Jacobson and Mrs. Jacobson*)

The Permanent Secretary to the Ministry
(*Sir Eric B. Bowyer, K.C.B., K.B.E.*)

Mrs. Boyd-Carpenter

The Director of Establishments and Organisation to the Ministry
(*Mr. L. Errington, C.B.*)

The Controller, Newcastle Central Office
(*Mr. J. H. McCarthy*) and *Mrs. McCarthy*

The Sheriff of Newcastle upon Tyne and the Sheriff's Lady
(*Alderman Mrs. C. C. Scott, J.P. and Mrs. C. H. E. Whitlie*)

The Town Clerk of Newcastle upon Tyne
(*Mr. J. Atkinson*)

The Chief Constable of Newcastle upon Tyne
(*Mr. G. S. Jackson, C.B.E.*)

The Private Secretary to the Minister
(*Mr. C. M. Regan*)

HER MAJESTY

will inspect a Guard of Honour drawn from the Ministry's St. John Ambulance Brigade and Civil Defence Units and she will then proceed to the Controller's Room where

The Minister will present

Members of Parliament:

Mr. E. Popplewell, C.B.E.; Captain E. W. Short; Mr. R. W. Elliott;

Mr. W. Fergus Montgomery

The Chairman of Electric and Musical Industries Limited: *Sir Joseph Lockwood*

The Director, North Eastern Region, Ministry of Works: *Mr. A. W. T. Ellis*

Deputy Controllers, Central Office, Newcastle: *Mr. W. H. Watling and Mr. W. B. Cowie*

Northern Regional Controller, Ministry of Pensions and National Insurance:

Mr. C. Kenwright

Heads of Branches, Central Office, Newcastle:

Mr. J. W. Barrs, O.B.E.; Mr. R. J. Eayrs; Mr. A. E. Hancock, O.B.E.;

Mr. L. M. Maclean; Mr. D. Newman; and Mr. G. H. A. Othen

Chairman, Newcastle District Whitley Council (Staff Side): *Mr. F. Morris*

HER MAJESTY

will arrive at the Computer Building at 11.15 a.m. for the opening ceremony

The Minister will present:

The Ministry of Works Assistant Regional Director: *Mr. H. J. Muir*

Architect: *Mr. G. D. Hamilton*; Senior Estate Surveyor: *Mr. P. B. Norman*;

Engineer: *Mr. J. I. Barnard*; Building Contractor: *Mr. Ralph Bowey*;

Head of Branch O. & M. Division, Ministry of Pensions & National Insurance:

Miss C. H. Hampton;

Accommodation Officer, Central Office, Newcastle: *Mr. A. E. Ashton, M.B.E.*

The Minister will then invite the Queen Mother to speak. Following Her Majesty's speech,

Miss E. Humes will present Her Majesty with a bouquet. The Queen Mother will then

unveil a plaque to commemorate the opening of the Computer Building.

HER MAJESTY

will begin her tour of the Computer Building at 11.35 a.m. In the computer room

The Minister will present

The Managing Director of EMI Electronics Limited: *Mr. P. A. Allaway*

The Managing Director of Rank Precision Industries: *Mr. T. A. Law*

The Engineer in Charge of Computer Construction: *Mr. E. J. Ferrier*

Chief Executive Officers: *Mr. J. Drummond and Mr. A. J. M. Petrie*

Senior Programmers: *Mr. J. Sewell; Mr. A. Usher; Mr. J. Wailes*

Local Chief Engineer: *Mr. D. Lawrence*

HER MAJESTY

will next visit the Tape Converter Room, the Computer Hall—where Her Majesty

will set the Computer in operation—and the Xeronic Printer and Punch and Microfilm Rooms.

HER MAJESTY

will then visit the Records and Ledger Section at 12.15 p.m.

HER MAJESTY

will complete her tour and return to the Controller's Office.

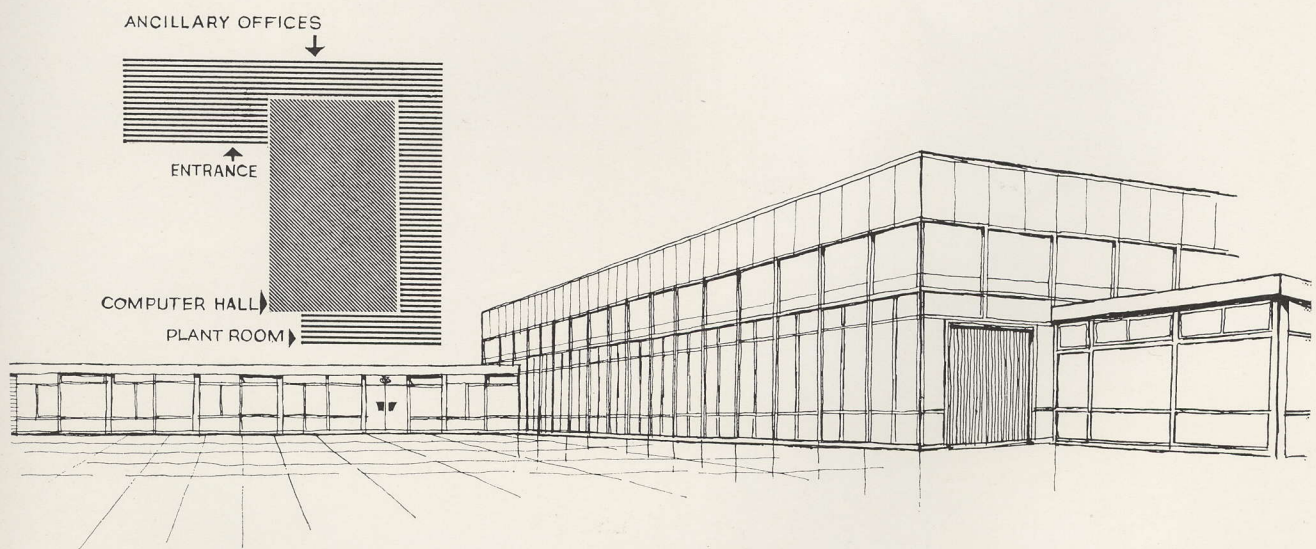
At 12.50 p.m. she will leave the Central Office.

THE COMPUTER INSTALLATION

The Graduated Pensions Scheme involves the very considerable task of recording all contributions made under the Scheme, dealing with queries, arranging for appropriate pensions to be paid when due and the preparation of accounts for every contributor. In fact, only a large scale electronic computer equipped with magnetic tape input and output facilities would be capable of handling adequately the immense amount of work involved.

In the computer building at the Newcastle Central Office of the Ministry of Pensions and National Insurance individual records of over 26 million insured persons are stored in code on some 1,400 reels of magnetic tape. Twenty-four magnetic tape machines are linked to the computer and each machine can feed data to or receive

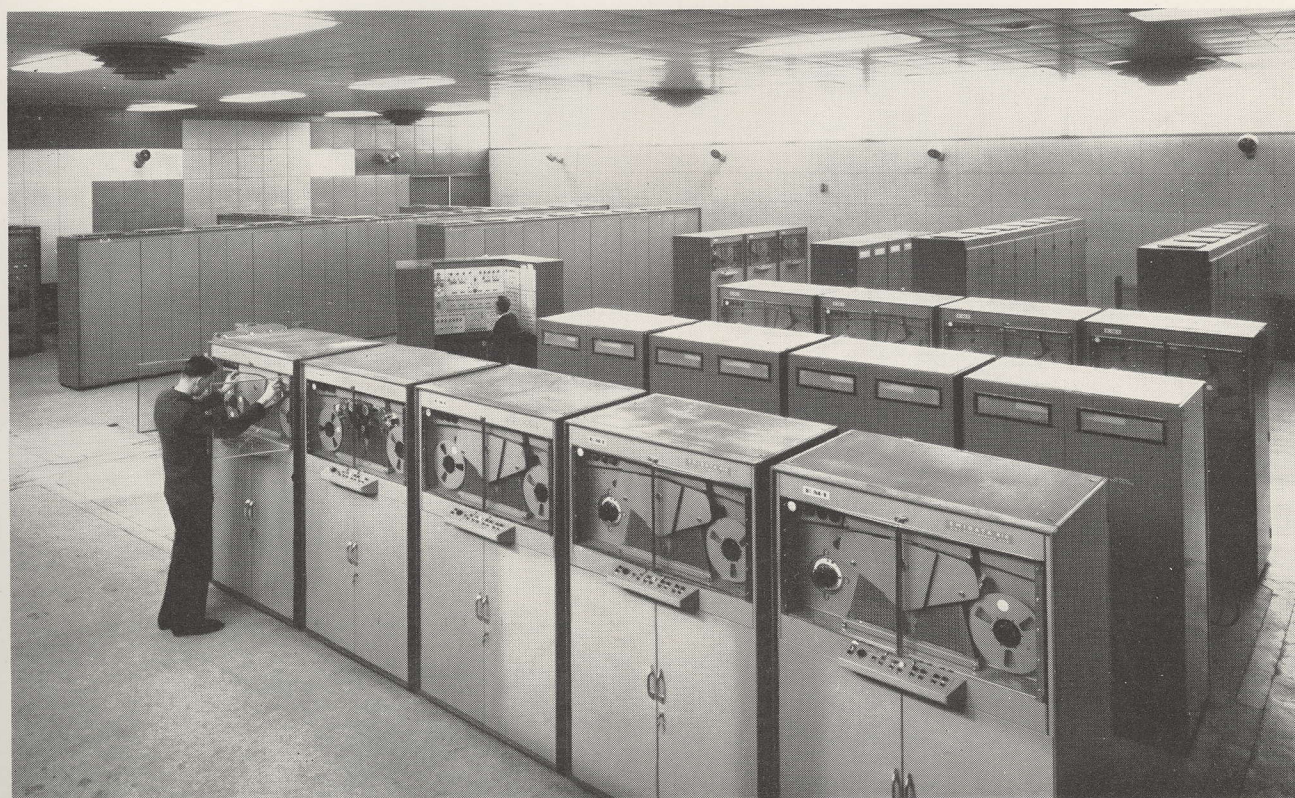
(continued overleaf)



data from the computer at a speed of 20,000 characters a second. In operational use the computer can sort to National Insurance number order the details of 200,000 contribution records an hour and post them to the individual contributor's record. The data processing system selected by the Government was an EMIDEC 2400, supplied and installed by EMI Electronics, Ltd., at the end of 1961.

The high speed Xeronic printer, manufactured by Rank Precision Industries, Ltd., which is included in the computer installation incorporates the most advanced electronic printing techniques and can print over 50,000 statements of account for individual contributors in an hour.

The staff who wrote the programme for the Graduated Pensions Scheme which controls the operation of the computer are Ministry personnel trained by EMI in the operation of the machine. Most of them had no previous experience in this field and considerable credit is due to them for the successful planning of the operation.





THE CENTRAL OFFICE, NEWCASTLE

While the Headquarters of the Ministry of Pensions and National Insurance are in London, it is on Newcastle Central Office that the Ministry's nationwide network of 825 local offices relies for the essential information needed if claims to benefit and pension are to be met accurately and promptly. In the course of a year the Central Office deals with more than 95 million individual items.

More than 8,600 staff are employed on the 65 acre site and together they serve the interests of some 33 million people including about 6,200,000 insurance pensioners and over 3½ million Family Allowances beneficiaries.

By far the biggest section is Records Branch which holds the insurance records of more than 37 million people as well as an index recording each insured person's name, address, and national insurance number. Relatively smaller sections, but just as essential to the efficient working of the Schemes, include Family Allowances Branch, Contributions Branch, Central Pensions Branch, Finance Department, Statistics Branch and a number of ancillary sections to which the latest addition is the electronic computer—EMIDEC 2400—designed to maintain an up-to-date record of payments made under the graduated pension scheme. Together all these Branches comprise what might well be regarded as a modern Domesday Book of the Welfare State.