



CONTACT

April 1976

Sir Peter goes
'fisch-ing'
(see page 68)

Effective Use of Electric Power

It is important for us to improve our international competitiveness by better productivity and we must not be diverted by undue attention to saving energy. This was explained by Mr. John Platts, Energy Sales Manager of the Electricity Council in London recently. He was speaking at a one-day seminar on Using Electricity Effectively in Industry and Commerce, organised by the *Electrical Times*.

In seeking to make the best use of the nation's energy resources, he said, there was a danger that a choice between conflicting priorities might obscure the need to safeguard other scarce resources. Energy conservation in itself was not enough because, at present rates of depletion, fossil fuels were less scarce than some other primary raw materials. Capital and human resources were also important business criteria and undue concentration on energy conservation might divert us from the need to husband total resources.

"Companies are only being asked to save energy by measures which are economic and which will pay for themselves in terms of the energy savings which they yield," said Mr. Platts. "The emphasis is towards making better use of energy. There is also a need for increased investment by industry in new machinery and manufacturing plant with the objective of improving productivity. Although this may well increase energy usage it would be advantageous to the national economy. This view is not out of line with that of the Government, which holds that the replacement of imported energy by economically produced home substitutes must represent the main thrust of energy policy. In this respect 70% of electricity generated in Britain is from coal-fired power stations and about 10% from well established nuclear plant."

Mr. Platts added that industry bought some 80,000 GWh of electricity from the public supply, accounting for 40% of electricity sold and amounting to a revenue of £900 million. "We recognise that our industrial customers only buy electricity for what it can do for them; it has to be cost effective. An electrical technique may give additional value to the product, or provide a better product quality, or reduce a reject rate. It may produce an improved working or social environment, a saving in raw material, or a saving in energy. The choice of an electrical technique or system must create profit for the industrialist and in many cases, there is a feature

of the electricity use that will make a contribution to the economy.

"We do not consider that there should always be a positive energy benefit in the technique, but that there should be a beneficial result in the employment of raw materials or some other factor. At the same time, clear energy benefits can derive from the better controllability, the inherent compactness, and the cleanliness of the electrical process route. Looking to the future, the year 2000 and beyond, it is widely agreed that much of our future energy requirements will be met by electricity. A steady controlled change-over to electrical processing will make a much better contribution to the national economy and growth of individual living standards than a crash programme of investment when the true energy picture becomes clear."

DISCONNECTIONS — THE FACTS

Some telling facts and figures on the subject of disconnection of electricity supplies because of non-payment of bills have been made available by the Electricity Council. These figures will be of interest to all members of the Board's staff.

- * Our industry (nation-wide) send out 70 million bills each year to 17 million quarterly-billed consumers (not all of them domestic).

- * 70% are paid before Reminders are sent, within three to four weeks. The great majority are paid within a short time of receipt of the original bill.

- * Of the 30% which give rise to Reminder notices, the great majority are paid within a week. Only about 6% of customers reach the stage of becoming "scheduled for disconnection."

- * Over the whole country the number of disconnections in 1975/76 was 138,000. This means that of the 17 million bills sent out each quarter, 99.8% are paid without recourse to disconnection, and only 0.2% are disconnected taking a quarterly average. The annual figure for disconnections (0.8%) compares with 0.7% in 1974/75—hardly a dramatic increase.

- * Of those who are disconnected 70% pay and are reconnected within 48 hours.



CONTACT

Vol. 28 No. 4

April 1976

On other
pages . . .

Sir Peter Menzies visits Clwyd and Head Office	68
Commercial Catering	70
Chairman's Walkabout at Oswestry	72
Staff Committee Changes	74
Talking Notes	75
The Good Old Days	81
Dee Valley Successes	81
Commercial Conferences	82
Safe Drivers at Clwyd and Mid-Mersey	83
"Value for Money" at Olympia	85
Luxury Shower	85
Retirements	86
Obituary	88

Editorial

Myth and Reality

DURING the past few months much has been said and written on the subject of electricity disconnections. The prophets of doom and the grinders of axes have been forecasting that the undertakers would be working overtime dealing with octogenarian victims of hypothermia, hastened into their graves by the flinty-hearted men from the Electricity Boards.

The hard facts of the situation paint a very different picture. The statistics published elsewhere in this number of *Contact* merit study by every employee of our industry if the broad principle of "disconnection for non-payment" is to be retained and justified in the interests of the vast majority who pay their accounts promptly.

The following national figures are especially noteworthy:

- * In any given quarter only two customers in every thousand are disconnected.
- * Disconnections rose by only one in a thousand in 1975/76, compared with the previous year.
- * Seventy per cent of those who are disconnected pay up and get their supply back within 48 hours. (One wonders how many of these bills would be settled with such alacrity if the incentive to pay up—provided by disconnection—was not present).

It falls to every one of us, at some time or other, in our working lives or our private lives, to defend the policies and actions of our industry. A sincere and sustained effort has been made to help and advise the small minority of real hardship cases. Ways of making payment easier have been devised and publicised.

Our industry's policy has been to do everything possible to protect the weak from undue distress and at the same time to protect the interests of the great majority.

That policy is reasonable, justified, and proper.

Editorial Staff

Keith Baldwin 2164
John F. Perry 2167
Sam Doughty 2166

Please let the Editorial staff know of any large-scale or unusual engineering schemes or commercial projects going on in your department. We are interested in people too! Contact us about your interesting personalities with a story to tell.

Sir Peter Menzies visits our Clwyd District

Covering almost 700 square miles our Clwyd District includes the towns of Rhyl, Prestatyn, Colwyn Bay, Llandudno, Mold, Flint, Penmaenmawr and Llanrwst. The District Office is at Cefndy Road, Rhyl with sub-Depots at Llandudno Junction and Mold. The staff cater for 98,395 consumers and unit sales for the nine months to December last reached 516,193,000.

OUR COVER PICTURE shows Sir Peter trying his hand with the Microfische equipment aided by Derek Young an assistant in the Consumer Accounts section.



Left: Colin Williams, a clerk in the Thrift Meter section explains part of his work to Sir Peter, centre, and checked by George Cooksley (District Administrative Officer).

Below: Bill Silvey (District records draughtsman), left, chats with Sir Peter, Denis Dodds (Chairman) & Ken Helliwell (Group Manager).

Alan Spargo, admin. assistant, left, is introduced to Sir Peter by Ken Helliwell. Tied up on the 'phone is Prudence Buckley, supervisor in the New Supplies section.





Before leaving Cefndy Road, the visitors posed for a parting camera shot with the District Officers. From left to right we see, Messrs. Ken Helliwell (Group Manager), Denis Dodds (Chairman), George Cooksley (District Administrative Officer), Sir Peter Menzies (Chairman, Electricity Council) Ben Hastings (Deputy Chairman), Les Griffiths (District Engineer) and David Mellor (District Commercial Engineer).

Sir Peter has a handshake for George Simpson a Commercial foreman who is now enjoying a life of retirement.



—and Head Office

On his brief visit to Sealand Road offices, Sir Peter managed to meet some of our accounts staff and see a visual display unit in action, operated by Maureen Lloyd-Jones. Also in the picture we have, from left to right: Len Walter (principal assistant), Geoff Barnes (Assistant Chief Accountant), Carolyn Wright (clerical), Alf Lott (executive officer), Sir Peter, Denis Dodds (Chairman) and A. P. Whyte (Chief Accountant).



Meeting the Needs in Catering

Britain's hotel and catering industry has become one of the largest single users of electrical power—arguably the most important in volume outside the sphere of manufacturing industries, and there have been many developments in recent months by the Electricity Council and by the equipment suppliers to provide the most cost-effective uses of this power.

The latest survey recently published by the catering industry's own 'Little Neddy' (The National Economic Development Committee for Hotels and

caterer has become more disciplined. He demands a completely different approach, with emphasis on economy, flexibility, mobility and hygiene. Above all, he demands efficiency of operation for he knows that the final presentation of the operation's success is 'what's on the plate!'

With twenty million meals served away from home every day there is increasing responsibility for management to justify and account for massive increasing investment in catering.

The role of electricity in the catering operation is now not only firmly established but is in the very centre of the growth area of change.

You have only to look at the nature of the emer-

At Aberystwyth . . .



After officially opening the Board's Catering exhibition the Mayor of Aberystwyth, Councillor Mervyn Jones chats with Ron Williams (District Commercial Engineer) and Liz Frame our "Girl from MANWEB."

"It is opportune that after a lapse of many years, a commercial catering exhibition should once again come to Aberystwyth. Catering is now big business—it encourages tourism which, in its turn, plays such a vital part in the economy of rural Wales."

Ron Williams (D.C.E.)

Catering affiliated to the N.E.D.C.)—shows that a staggering total of some five billion pounds-worth of food was used by the industry last year.

This means a vast amount of preparation and cooking through Britain's hotels and institutions, so the accent on equipment trends is heavily slanted in terms of greater efficiency and speed in production allied to the most economical usage of labour resources.

The days have long since gone when a few incongruous work-tops were considered suitable as a servery; when cooking apparatus was haphazardly installed nearest the most 'convenient' power point, and when labour carried part-time passengers. No thought was given to the streamlining of services and the best use of space. Hygienic aspects were given little consideration and economy didn't rate much higher. Power was pumped into the units regardless of the running costs—and energy was lost.

But, inspired by the need to economise, today's

giving new equipment in microwave, convection ovens, high pressure steam units, etc., to realise how much electricity has to offer the caterer in providing him with flexibility to survive the hazards of present economic difficulties and match up to new menu demands.

The electricity supply industry sees the caterer in his role as a businessman needing to market his services in the most attractive and acceptable manner—and provide him with the versatility of exciting new service counters in dining areas where he can achieve the perfect atmosphere with good air conditioning, lighting and heating. Electricity can interpret efficiency in catering operation and provide a background environment of cleanliness and well-being that keeps the staff happy.

MANWEB exhibitions help bring the caterer face to face with new equipment for pubs and small hotels, guest houses and restaurants, five-star hotels and industrial caterers.

A new Electricity Council publication asks "Does your recipe for success include energy management?" and goes on to state, "As much as 25 per cent of your cooking energy cost can be saved by installing time switches on cooking equipment and training staff in correct operation."

Designed to stimulate caterers into examining their own practices, it asks 14 questions ranging from "Are your light fittings clean?" to "Are you using the right form of refrigeration to minimise food wastage?" and provides most of the answers.

Copies may be obtained from The Electricity Council, Marketing Department, 30 Millbank, London, SW1P 4RD. Ask for "Energy Management for Caterers" (publication number EC 3447).



Keeping the coffee flowing to the queue of happy visitors to the exhibition at Chester is Dee Valley demonstrator Menna Roberts.

and Dee Valley Districts



Tempting tasty morsals being offered to E. V. Jones and Menna Roberts by our 'Girl from MANWEB' Liz Frame and Anne Roney Smith.

"From the outset of an enquiry our staff will have ensured an adequate supply of electricity is available, and the supply is afforded on the most beneficial tariff to the customer.

"We undertake the design of the electrical installation and carry it out in a workmanlike way. We provide the speedy service that only a concern of our size and influence can, and we operate a 24-hour emergency service.

"Since we entered the catering equipment business seriously four years ago, our sales have increased by 900%, and they now represent a major component in MANWEB's multi-million pound competitive trading account.

"Our prices are not cut-throat, but nothing can beat honest, professional advice, sound workmanship and good, brisk service." Joe Winchester (D.C.E.)

The busy scene at the Board's Commercial Catering exhibition held at the "Queen Hotel" in Chester a short time ago.



Chairman's Walkabout in Oswestry District

With 46,443 consumers in an area of approximately 1,000 square miles, Oswestry District, based at Maesbury Road, covers North Shropshire and Mid Wales. Sub-Depots are at Newtown, Welshpool and Whitchurch and shops at Newtown, Oswestry and Whitchurch. For the nine months to December 1975 unit sales amounted to 246,720,000.



During his tour round the Oswestry District office block at Maesbury Road, our Chairman, Denis Dodds spent a happy moment when he met Joan Griffiths from the Debt Control section, *left*, and her colleagues, *seated*, Geraint Bellis and Ann Pugh of the Prepayments section.

Mr. Dodds concluded his visit with a 'free-and-easy' chat session with the District Officers and some representatives of the District L.A.C. and Works Committee. Our photograph shows, *from left to right*: Messrs. Harry Proctor (*consumer accounts*), Stan Roberts (*District Engineer*), Ron Williams (*District Commercial Engineer*), Bill Thompson (*District Administrative Officer*), Sid Warburton (*admin. assistant*), Denis Dodds (*Chairman*), Roy Barraclough (*Group Manager*), Leo Armstrong (*Commercial Supply*)—a fellow Geordie!—John Pritchard (*substation attendant—static*) and Fred Wightman (*assistant engineer—Systems*).





Above: Mr. Dodds chats with Jean Hall from consumer liaison section—it was her birthday—and with Mike Beard (*principal assistant*).

Above right: The Chairman meets Gareth Wyn Owen, an assistant engineer—Systems, and congratulates him on his successful time and cost saving suggestion for plastic plates for numbering poles and lines.

Right: MANWEB'S youngest District Engineer, Stan Roberts, *left*, with Mr. Dodds in the Drawing Office. In the background is Charlie Butler (*switchboard attendant*). Stan, aged 38, started as a craft and later student apprentice at Rhuddlan. He worked for a while with the CEBG Research Laboratory at Leatherhead before returning to Rhuddlan. Then he went to the former Area 4 Office before his first move to Oswestry as 1st assistant D.E.—later Production Engineer. After a spell at Dee Valley District as System Engineer he returned to Oswestry to take up his present appointment. Stan is married and enjoys climbing, ski-ing & sailing



Below: Reg Edwards (*Installation Engineer*) has a chat with Mr. Dodds.

Below right, first picture: Our Chairman shows interest in the work being done by Susan Powell, a clerk in the General Services section. In the background is Group Manager Roy Barraclough.

Below right, second picture: Mr. Dodds has a word with telephone operator Linda Morris who recently left the Board when she married a 'Man from MANWEB,' Des Lloyd.



STAFF COMMITTEE CHANGES

The eleven MANWEB Staff Committees are to be reduced in number to four. The new committees will be known by a letter—"A," "B," and "C"—plus Head Office.

North Mersey, Liverpool and North Wirral Districts will be represented by Committee "A," Mid-Mersey, Mid-Cheshire and Oswestry by Committee "B," and the remaining four Districts, Dee Valley, Clwyd, Gwynedd and Aberystwyth, by Committee "C."

Although there is a reduction in the number of bodies there is an increase in the number of representatives each District will have. Below we name the Staff Committee representatives for each District and Head Office.

It is hoped that a more uniform interpretation of national agreements will be made throughout the Board by the amalgamation of the ten Districts into three Committees.

The function of the Staff Committee remains the same as before. That is to obtain the greatest amount of agreement between management and staff in interpreting the nationally negotiated settlements, for clerical, administrative and technical staff.

It deals with the arrangement of working hours and breaks, the way in which salaries are paid, any special arrangements for holidays and settling internal grievances, although it has no power to negotiate, but can arbitrate as part of the normal negotiating procedure.

A similar function is performed by the existing ten Works Committees for the industrial staff, and four Technical Staff Committees are at present being formed to cater for N.J.B. personnel.

Staff Committee Representatives:

GROUP "A" STAFF COMMITTEE

North Mersey District: Messrs. B. H. Kaye (*Shop Staff*), R. D. Lewis (*Commercial and Engineering Staff*), S. F. Gordon and P. Rosenberg (*Administrative Staff*).

Liverpool District: Mr. A. J. Owen (*Shop Staff*), Mrs. V. A. Roberts (*Commercial and Engineering Staff*), Mrs. M. McKie and D. G. Hancock (*Administrative Staff*).

North Wirral District: Mr. T. Mason (*Shop Staff*), Mr. C. L. Cousins (*Commercial and Engineering Staff*), Mrs. E. M. Brent and Mr. K. Cambridge (*Administrative Staff*).

GROUP "B" STAFF COMMITTEE

Mid-Mersey District: Mr. G. Kirkham (*Shop Staff*), Mrs. H. C. Brown (*Commercial and Engineering Staff*), Mr. J. J. Seddon and Mrs. G. Sutherland (*Administrative Staff*).

Mid-Cheshire District: Mr. W. B. Walker (*Shop Staff*), Mrs. M. Morse (*Commercial and Engineering Staff*), Messrs. D. C. Morrey and J. Allen (*Administrative Staff*).

Oswestry District: Miss E. M. Morris (*Shop Staff*), Mr. G. L. Armstrong (*Commercial and Engineering Staff*), Mr. W. H. Proctor (*Administrative Staff*).

GROUP "C" STAFF COMMITTEE

Dee Valley District: Messrs. D. Jones (*Shop Staff*), R. V. Ball (*Commercial and Engineering Staff*), L. Whalley (*Administrative Staff*), Mrs. D. Wyatt (*Queensferry*).

Clwyd District: Messrs. T. Boardman (*Shop Staff*), W. Silvey (*Commercial and Engineering Staff*), Mrs. P. Buckley (*Administrative Staff*).

Gwynedd District: Messrs. A. E. Jones (*Shop Staff*), G. Roberts (*Commercial and Engineering Staff*), T. J. Hughes (*Administrative Staff*).

Aberystwyth District: Messrs. C. Roberts (*Shop Staff*), G. K. Jones (*Commercial and Engineering Staff*), J. O. Hughes (*Administrative Staff*).

HEAD OFFICE STAFF COMMITTEE

Mr. G. Harrison (5S1), Mr. I. A. Ince (4S1) and Mrs. E. Jones (4E1) (*Secretarial and Management Services Unit Staff*). Mrs. P. Jefferson (2S1) (*Commercial Staff*). Mrs. S. J. Stiff (3W1) (*Engineering Staff*). Messrs. H. R. Hughes (1S1), D. G. Scott (GS1) and Miss H. Bogle (1W1) (*Revenue Section of Financial Department Staff*). Mr. F. Williams (GS1) (*Financial and Management Accounts Section of Financial Department Staff*). Mr. J. S. Ellis (GW1) (*Finance Section of Financial Department Staff*). Messrs. C. F. Pinches (201) and R. K. Prowse (102) (*Employees located in the old Building*).

Talking Notes

80 AND STILL GOING STRONG!

TO CELEBRATE 20 years of retirement, **Mr. Bill Grice**, a former meter inspector at North Wirral was presented with a clock by members of the staff who use the canteen at District Office in Craven Street, Birkenhead.

Bill, a sprightly 80-year-old, turns up there every day to enjoy his lunch with former colleagues. When they return to their offices, he tidies up the canteen and gets the chairs and tables ready for the next day.

He first started work in 1913 as a fuse attendant for the former Birkenhead Corporation. Among the old record books at District Office is a wages ledger showing that for week ending April 29th, 1914, a Mr. Grice W. worked for 63 hours during a seven-day week and after stoppages of four old pence for a Health stamp, he took home 16/6d—82½p in today's money. He was just turned 18 years of age at that time!

The final entry in the book was for week ending August 5th, 1914—the day after war broke out—when he collected 13/10d (69p) for a 52-hour week. He lost a bob or two because he had a day off!

Bill's next pay packet came from the Army where as a member of the Cheshire Regiment he served until he was wounded in the right hand by a sniper's bullet in the Dardanelles campaign.

He was invalided out of the services in 1916 and then went back to Birkenhead Corporation as a meter reader and put in a further 40 years' service.

In his heyday, Bill travelled everywhere on his bicycle and reckons that he covered around

2,000 miles a year at work plus another thousand or so on pleasure trips to the Lake District and into North Wales.

"Cycling and walking has kept me fit and well", commented Bill who still rides everywhere on his most modern machine.

He visits members of the Benevolent Fund who are housebound or in hospital and he does some health visiting for an "Over 60's" club. He is a very keen gardener and keeps the gardens tidy for one or two of his lady friends!

For 22 years he has been associated with the local Boys Brigade and up to last year has been away with them on their annual camp-outs.

Bill is now very self-supporting after losing his wife 23 years ago. He keeps his three-bedroomed house spotlessly clean and does his own washing and ironing. "I need very little sleep," he said, "only two or three hours a night. In fact I wake the teasmade every morning!"

He has three sons who served in the Marines, Army and Navy and a married daughter now living in South Africa.

Canteen colleagues at Craven Street congratulate pensioner Bill Grice, centre, on reaching his 80th birthday.



Poem of Praise

From time to time, our shops staff have to face irate customers and they take many brickbats. So it comes as a pleasant change to find someone who appreciates the friendly attitude of our staff to all the customers whether buying,

seeking advice, paying an account or simply complaining.

One such ray of sunshine shone recently on **Mrs. Hilda Hanson** from our Allerton Road shop in Liverpool when she received the following poem . . .

Things aren't going well just now

*The months ahead look bleak,
The news, it seems, gets worse
and worse*

*With every passing week
And yet today, amid the gloom,
"Hilda" at MANWEB, always
helpful,*

Like flowers in bloom!

T.V. Influence

While accompanying Sir Peter Menzies on his visit to our Clwyd District Offices recently, we overheard one of the young ladies in the consumer liaison section say, "This will have to be *Kojaked!*"

We later learned that she was dealing with a query from one of our customers and was simply saying that it would have to be investigated!

Big Winner

While busily engaged on his job as chargehand storekeeper at Macon Way, Crewe, a short time ago, **Colin Barrow** was called to the counter to speak to a chap who wanted to take his picture.

When 31-year-old Colin asked the reason for this request the photographer said that he worked for Littlewoods Pools and he had been told to take Colin's picture as the winner of the firm's top prize—£35,000—in their "Spot the Ball" competition.

Colin had his picture taken and then set off for home—on his bicycle—to break the news to his wife Barbara. However, she already knew from another pools rep.

Now they are busy planning a new future. For the past three



Mid-Cheshire Stores staff with their 'Big Winner.' From left to right: Tony Smith, Phil Pick (a delivery driver from Meter Test Dept. in Liverpool), Philip Hough, Les Merrill, Glenis Dickinson, George Morrey, Colin Barrow (one happy fellow), Phil Watts, Albert Watts, Dave Sadler and Ullly Koos.

years they have been patiently waiting for a Council house, but are now looking for a home of their own, with their two children Samantha (7) and Jason (4).

Colin took a course on farming after leaving school but soon found that this was not to be his vocation.

He worked for the Gas Board before joining us in April 1968 as a storekeeper. He became a chargehand last year.

He is a keen table tennis player—so keen that after being told of his big win, he went back to Macon Way to play, as captain of the MANWEB team in a league fixture!

He also plays football—full-back—for Hough Rovers in the Crewe Sunday League. They will probably invite him to become Chairman now!

Colin, at the moment, has no thoughts of buying a big flashy car as he says that he really enjoys cycling or walking to work.

What a Shower!

Two of our Districts, at opposite ends of the Board's area, North Mersey and Aberystwyth, were chosen to run pilot schemes to sell new shower unit installations—see *ad.* on page 85.

Before you could spell Aberystwyth, a sale was made—plus an electric fire—and the installation completed.

The customer wrote as follows to **Roy Haley**, an assistant installation engineer in the District.

Dear Sir,

I have just had a shower and fire fitted at the above premises with which I am delighted. However that aside, I feel I must compliment you on the excellent workman employed. It is many years since I have encountered such efficient, quiet and total dedication. In these days of sloppy service, I think you can be very proud of "Tywyn Branch".

Yours sincerely (signed)

Take a bow electrician **Dick Edwards** of Dolgellau.

Incidentally, the luxury shower campaign is now in full swing throughout the Board's area. *Have you got one?*

First-Aid Success

Our congratulations go to the members of our Head Office First-Aid team who, following their win in the District competition, came in a very creditable third place in the Electricity Supply Industry National finals held recently in Bournemouth.

The team of **Sybil Cooper** (captain), **Sybil Timmins**, **Harry Longton**, **Elizabeth Jones** and **Dave Roberts** (reserve) have only been together for the past two years. They have competed in two national finals, missing a place

the first time, but getting into the first three this time.

MANWEB's name has been on the trophy many times before—thanks to the famous *Chester Ladies*—and with the present team, we have no doubt that our name will be there again—maybe next year?

"Come Fishing!"

A 30-page illustrated booklet which gives details of Welsh 'put and take' trout fisheries stocked by the North Western Region of the Central Electricity Generating Board, is now available from the Region.

The booklet gives details about its fisheries at **Rheidol** and **Ffestiniog** with useful information covering availability of permits, allowed fishing methods and amenities.

In addition, it includes up-to-date prices and local agents; useful maps showing locations, fishing areas and car parks; and Welsh National Water Development Authority bye-laws.

The fisheries are at the Rheidol Hydro-electric scheme near Aberystwyth, where there is brown and rainbow trout fishing on Dinas and Nant-y-moch reservoirs; and at the Ffestiniog pumped storage scheme, near Blaenau Ffestiniog where there is rainbow trout fishing on the Tan-y-grisiau reservoir.

Both fisheries are stocked from fish farms run by the CEBG at Trawsfynydd and Rheidol.

The booklet, which is free, is available from the Public Relations Department, CEBG, Europa House, Bird Hall Lane, Cheadle Heath, Stockport, SK3 0XA.

The Naked Truth

It's not often that we can get a laugh out of letters with a tale of woe from customers in debt. However, Clwyd District recently received such a

letter—addressed to the Group Manager—from a customer in difficulties who, after explaining that her husband had left her, went on to ask the Group Manager to "BARE WITH HER" until the debt was settled.

With the prospects of such a 'perk', we are wondering if **Ken Helliwell** will decide not to retire after all!

Liverpool Town Hall

When the first Mayor of Liverpool was elected in 1207 he could not have been very electrically minded. But Councillor Owen Joseph Doyle, the present Lord Mayor, has been making up for that.

His electric home enjoys ceiling heating, and the splendid 1749 Liverpool Town Hall, following MANWEB advice, recently had storage fan heaters installed in the reception rooms for top-up heating.

As Lord Mayor, Councillor Doyle shows no official preference towards electricity. "In fact, I'm having lunch with the Gas Board tomorrow", he chuckled, but he did say of the electric heating in the three reception rooms: "In the 18

years I've been a member of this Council, I've never known the rooms to be warmer. They were draughty before."

Fittings have been made for six Constor six kilowatt heaters in the Town Hall which Edward VII described as "the finest town hall in Europe".

Happy Talk!

Until this year, MANWEB have always been able to produce two finalists—one male and one female—to compete in the Industry's National Public Speaking competition.

However, in our area round held recently at Head Office, we could only muster four males and two females to compete in the 'Persons' Public Speaking competition. It was not the Sex Discrimination Act which prompted this title but the too few entrants in this unisex battle of words.

Although lacking in quantity, the quality of the speakers was extremely high with the judges finding only minor faults.

Male chauvinists will be happy to learn that the men showed their superiority in the



It looks very much as though the Lord Mayor of Liverpool (Councillor Owen Joseph Doyle) is giving the 'hard sell' on storage heaters to Malcolm Cooper, formerly of our Liverpool District energy sales team.



MANWEB'S Public Speakers, from left to right: David Edge, Jane Fairclough, Malcolm Arthur, John Walker, Pam Allen and Raymond Ricketts.

verbal combat by taking the first two places. Women's libbers will no doubt find consolation in the fact that one of the ladies carried off the cash for first prize!

How? Well, the two men had won prize money on previous occasions and the rules of the competition made them ineligible for any more prize money. So, the lucky lady who came in third place collected the cash!

At the end of the day, the winner of the competition, who will represent MANWEB at the National Finals, was **Malcolm Arthur**, a 22-year-old Administrative trainee working in our North Wirral District.

Apart from coming top in this competition, Malcolm has just passed the Bronze Medal Examination of the London Academy of Music and Dramatic Art. He managed this with Honours—which in these examinations is practically unheard of—getting 130 marks from a possible 150.

In second place was another previous winner **John Walker**, an energy sales engineer in the Oswestry District.

The talented lady in third place—and taking the £25 prize money—was **Jane Fairclough**, a trainee demonstrator in our Mid-Mersey District. At 20 years of age, Jane was this

year's youngest competitor. She was just ahead of **Raymond Ricketts**, a shop supervisor at Aberystwyth, who collected £20.

Speeding Printing

At a seminar held at the Esso Motel in Runcorn in early March, over 80 major printers from the Board's area heard a quartette of specialist speakers talk about ultra-violet curing.

Chairing the proceedings was our principal engineer-industrial **Ernie Redman**, who, after welcoming everyone, explained the purpose of the seminar. He said that MANWEB would show printers how the use of ultra-violet energy for quick drying printing inks

would increase productivity and at the same time cut costs by reducing energy input.

The speakers who contributed to the programme were Messrs. W. C. Hankins (*The Electricity Council*), T. Reid (*Fishburn Printing Ink Co. Ltd.*), R. Knight (*Wallace Knight & Co. Ltd.*) and J. J. Crawshaw (*Metal Box Limited*).

The very successful seminar ended with a general discussion among the delegates, the speakers and MANWEB staff.

A.G.M.

The Annual General Meeting of the Manual Workers Benevolent Society will be held in the Restaurant, Sealand Road, Chester at 5 p.m. on Wednesday, 26th May 1976.

Light refreshments will be served from 4.30 p.m.

All members are welcome.

Pensioners' Programme

Members of the Mid-Cheshire Retired Employees' Association held their annual lunch at a Crewe hotel a few weeks ago, and enjoyed a very pleasant afternoon. Among the guests were District officers **Mr. Norman Walsh** and **Mr. Peter Falcon**, while two octagenarians—**Mr. E. T. L. Jones** of Nantwich and **Miss Tram-**

Seminar Chairman, Ernie Redman, left, with his specialist speakers, from left to right: Jeff Crawshaw, Ron Knight, Bill Hankins and Tom Reid.





A happy group from the Mid-Cheshire Retired Employees' Association pause for a photograph before tucking-in to their annual lunch at a Crewe hotel.

pleasure of Northwich—were included in the party.

Arrangements are in hand for the first summer outing, which will take the form of a coach tour through the Welsh mountains and a conducted tour round the CEGB Pumped Storage installation at Ffestiniog. All members will be notified of this outing, but anyone wanting more information can contact **Mr. T. V. Walley**, the hon. secretary, of Clyde Cottage, Swanley Lane, Nantwich, or any committee member.

From the Past

From time to time it is nice to receive word from a retired colleague who still takes an interest in the Board's activities.

One such letter came into our office recently from **Cyril Harrison** who, for a long time, was in charge of engineering work in the Northwich area. He left us for pastures new nearly a quarter of a century ago.

After thanking us for sending 'Contact' to him he mentions that he and his wife eagerly look forward to reading news from Northwich. He refers to a recent issue which pictured two faces he recognised—**Tom Cash** and **Ken Leather**, saying that Tom must be almost the last of the former Mid-Cheshire Company's staff.

At this point in his letter Cyril asked about Ken's father, Ted Leather.

Well Cyril, we are pleased to report that Ted is alive and well, living in happy retirement at 52 Nursery Road, Barnton.

After informing us that he himself retired eleven years ago, Cyril goes on to say that he is now in his ninth year as librarian with a Reading firm of consulting engineers.

He concludes his letter by commenting on the reports of the wonderful efforts by the Board's staff in tackling the massive troubles caused by the big blow of early January.

"It is great to see that the chaps are still endowed with that great spirit which gives true 'Electricity Service' and that to them, the job always comes first." he concluded.

Bridge Championship 1976

Last year saw the successful inauguration of the Electricity Supply Industry's **Bridge Championship**, with 18 teams competing.

This year the Championship, a "Swiss Teams of Four" event, will be played at the Wessex Social & Sports Club, Newbury, Berkshire, where contestants were welcomed and hospitably entertained last year. It is understood that the current Champions, from the Electri-

city Council H.Q., Millbank, will be defending their title.

The date of this event is Saturday, 16th October. Further details may be obtained from the organiser, H. M. Webber, C.E.R.L., Leatherhead. Tel. Leatherhead 74488 ext 242.

Wedding

Best wishes for the future to **Miss Janet Murray**, a clerk in the Work Control Supply section at Liverpool District, who was recently married to Mr. Terence Coogan at St. Agnes Church, Huyton.

Many of Janet's colleagues attended the ceremony and the sun turned out to enhance the happy occasion.

Just wed, Mr. & Mrs. Coogan



Dog Gone!

A card from a customer in the Mid-Mersey District reads as follows:

Dear Sir,

Please may I have my rebate as soon as possible. My gas is cut off and the dog's gone to live next door.

Thanks (signed)

Holidays

ANSTRUTHER Holiday Camp. Six-berth caravan with end bedroom. Running water, electric, fully equipped except linen. Available April to October, except July. Write: W. Henderson, 110 Centenary Court, Levan, Fife.

Wanted

Young miniature black poodle. 'Phone: Penygroes 453.

For Sale

16 feet, four berth caravan. Fully fitted interior, gas cooker, lighting, etc. Fairly old but clean and tidy throughout. Price. £100. 'Phone: Newtown 27291 (after 5 p.m.).

Three-bedroomed modern semi at Greasby, Wirral. Central heating, detached garage, separate w.c., large fitted kitchen, tiled bathroom and shower unit. Six feet extension to the dining room. £11,450.



ANNUAL E.E.I.B.A. BALL

MANWEB Chairman Mr. Denis Dodds, *centre*, hands over a cheque for nearly £1,200—the proceeds from the E.E.I.B.A. Annual Ball—to Mr. G. Leslie Butler, Chairman of the Social Executive Committee. Also in the picture are Mrs. Dodds, *second from left*, and Mrs. Bignold and her husband Derek Bignold (*Director & Secretary of the E.E.I.B.A.*)

'Phone: 051-677 2163 (after 7 p.m.).

B.M.C. 1100 car spares. Two 1550 x 12 wheels complete with radial tyres, £5 each. Radiator £3. Dynamo £3. Starter motor £3. Pair twin SU carbs complete with manifold £15. 'Phone Rhuddlan 590878.

Belma 10ft. 6in. rowing dinghy, fibreglass on 'Snipe' trailer £150 o.n.o. 'Phone: Whittington Castle 396.

The Last Word

We received many hundreds of letters from our customers—great and small—for our efforts

in restoring supplies following the storms earlier this year.

Some of these words of praise were published in the February issue of 'Contact'.

The final word now comes from the Electricity Consultative Council who, in a letter to Mr. M. M. Parker (Secretary and Solicitor) say:

"At its recent meeting, the Consultative Council resolved to place on record its deep appreciation of the work carried out by the officers and employees of the Board in restoring electricity supplies following the storms which occurred over the weekend 2-4 January 1976, especially in the rural areas of Wales."

THE MAESTRO VISITS MANWEB ONCE AGAIN

A few weeks ago, the ever-popular Joe Loss returned to MANWEB Head Office ballroom with his own special big band sound to keep a packed house dancing non-stop—with the able help of the Carl Blackwell Sound. It was a great night—with a tasty meal prepared and served by the restaurant staff. Below we show some of the happy revellers.



The Good Old Days

by Doug Gregg

A FUNNY thing happened to me on my way to the typing pool a little while ago. I was waylaid by a colleague complaining about the enormous increases in the price of electricity.

After recovering from the deluge of abuse and criticism of our products and establishment I tried to explain that electricity was very good value and actually cheaper than it was 40 years ago. After almost bursting a blood vessel he disappeared into a pile of dust and paper and emerged a few moments later with, I will give you one guess, yes, his electricity bill from 1939. He is obviously a methodical sort of man.

With a beaming smile, which almost split his ears, he proceeded to present his electricity account. It read as follows. For the quarter ending December 1939 the amount payable is 4s. 4d. (*old coinage*), if this account is paid before January 31st a 5% discount is deductible. To my astonishment his discount premium of 2d. had not been collected. Obviously this person is a man of means!

I was obviously in a difficult spot, looking for a counter argument to the escalating barrage which was now being thrown at me by my colleague who had magically produced a soap box pre-1939 to publicly address the office.

I was just about beaten and ready to creep back into my Commercial hole when suddenly I realised I could see a chink in this now Goliath's armour. One old penny per unit. This colossal bill was for only 40 units plus one shilling meter rental.

I thrust out and kicked his soap box. Let us look at what his electricity cost would be in today's terms.

An average customer in MANWEB without electric heating

uses approximately 4,500 kW hrs and at one old penny per unit, it would have cost Goliath approximately £20.

I then asked him what his annual salary was in 1939. "About £2-2-200!" he stuttered, as he hopped about the office after stubbing his foot whilst kicking his soap box under the mangroves and creepers gradually taking over his desk.

That means, if you had used electricity like the average person does today, it would have cost you approximately ten per cent of your annual salary. "Ah-but-Ah" was the exclamation as he hid behind his Pirelli calendar, trying to change the subject.

Let us look at what that means against today's wage levels. "What

salary are you on at present?" He was just about to dive back into the dust and pile of paper when, I said, I would settle for approximately £5,000 per annum. It follows that ten per cent of your salary would mean your annual electricity bills amounted to £500 per annum—without central heating!

Utter dejection and defeat took over his statue as I groped for his soap box under the trees. Yes, but we did not have automatic washing machines, colour T.V. double oven cookers, freezers, storage radiators, etc., in those days, to use that amount of electricity.

That may be so but who really wants to live without such labour saving appliances?

"Electricity is not cheap, nor is anything else nowadays but it is good value for money", was my parting comment as I bounced off feeling very pleased with myself ready to do battle with the typing pool.

Why had I only received ten copies of a memorandum instead of eleven?

DEE VALLEY FIGHT HARD

In these difficult times our Commercial colleagues are having to fight hard for electrical contracting work—but Dee Valley District's energy sales department is proving that "the work is there—you just have to work harder to get it" (in the words of energy sales engineer Don Hinsley).

Involvement in providing electric space heating for 34 new dwellings in Holt Road, Wrexham, led to expansion into the general electrical installation field and street lighting work connected with these new homes—and a total order for MANWEB of more than £18,000. The firm which is

building the houses is now negotiating with our Clwyd District in respect of a similar further development.

A year or so ago Dee Valley did all the electrical work in a Royal British Legion Housing Association project at Llay, near Wrexham. They have now followed this up by landing the order for all the electrical work in a new all-electric development of 32 flats, warden's flat, and community rooms at Shotton—nearly £20,000-worth of business, involving nearly 300 kilowatts of heating and water heating, plus all the cooking load.

Commercial Conferences

A Theme on Harmony at Aberystwyth

Aberystwyth District's Commercial Conference—the first of the year—was held at a hotel at Pennal, near Machynlleth, and was well attended by commercial staff from all parts of the District.

Guests from Head Office, and a number of engineering colleagues, gave a team-work atmosphere to the occasion, with the theme of selling our product.

Papers were presented by **Mr. R. Haley** (installation department), and **Mr. A. Carr** (energy sales), conveying the clear message that work and harmony were essential to the District's progress.

The main talk by **Mr. Ron Williams** (D.C.E.) made clear that despite the current economic difficulties the future was secure, and that tomorrow's world would be 'all-electric'.

The meeting was preceded by a buffet meal, and followed by a sociable 'get-together' round the bar—with, of course, the traditional 'Welsh choir'.

Everybody's Job —Clwyd Conference

The need for every single employee of our industry to play his or her part in selling as much electricity and securing as much business as possible in other directions was the theme stressed by several of the speakers at Clwyd District's Commercial Conference, held at Rhyl recently.

After a welcome by **Mr. Brian Griffiths** (Conference manager), District Commercial Engineer **Mr. Dave Mellor** stressed the problems created by the economic recession. Electricity sales were down by 6% compared with the previous year, while contracting work and appliance sales had also declined.

Mr. Mellor predicted that electricity sales were unlikely to expand significantly before 1980, and that after then growth rates would not exceed 5% a year until it was known that oil and natural gas reserves were running out.

"During the next few years we are going to have to sell to survive" he said. "A lot of people behind the scenes support those in the front line doing the vital job of selling. People who work in offices can help enormously by dealing with inquiries efficiently and writing letters properly. Opportunities to sell

present themselves both in our working lives and in our private lives. We work in the most important industry in the country, we shall survive the next five years, but we shall survive more easily if we all think of ourselves as salesmen and women for electricity".

Mr. R. C. Hodson, the recently-appointed energy sales engineer, analysing the commercial outlook, said it was inevitable that electricity sales to industry would fall during times of economic recession, and equally certain that they would rise when inflation was controlled and the economy began to boom again.

Domestic sales had fallen due to price increases and the "Save It" campaign, and it was essential that every effort be made to bring home the fact that electricity still represented tremendous value for money.

Mr. Hodson quoted the following tables of price increase between 1971 and 1976:

Electricity—	up 135%
Sugar—	up 122%
Potatoes and Vegetables—	up 210%
Fish—	up 152%
Alcohol—	up 280%
Tobacco—	up 290%
Housing—	up 154%
Newspapers—	up 131%
Postages and telephones—	up 177%

These figures spoke for themselves, he added.

On the theme of "The Future is Electric" **Mr. Ron Carter** stressed the temporary nature of our present problems when seen against the forward march of electricity over the years. Referring to the present economic depression, he said that the path back to prosperity lay through British industry, which needed investment, modernisation, automation—and electrification! Only one fuel could put things right—and it was made in Britain, ready to put British industry right back at the top.

Principal guest of the evening was **Mr. M. R. Cowan**, Chief Commercial Officer, who also stressed the collective responsibility of all employees in the drive to sell electricity and build up business.

He added that the industry's advertising budget for the coming year—£6 million—was a "colossal act of faith", and finally produced the cuddly Teddy Bear which will be the symbol of our advertising on the domestic front during the coming year.

... AND THE REST ...

All Districts will by now have held their own Commercial Conferences. We could not cover them all—even those who kindly invited us—but hope that these two brief accounts will show that team work was the theme carried by all Districts.



Some of our drivers from Rhyl where the presentations were made by Chief Inspector Shierson, seated sixth from left.

SAFE DRIVING AWARDS PRESENTED

Board drivers in our Clwyd District were presented with their Safe Driving Awards at ceremonies held at Rhyl, Mold and Llandudno Junction. Unfortunately, the photographs at the latter presentation were not good enough for reproduction.

All the awards were as follows:

Corresponding Bar to 15-Year Brooch: Mr. John Clwyd Jones (*Rhyl, Commercial*).

15-Year Brooch: Mr. Ronald Smith (*Llan. Commercial*).

Oakleaf Bar to Ten-Year Medal: Messrs. John T. Davies, Raymond K. Davies, Ivor J. Nethercott, Robert G. Roberts and William E. Williams (*Rhyl, Commercial*); Mr. Joseph E. Williams (*Rhyl,*

Admin.); Messrs. John R. Evans, Trevor Filed and David A. L. Jones (*Mold, Commercial*); Messrs. Alwyn K. Jones and Elfed Thomas (*Llan. Commercial*).

Ten-Year Medal: Messrs. Idris W. Griffiths and Frank Thomas (*Mold, Commercial*); Mr. Edward A. Thomas (*Llan. Commercial*).

Bar to Five-Year Medal: Messrs. Roy Harkness, Malcolm I. Jones, Ronald H. Jones, Thomas H. Jones, Charles Kirkman, Arthur E. Salusbury, William Sutherland and Raymond Walley (*Rhyl, Commercial*); Messrs. Edwin P. Fagan, Leonard H. Jones and Thomas A. Jones (*Rhyl, Engineering*); Eric M. Evans (*Rhyl, Admin.*); Messrs. Morris Evans, Gehard Schloegl, Evan J. Williams and John A. Woeley (*Mold, Commercial*); Messrs. William A. Hughes and Brian Parry (*Mold, Engineering*); Mr. Henry Hambley (*Llan. Commercial*); Messrs. Brian James, Bryniog Jones, John B. Jones, and Secundo Vagnarelli (*Llan. Engineering*).

Five-Year Medal: Messrs. Bryan Davies and Henry M. Kearsley (*Rhyl, Commercial*); Mr. Bernard Roberts (*Mold, Engineering*).

Diploma: Messrs. Raymond G. Ball, Michael J.

Once again Chief Inspector Shierson did the honours when he presented awards to our safe drivers based at the Mold Depot.



Davies, Elwyn L. Jones, David J. Tomkinson and Charles I. Williams (*Rhyl, Commercial*); Messrs. Job Antrobus, Albert M. Birtles, Gwilym Cunnah, Eric J. Davies, John A. Davies, Thomas E. Davies, David W. Evans, Thomas J. Evans, William G. Foster, Thomas Hughes, Robert T. Jones, Anthony L. Manfredi, Brian F. Marchbank and Raymond C. Stobbs (*Rhyl, Engineering*); Messrs. David Brown, Cyril H. Parkin, Herbert Roberts, Griffith O. Williams and Cyril Wynne (*Rhyl, Admin.*); Messrs. Elfed O. Evans, Garnet M. Jones, Michael D. Jones, Trevor Jones, Mark Price, Eric Roberts, William R. Roberts and Reg Williams (*Mold, Commercial*); Messrs. Thomas Hayes, Victor Hoosen, Benjamin R. Hughes, Ishmail T. Hughes, Trevor Hughes, Alan Jones, Joseph Lonsdale, David H. Parry, Barrie Ramsey and John F. Sullivan (*Mold, Engineering*); Messrs. Arthur Bailey, Guierino Dallolio, David E. Evans and Brian Royles (*Ruthin, Engineering*); Messrs. George E. Allsup, David C. Davies, Edward L. Davies, Thomas J. Davies, David T. Jones, Garry G. Jones, Peter G. Jones, Robert E. Moxon, William V. Owen, John I. Roberts, Ronald E. Robinson and Brynley M. Thomas (*Llandudno, Commercial*); Messrs. George Perkins and Frank H. Pomeroy (*Llandudno, Admin.*); Mr. Edward Owen (*Llandudno, Engineering*).

Exemption Certificates: Messrs. Daniel S. Collins, Eric Evans, Thomas A. Everley, Ifor Hayes, Leonard Jones, Kenneth B. Thomas, Philip C. Williams and Tudor R. Williams.

BADMINTON

In this year's National Badminton Championships held at Leeds University earlier this month, the organisers, the Yorkshire Electricity Board, ran out as the eventual winners.

The highly successful MANWEB teams were dogged by injury and family illness. With around 150 players representing Boards and Regions throughout the country, our "A" team topped their group, winning four matches to reach the semi-finals. But playing without their No. 1 man, Paul Wilkinson who had an arm injury, they were finally beaten 3-2 by the London Electricity Board who, in turn, were beaten by Yorkshire in the final.

Our "B" team were also without their No. 1, Barry Harding due to family illness. They found themselves in the strongest group but played in some very close games.

Considering the loss of star players we think both our teams did exceptionally well. Incidentally, this is only the second time in the seven years of the competition that we have not reached the finals.

AWARDS TO OUR MID-MERSEY DRIVERS

Nearly 120 Mid-Mersey District employees received awards for safe driving recently. These awards represent thousands of miles of accident free motoring. Our congratulations go to the recipients on their awards which we list below.

Star Bar to 20-Year Brooch: Messrs A. A. Heathwood and A. M. Turner.

Bar to 15-Year Brooch: Messrs W. Appleton, T. C. P. Baines, F. R. Fryer, N. Gabbott, C. F. Oultram, and A. Sutton.

15-Year Brooch: Mr. T. B. Almond.

Bar to Ten-Year Medal: Messrs. C. Antrobus, F. W. Bignall, R. Bramhall, J. A. Brown, L. Case, J. B. Edwards, G. K. Hazelhurst, T. O. Mannion, J. E. Moore, F. Nuttall, J. Tart, R. Vickerstaff and T. Whitney.

Ten-Year Medal: Mr. J. Huyton.

Bar to Five-Year Medal: Mrs. H. C. Brown, Messrs. G. L. Bevan, H. Blythe, L. Bowler, C. W. Butterworth, A. Dearden, J. Dutton, S. Ford, W. S. Grundy, B. Hope, A. Horrabin, E. Hough, A. Houghton, A. E. Houghton, W. T. Jones, A. R. Lovelady, G. McCarthy, W. F. Mills, C. J. Osborne, L. Percival, J. Rae and G. A. Williams.

Five-Year Medal: Messrs. L. Keough and J. McKague.

Diplomas: Mrs. M. Waller and Mrs. G. Sutherland, Messrs. H. R. Abbott, J. Allen, R. Balmer, A. Bate, W. Blake, A. Blears, R. Briscoe, J. Brown, L. Butterworth, R. J. Cartwright, G. Coulton, F. O. Clague, J. Clarke, E. A. Clayton, J. P. Cox, M. Craven, W. Crooks, R. C. Davies, N. Dennett, W. Dixon, D. Eckersley, T. Fillingham, J. Fitzpatrick, K. Forber, N. Gamble, R. Garvey, D. W. Goff, R. J. Goodall, J. A. Grimes, R. J. Hewitt, A. Houghton, B. Howarth, D. A. Johnson, J. W. Jones, M. Joyce, E. Keogh, A. Kinsey, M. J. Lindon, W. Lomax, S. A. G. Lowe, K. T. Mather, P. C. Medicott, J. K. Melvin, J. T. Neville, N. Rawsthorne, J. C. Robinson, H. J. Roughley, J. A. Shaw, C. Siebert, N. Stubbs, J. J. Thornton, A. E. Titchard, K. Tomlinson, T. Topping, A. Tucker, E. J. Watkins, J. W. Wells, S. Welburn, A. E. Webster, L. C. K. Whitbread, G. Whitlow, A. L. Wilkinson, D. R. Wills and T. Yorke.

Wallworks' Wanderings

Owing to pressure of space in this issue, the next stage "Persian Passage" has been held over until May.

VALUE FOR MONEY AT OLYMPIA

"Value for money" was the theme of the Electric Living Centre at the 1976 Daily Mail Ideal Home Exhibition at Olympia. The Centre was one of the largest stands in the National Hall, with a display of over 300 different electrical home appliances all chosen to show how—despite rising prices—electricity's services can offer real value for money in 1976.

The cost of kitchen modernisation has been cut with a range of new kitchen units made in Britain exclusively for the Electricity Boards and being sold with the now familiar Electra brand label. The kitchen units are particularly suited to match Electra brand appliances. The Good Housekeeping Institute created the Electra kitchen, which shows the principles of good kitchen design. The attractive and colourful kitchen—surely every housewife's dream come true—was designed by Diana Austen, Good Housekeeping's Homes Editor. The total cost—including all the labour saving appliances—was under £1,500.

A special feature was the split level oven and hob. This type of cooker is growing rapidly in popularity and several versions were on show.

Advice and assistance on all electricity's many services in the home was available, with staff ready to explain payment methods including budget schemes for paying the bill by Banker's Order or GIRO. Advice on average running costs of appliances, and on home and water heating insulation was also available.

A new free leaflet 'The Comforting Facts About Electricity' clarifies the situation about the future of off-peak electricity. It is emphasised that off-peak electricity will continue to be available and will remain substantially cheaper than the normal rate. Despite today's inflationary tendencies off-peak electricity still represents very good value for money.

There were also many bargains in food freezers. Keeping a food freezer stocked with produce from your own garden, or fruit and vegetables purchased when prices are low, can also be a real money saver. Add the savings made by bulk buying of meat and other foods, the convenience of fewer journeys to the shops, and the cost benefits of owning a food freezer quickly become apparent. Bulk cooking and baking save time and money which helps to balance the housekeeping budget.

A simple guide to food freezing 'Food Freezing at Home' by Gwen Conacher which has already sold well over a million copies was on sale at a reduced exhibition price of 15p.

The Electric Living Centre also included attractive displays of tested products with well known household names.

LUXURY SHOWER

The modern way to freshen up, any time day or night.

Taking a shower is healthy, refreshing and pleasantly economical. With a MANWEB shower you only heat the water you actually need, as the shower heater automatically switches off when you stop showering. This modern automatic shower



heater provides hot water at just the temperature you want, the very moment you switch it on.

MANWEB showers are easy to install too, because they connect to the existing cold water mains supply.

You can take four showers for about the cost of having a bath—so it's an end to wasted hot water and electricity.

PACKAGE DEAL—Instantaneous shower heater, shower head with flexible hose, chromium wall rail, curtain rail and curtain, complete electrical installation and plumbing to adjacent cold water mains. Credit terms can be arranged with your quarterly account.

For further information get in touch with your installation engineer, energy sales engineer or call in at your local MANWEB shop.

RETIREMENTS

From Dee Valley ...

Mr. H. WILLIAMS

A man with plenty to do now that he is retired is Mr. Herbert Williams, an electrical fitter at Legacy in the Dee Valley District.

Herbert breeds and shows dogs, his speciality being gun-dogs. He has spent the last fifty years of his life with dogs and is now recognised as one of Wales' best canine judges. His judging engagements in his home country and in England and Scotland will keep him busy right into 1977.

At his retirement presentation ceremony recently Mr. E. T. Peters (*District Engineer*) spoke of Herbert's days as an apprentice with a local firm and of his time working at the Royal Ordnance Factory at Marchweil. Then he joined MANWEB in 1948 to work with the former Area 4 Construction Department at Vauxhall prior to transferring to Dee Valley District.

Mr. Peters then praised Herbert's service in the First Aid movement—26 years—and encouraged other members of the staff present to think about taking his place as a First-aider.

After presenting Herbert with some cash from his friends—*he is to buy a transistor radio for he loves listening to the Welsh Choirs on Sundays*—Mr. Peters wished him good health for the future and a speedy recovery to Mrs. Williams who had recently undergone a double hip operation.

In reply, Herbert thanked everyone for their contributions and good wishes and said that this was a sad moment for he was leaving a "*grand set of chaps—the best I have ever worked with*".



After recalling many amusing stories of the past, Mr. Roy Stewart (*Energy Sales Manager*), left, says his farewells to Mr. and Mrs. Griffiths.

... Aberystwyth ...

Mr. I. GRIFFITHS

After 48 years' service to the electricity industry Mr. Ivor Griffiths, energy sales engineer at Aberystwyth District, retired a short time ago.

Many of his colleagues and their wives enjoyed a pleasant dinner and social evening, arranged in Mr. and Mrs. Griffiths' honour, at an Aberystwyth hotel, when Mr. R. Stewart and others paid tribute to Mr. Griffiths' long and valuable service, relating anecdotes going back many years.

His many friends wish Mr. Griffiths and his wife a long and happy retirement—with plenty of time and energy to devote to his main hobby of golf.

In the fitting shop at Legacy, Mr. Peters, centre right, bids farewell to Mr. Williams at a ceremony attended by many of his friends.





Mr. Harry Hegarty (*Assistant Chief Accountant*), right, has a parting handshake with Mr. Stubbs who is accompanied by his wife.

... Head Office ...

Mr. E. O. STUBBS

Head Office staff bade farewell to a very popular member of the Financial Department, Mr. E. O. Stubbs. Oscar, as he was known to his many friends and colleagues, joined MANWEB 27 years ago from private industry.

He has worked in several different sections of the Financial Department, and was a higher clerical assistant in the cash office at his retirement.

Apart from his own work he was an ever-present helper at the many Sports and Social Club functions, and was always willing to give assistance to anyone.

A large group of friends gather round in the Mid-Cheshire District canteen to see Mr. Norman Walsh, centre left, present Mr. Hughes with a number of retirement presents.



He had a wide and varied range of interests which seemed to cover anything and everything, although he lists English, natural history and literature as his main interests and coin and stamp collecting plus crosswords as his hobbies.

Oscar particularly asked that we conveyed his best wishes to all his colleagues, past and present, with whom he has had pleasure in working.

... Mid-Cheshire ...

Mr. G. L. HUGHES

Nearly 50 years in the electricity industry came to an end recently for Mr. Godfrey Lloyd Hughes when he retired from his post as energy sales engineer for Mid-Cheshire District.

Mr. Hughes began in 1928 as an apprentice electrician with Conway Borough Council's electrical department, on a weekly pay packet of 7s 6d. He worked for a private contractor until the outbreak of war, and spent the war years first in installing degaussing cables to ships at Liverpool docks and later in the Royal Navy in the near and far East, being demobilised as Chief Electrical Artificer.

After a period with a private contractor he joined MANWEB in 1949 as an installation inspector at Llandudno, and served as consumer's engineer at Caernarfon, Bangor and Blaenau Ffestiniog until 1957. During this period he was closely involved with the CEGB in providing supplies for work on Trawsfynydd nuclear power station and the pumped storage scheme at Ffestiniog.

1964 saw Godfrey move to Crewe as 1st assistant DCE, and on re-organisation he became energy sales engineer for Mid-Cheshire.

His retirement was marked by an enjoyable social

evening at a local club, when he was presented with a shower and accessories, binoculars, and a bouquet for his wife Anne by Mr. Norman Walsh (*DCE*). A beautifully iced cake by District demonstrator Margaret Corlett was another highlight.

Godfrey and his wife are keen caravanners, and immediately after his retirement they set off for a rally at Harrogate, with the prospect of a summer in Devon and Cornwall.

It has been said that the last thing in Godfrey's 'out' basket was an expenses sheet! An old sailor going out with guns firing, one might say!

... Clwyd ...

Mr. A. K. JONES

Nearly 44 years of service in the electricity supply industry came to an end for Mr. Alquin K. Jones when he retired recently from his job as a public lighting attendant based at our Llandudno Junction depot in the Clwyd District.

Alquin began his working life in 1932 with the former Llandudno Council Electricity Department. In his long career he worked as a meter reader, meter fixer and switchboard attendant prior to taking on his last job four years ago.

He is now looking forward to settling down in the house he has bought at Penryn Bay where in

retirement, he will be able to devote more time to his hobby of restoring antiques.

Friends and colleagues at the Junction subscribed to present Alquin with a parting gift.

and Mid-Mersey

Mr. T. C. P. BAINES

After 40 years' service to the industry Mr. T. C. P. Baines, installation foreman at St. Helens, has retired.

Mr. Baines began work with St. Helens Corporation Electricity Department as an apprentice in 1936, and served during the war in the Royal Navy in all kinds of craft, including submarines.

After the war he devoted his spare time to riding in motor cycle trials, scrambles and long-distance rallies, winning about 100 national and international events, including some team events with the world-famous champion Geoff Duke.

In retirement Phil is looking forward to a more peaceful hobby—gardening!

Mr. W. DIXON

Mr. William Dixon, an electrical fitter's mate at St. Helens, has retired early on health grounds after 15 years' service with the Board.

Obituary

We deeply regret to report the deaths of the following colleagues:

Mr. E. Bradford, a former member of our St. Helens depot engineering staff until his retirement in 1967.

Mr. W. G. (Bill) Evans, a former assistant Supply Engineer in our Dee Valley District prior to his retirement in October 1973.

An 'electrical man' all his life, Bill served with electrical contractors and with Hawker Siddeley before joining MANWEB at Oswestry in 1953. He transferred to Wrexham a couple of years later.

A cheerful character with a delightful sense of humour, in his time, Bill was responsible for almost all the commercial negotiations associated with the Wrexham areas share of the rural development programme.

He could always associate an

amusing incident with most of the farms and cottages in the District.

A rare character—a gentle rebel and a loyal servant and friend—respected and loved by all.

Our sincere sympathy is extended to his wife Mary and sons Philip and Rodney.

Mr. Jack Fletcher, an installation inspector at Warrington, who retired at the age of 63 in 1971 after 38 years' service to the industry.

Mr. Gordon Harris, a general foreman at Lister Drive, Liverpool. Mr. Harris was a much respected man, who was active in church circles. He was a Sunday School superintendent, churchwarden, and treasurer, and stepped into the breach whenever the Minister was absent from his local church, Christ Church, Norris Green, Liverpool. Many colleagues in-

cluding Mr. C. E. Donovan (*District Engineer*) and Mr. G. Haughan (*Assistant Chief Engineer*) attended the funeral service.

We extend our sincere sympathy to Mrs. Harris and son Peter.

Mr. John M. Jones (affectionately known to his colleagues as 'John Moi') formerly a linesman with the construction department and later with the Caernarfon District, died recently. After sustaining injury in an accident he was employed as a yard man at the depot. He was due for early retirement in May, and will be missed for his pleasant disposition, wit and friendly good humour. The sympathy of his colleagues is extended to his sisters and family.

Mr. Harry Tomlinson, aged 59 after a long illness. Harry, a bachelor, worked at our Runcorn depot.