



High in the mountains we see Brian Murrow.

## MEN FROM MANWEB MAKE THEIR MARK AT SCHOOL OF ADVENTURE

**D**ESPITE what many cynics may think and often say, MANWEB is concerned about its people—from the newest entrant to the oldest pensioner. In recent issues of 'Contact' we have featured stories from the ranks of the retired, and even in these pages we cover a spate of retirement presentations. But this particular story is about those who are just starting their careers.

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When young people come to work for the Board, in addition to learning the intricacies of their chosen jobs, many are presented with a wonderful opportunity to develop their characters as they grow to maturity.

One of the many outlets of this kind can be found at the West Highland School of Adventure, at Applecross in Ross-shire, Scotland. Here, during a 26-day course, young men develop qualities of self-discipline and endurance and gain the capacity to face hazards, difficulties, hardships and emergencies of all kinds. They also learn one of the main qualities needed in this world today—co-operation with others in worthy enterprises and acceptance of obligations of service to others.

The School has as its main outdoor activities sailing naval-type cutters, canoeing, trekking, light-weight camping and rock-climbing. Instruction is given in life-saving, first-aid, seamanship and map-reading. Opportunities are also provided for the more cultural activities such as nature study, discussion groups, public speaking, educational films and musical appreciation. Each young man on the course is given a log-book in which he is asked

Back home, Peter Simcock and George Vose

Right: Fully dressed for the occasion is Philip Cato.

Below: Mike Galvin is pictured here with Hartfield House as a background.



to keep a detailed day-to-day record of what he has done and thought.

For many years now, young members of the MANWEB staff have been selected to go on courses at Applecross. In the main, the choice is made from the craft apprentices who are nearing the completion of their 'time' and selections are based on the work record, progress with the job and general conduct together with an aptitude for such a course.

*Every year, one of the Hoylake contingent of new entrants is awarded a coveted prize of a trip to the West Highland School for Adventure. In addition, about half-a-dozen or so student engineers are sent on courses there each year.*

Last year, among these selected were five young men from the Liverpool Districts. They took the name of MANWEB to Scotland and carved it on the record books at the School. Each attained distinctions for their performance on their respective courses and set a very high standard for the Board's representatives on future courses.

Our reporter went along to talk to this quality quintette and came back with these brief biographies.

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**Phillip A. Cato** is a 20-year-old electrician based at Lister Drive H.s 'free time' is usually spent at the Childwall Valley Community Centre where he is an

assistant Youth Leader. He is interested in football and weightlifting and before taking up his youth club work he played for the Electric Supply team.

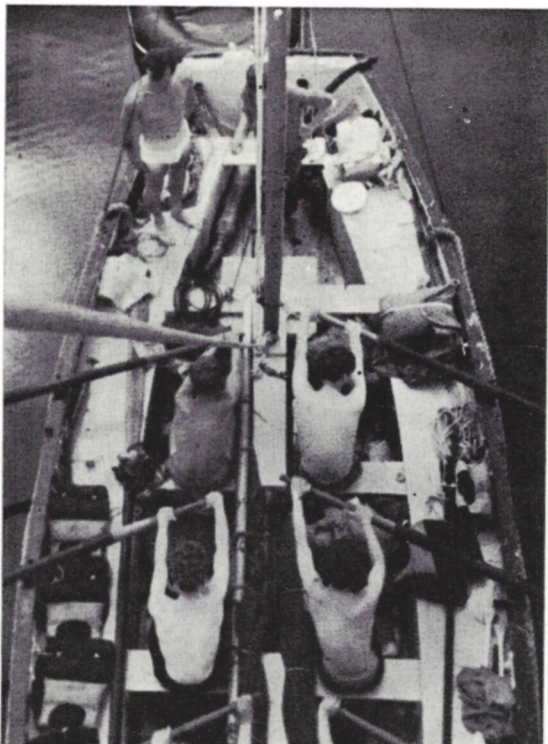
*"I want to stay with MANWEB," he said, "but not necessarily as an electrician. I would like to move into the Commercial sales field."*

On his Course at Applecross he was sailing in some very rough water when the boat's main sail ripped and the mizzen sail collapsed. After trying a temporary job under very difficult conditions, they had to resort to the auxiliary motor to get them out of trouble.

His advice to other young men from MANWEB, *"If you are lucky enough to be chosen to go on one of these courses, grab the opportunity with both hands,*

#### THE OBJECTS OF APPLECROSS . . .

to encourage and foster the spirit of adventure whereby boys may achieve strength of character through the pursuit of testing experiences and challenges under skilled supervision ; to instil self-confidence, a sense of teamwork and an awareness of the individual's endurance ; to give boys the opportunity of showing initiative and developing the qualities of leadership, compassion and community spirit ; to introduce new activities to the boys which if pursued by them after leaving the School, will give them a fuller, more enjoyable or interesting way of life.



*but don't treat it as a trip to a holiday camp—get stuck in at all the activities and you will enjoy every minute of your stay."*

Phillip, who came second in order of merit both for his performance on the Course and for the standard of his Log Book, was awarded a High Merit Rating.

**Michael G. Galvin**, 20, an electrician from Central District who, like his colleagues, did his initial training at Hoylake where (*he tells us*) he was the star of their football team!

He too would eventually like to move over to our Commercial sales side, and as he progresses in the industry would like to attain a position of directing others rather than commanding them.

He enjoyed his time in Scotland with the sailing, rock-climbing and camping. This whetted his appetite and he now spends most week-ends in Wales or the Lake District on camping and fishing trips.

On his last day at Applecross, Mike jumped from a twelve foot wall and twisted his knee—his friends

**This crew of young men from Applecross bend their backs and show their muscle power as they pull on the oars of this rather hefty boat.**

**Camp site. An ideal spot, close by a lake, to pitch the tents during one of the outdoor expeditions. Here the weather was kind enough to allow for a spot of bathing.**



said it was only an excuse to get off the cross-country run! However, the injury turned out to be cartilage trouble and he limped home to have an operation and spend a few weeks hobbling about on crutches. Happily he is now back at work on two sound legs.

Before leaving Applecross he was presented with the Outstanding Log Book Award and finished in fourth place on his Course gaining a High Merit.

**Brian Alan Murrow** is a 20-year-old electrician working from Marsh Lane who got himself engaged last Christmas to Miss Jane Dowsett who works in a bank—couldn't be in a better place! Away from his work, Brian spends his time as a Cub Instructor with the 12th Crosby Scout Troop, plays football for the Electric Supply team and enjoys camping and swimming.

As far as work is concerned he thinks it much harder today for a man's work to be seen to be appreciated than it was in days gone by. He said that he realises that good results in examinations are essential if a man is to get anywhere with his career. However, he didn't favour the 'one-day release' system but would rather see some kind of block release for a

#### THE LOCATION . . . .

*Applecross is situated in Ross-shire on the west coast of Scotland opposite Skye. It is about 80 miles from Inverness and some 15 miles north of Kyle of Lochalsh. The Applecross peninsular covers 80,000 acres and is an area full of scenic beauty and grandeur.*

*Facilities are ideal for sailing, canoeing and swimming, rock climbing, hill and moor trekking, light-weight camping and expeditions. Weather permitting, each course ends up with an expedition, partly by sea and partly on land, lasting up to eight days.*

few days at a time for swotting just before the vital examinations.

At Applecross, Brian was the Outstanding Student of his Course and passed with a High Merit mark.

**Peter M. Simcock**, another 20-year-old who works as an electrician on telecommunications at Lister Drive where he spends his days installing and

maintaining the Board's telephone systems, P.A.X. equipment and the mobile radios in our service vans.

He is another young man on the marital trail when he became engaged recently to Miss Irene Jones a punch-card operator. He is a keen dancer and plays football and badminton.

He says that providing he can keep in sight the opportunities ahead, then he would like to stay with the Board for he really enjoys his work.

Peter, who holds the Gold Standard in the Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme, had these comments on the School—*"I enjoyed the canoeing and the sailing, and the climbing was a 'gas.' On the food front, the calory-controlled diet was fine, but as a tummy-filler it wasn't so good."*

He was the Outstanding Student of his Course passing with High Merit and he thought it definitely worth while taking time out to go on the Course.

**George A. Vose**, a meter mechanic at Lister Drive, is also a "mid-field star" (*his very own words*) in the Electric Supply football team. He is a keen dancer and enjoys singing.

Now 20 years of age, he is studying electronics at the North East Technical College in Liverpool.

He has definite views on the Board's Payment and Productivity Schemes in that he thinks the bonus payment is fine and while the overall scheme is pretty good, it doesn't have enough allowance for apprentice instruction—or maybe the allowance isn't being correctly used.

George was the Outstanding Student of his Course, passing with Honours. He commented that the School tended to bring out a person's true character, and the many differing problems one had to sort out at Applecross most certainly helped on return to work. *"The food was good and wholesome—but was in short supply—at least for me!"* he said.

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Well these five very active and interesting young people are just a sample of the new blood we are getting in our Industry today. With youngsters like this we need have no fears or misgivings about the future.