

Disposable Table  
Keyes Fibres



# CONTACT

April 1970

A CIVIC STIR  
(see page 81)

## WEDDINGS

### WRIGHT—WALKER

Our best wishes for a happy future go to Mr. Robert W. Wright, an electrician in Crewe District, and Miss Helen June Walker who were married a few weeks ago at Nantwich Parish Church.

Robert, who started work with the Board as an apprentice in 1961, was presented with a gift from his colleagues by Mr. N. Walsh (*District Commercial Engineer*).

### BAYLEY—BROOKES

Congratulations to Mr. Brian G. Bayley, an electrician in the appliance repair section at Crewe, and to Miss Angela S. Brookes on the occasion of their recent marriage at St. Paul's Church, Crewe.

It was just about ten years ago that Brian joined the Crewe District staff as an apprentice electrician. His many friends presented him with a fan heater as a wedding present.

### BETTS—STUBBS

Best wishes for future happiness to Mr. Christopher J. Betts, a



Mr. and Mrs. Betts

self-employed electrician, and Miss Anna Stubbs, a sales demonstrator at Crewe, who were married at Haslington Parish Church a short time ago.

Christopher served his apprenticeship with MANWEB before striking out on his own, and Anna has been with us since 1966.

## ENGAGEMENT

Miss Jean Brooks, a clerk in the accounts section at our Southport District Office, has recently announced her engagement to Mr. Chris. Gittings of Melling.

We wish them both a very happy future together.

### DOUBLE DEPARTURE FROM SOUTHPORT

After serving as the Southport District Engineer for the past seven years, Mr. John Heaton recently took up his new appointment as Production Engineer in our Liverpool South District. His colleagues at Southport presented him with a tankard, but before moving off, however, on behalf of the District staff, Mr. Heaton was given the opportunity of making a farewell presentation to Mrs. Elaine Tweddle who was leaving to prepare for a happy event scheduled to take place in May. Our picture shows Elaine, who has worked at Southport for the past ten years, and Mr. Heaton saying farewell to each other as the staff wish them both the very best of luck with their respective challenges



## BIRTHS

Our heartiest congratulations to :

Mr. E. C. Capp, an assistant in the Admin. section at Southport, and Mrs. Capp, on the birth of a son, Adrian Charles.

Mr. Thomas H. Dutton, principal assistant, Welfare at Head Office, and Mrs. Dutton, a son, Adam Blundell.

*Entries have started  
rolling in for the*

**'Contact'  
Photographic  
Competition  
for 1970**

Cash prizes to be won  
for colour and for  
black & white  
pictures

**Are yours ready yet?**



THE STAFF MAGAZINE OF THE MERSEYSIDE  
AND NORTH WALES ELECTRICITY BOARD

# CONTACT

Vol. 22 No. 4

April 1970

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### Editorial Staff

Keith Baldwin  
John F. Perry  
Sam Doughty

## *That Something Extra!*

**M**OST OF the work done by MANWEB's people is pretty humdrum. Little glamour attaches to the average day-to-day work of most of us, and to the community at large the results of our labour are mainly noteworthy by their absence. In common with most other vital public services, the importance of electricity supply is only brought home to the average man-in-the-street when some remote chance deprives him of it.

Laying cables, selling appliances, acquiring substation sites and wayleaves, reading meters and keeping accounts are some of the bread-and-butter jobs which keep MANWEB in existence and guarantee the maintenance and expansion of electricity's all-important role in the community.

Every now and then, however, an out-of-the-ordinary problem crops up. Winter's worst efforts can deprive communities of their vital supplies of power. Social disasters can demand rapid installation of emergency supplies for rescue work and similar purposes. It is in these, and other comparable circumstances, that MANWEB's staff are called upon to make contributions over and above the ordinary line of duty, and the record of electricity supply workers in circumstances such as these is beyond criticism, and a justifiable source of pride to all concerned.

In this number of *Contact* we devote a good deal of space to another type of 'special' problem—headaches of a technical nature which have been solved by members of our engineering staff. The degree of resource demonstrated in these cases shows clearly that customers with problems need never turn to MANWEB for help in vain.

## Southport E.A.W. A.G.M.

Congratulating the Southport Branch of the Electrical Association for Women on their strength of membership and their lively and full programme of events, Mr. D. G. Dodds (*MANWEB Chairman*) as the guest speaker at the Branch Annual General Meeting, went on to say that it was the largest Branch in the Board's area and had made steady progress during its six years of existence.

He said that it was important that electrical knowledge among women should become more widely spread. "The educational work of the E.A.W. is extremely valuable" he continued "and I am delighted to hear of the number of Branch members taking the Home Electrical Course."

Mr. Dodds said that we were now through a very tricky winter with its power station problems in which *MANWEB* had been indirectly affected despite its £140 million investment in security of the supply network.

Going on to prices, he said that despite rising costs—giving as an example the recent sudden increase in coal prices—the elec-



**MANWEB Chairman, Mr. Denis Dodds, during his address to the members of the Southport E.A.W.**

tricity industry was at present holding down the price of power.

"Since 1948," he said "electricity prices have gone up by 57 per cent. Retail prices as a whole have gone up by 120 per cent. If the pound had kept to its 1948 value, electricity would be costing less today."



**Mrs. H. Wignall, left, Chairman of Southport E.A.W. hands over a cheque to the Mayoress of Southport.**

He informed his audience that we had nearly 99 per cent security of electricity supply in this country and this was the highest in the world. He said that although this

was not perfect, it must be considered very good when compared with Sweden and parts of the U.S.A. where power was being rationed.

Mr. Dodds went on to say that nuclear power was well on its way and would ultimately prove to be the cheapest form of fuel.

As far as competition from North Sea Gas was concerned, Mr. Dodds said that there was a great deal of unnecessary talk and reporting about their problems. We as a responsible Board did not wish to capitalise on these reports.

"Nevertheless" he continued, "people to react do change and will say if we have got to change then we may as well change for the better . . . and go electric!"

Also present at the General Meeting which was held in the town's Floral Hall, were the Mayor and Mayoress of Southport and representative members of the *MANWEB* staff.

**Part of the large audience of E.A.W. members at their Annual General Meeting.**



# PROFITABLE CATERING '70

## MANWEB EXHIBITIONS AT *Liverpool, Pwllheli and Llandudno Junction* SHOW LATEST EQUIPMENT

"NO ONE is more qualified to open a Catering Exhibition than the Lord Mayor of Liverpool" said the Lord Mayor of Liverpool, Alderman S. Minion, O.B.E., when he formerly opened the first of this season's Profitable Catering Exhibitions at the Industrial Development Centre in Liverpool a few weeks ago.

The Lord Mayor went on to say that he made this statement after considering the many functions he had to go to throughout his year of office, and at most of these, he had to eat, so he had become quite an authority of good food cooked to perfection.

He went on to say that people's eating habits had changed over the years. Not long ago most people only went out to eat on special occasions such as weddings and parties, but today it is the universally accepted thing to dine out and dine out often. He said that food is now served in all kinds of places where it has never been served before, and to do this efficiently caterers must have the most modern equipment, for business could only continue to attract custom if the food was good, clean and cooked just right.

Alderman Minion concluded by saying that he welcomed wholeheartedly the new trend which was all part of the evolution towards making eating a pleasurable pastime.

Mr. D. G. Dodds (*MANWEB Chairman*) who had earlier welcomed the Lord Mayor, then thanked him for his interesting and entertaining remarks before calling on Mr. M. R. Cowan (*Chief Commercial Officer*) to say a few words.

### Changes taking place

Mr. Cowan spoke of the great changes taking place in the catering industry today emphasising that speed, flexibility and a reduction in labour were the prime considerations concerned with profitability. He said that the modern trend was towards electrical equipment and went on to quote figures showing how electricity was overtaking gas in the catering industry.

He informed the audience that catering was the third largest industry in this country and last year spent some £25 million on equipment. As far as MANWEB was concerned, sales to catering

customers last year had increased by 33 per cent and this year a 50 per cent increase was anticipated.

Mr. Cowan went on to quote three examples of how electrical equipment could be successfully used by the caterer. First was the local, where nowadays in addition to the pint or a drop of the hard stuff, the customer wanted something tasty to eat. In the exhibition, equipment to cater for this was well illustrated within the Board's own 'MANWEB Arms' bar.

For his second example, Mr. Cowan talked of the holiday hotel—'Seaview'—of which there were many along MANWEB's 320 miles of coastline from Southport to Aberystwyth. Here again, by utilising many of the items of equipment on show at the exhibition, time could be saved, a more varied menu could be presented and a cut in labour could be achieved.

Finally came the restaurant, where the modern presentation was for visual catering and the call-order bar. Here again, speed was essential and cleanliness most important—another point scored for electricity.

### Look Around

In conclusion, Mr. Cowan invited the large audience of MANWEB customers concerned with commercial catering to have a good look round the exhibition to see exactly what we had to offer.

"We at MANWEB want our catering customers to become even more profitable" he said, "and to expand even faster. We believe that the equipment represented by that on show provides just this opportunity."

The first of the three very comprehensive and professionally displayed exhibitions was then on its way, and we offer our congratulations to our commercial colleagues for this fine effort.

#### OUR COVER PICTURE

shows the Lord Mayor of Liverpool trying his hand at cooking, watched anxiously by the Mayoress.

... more pictures overleaf—



The Lady Mayoress and Mr. Dodds look and listen as a representative explains the workings of a gravity feed slicing machine to the Lord Mayor.

## On Tour Round the Liverpool Exhibition . . . . .



Mr. E. Redman (*senior assistant commercial engineer*) talks to the Mayoress about disposable table ware.



Above: Mrs. Nellie Mullery, left, who seems to be the maid of all work at exhibition time, while serving coffee to the visitors, meets the Mayoress who took time out to say 'Hello!'



Roast Beef surrounded by crisp roast potatoes, done to perfection the electric way and shown to the distinguished visitors by Mrs. Mary Wilcox (*senior demonstrator, North Wirral*).



## ... and at Pwllheli



After the official opening ceremony at the Pwllheli Exhibition, on behalf of the Board, Miss Peggy Francis, 'The Girl from MANWEB' thanks the Mayor and presents the Mayoress with a bouquet of flowers. In our picture, we have, from left to right: Mr. F. Littler (Energy Sales engineer, Gwynedd District), Mrs. R. Parker (Mayoress) Councillor R. Parker (Mayor of Pwllheli), Peggy, and Mr. A. Jones (salesman).



MANWEB staff and manufacturers representatives were kept very busy on the various stands especially on opening day—when this picture was taken. Many firm orders were taken and a number of enquiries have since been followed up resulting in still more sales.



## and Llandudno Junction

Our 'Girl from MANWEB,' Miss Peggy Francis, chats to Councillor J. H. Williams, the Mayor of Conway, after he had officially opened the Board's six-day Commercial Catering Exhibition in the Demonstration Theatre above our Llandudno Junction shop.

Behind the bar at the 'MANWEB Arms' preparing eats for the visitors we have, from left to right: Miss E. V. Jones, Mrs. Wendy Baker and Miss Eirlys Roberts





H.M. Queen Elizabeth, the Queen Mother, is shown one of the new cookers at the Ideal Home Exhibition at Olympia. Mr. Neville Marsh, left, Deputy Chairman of the Electricity Council, who welcomed Her Majesty to the stand, looks on as Mr. Derek Metcalfe, Exhibit Manager, points out the features. Mr. Norman Phillips, Assistant Marketing Advisor, is on the right.

## All the Latest in Electric Cookers

More time and labour saving features have been added to electric cookers than any other home appliance in the past decade.

*Auto-timers* which make it easy to come home to a hot meal.

*Radiant rings* or discs that are fast and easy to control: some have a pan sensing device to prevent liquid boiling over, some have a dual ring which has a switch to turn on either the whole ring or the centre portion only—useful for small pans.

*Grills* which extend the full width of the cooker and can take a large mixed grill or six big pieces of toast. On some models only half the grill can be used on its own so that smaller quantities of food can be cooked without waste.

*Large ovens*—many standard models now have two ovens, one in the grill compartment for econom-

ical cooking of small quantities. In many cases both ovens can be auto-timed. Other features are rotating spits in grill or oven, glass oven doors and warming compartments.

### Auto Clean

Best of all are easier cleaning features. All the most modern electric cookers are easy to clean. At the ELECTRIC LIVING CENTRE at the Ideal Home Exhibition there were two cookers with ovens that clean themselves—made by Creda and English Electric. All that needs to be done is to set the simple controls and the oven cleans itself. When the oven temperature reads twice the normal cooking heat, dirt just disappears. The door is safety-locked during autocleaning.

Showing for the first time was a range of modern cookers with ovens that will just not get dirty. 'Stay Clean' ovens were demonstrated on Tricity cookers—a set of linings, roof, back and sides, each cleaning continuously while roasting and baking is carried out.

The lining, complete with wipe clean floor panel is an optional extra with all Tricity cookers at a cost of £5/5/0 for the 18 in. models and £5/15/0 for 21in. models. The Tricity Contessa 70 for example, with four radiant rings, full width grill and time-controlled oven and 'Stay Clean' lining costs only £47/5/0.

### Split Level

Built-in electric oven and counter-top hobs are increasingly popular as the range of housing cabinets improves and kitchen planning becomes something everyone can afford. Two oven cookers with auto-timing and ovens with push button rise and fall shelves were among the new built-in oven features on show in the ELECTRIC LIVING CENTRE.

## RECORD SALES

Record business was done on the Electric Living Centre at this year's Ideal Home Exhibition at Olympia, London.

Cooker sales, at 1748, were up by about 25% over the previous year. The big incentive to customers buying cookers were the new self-clean and stay clean models which accounted for about half the sales.

Over 300 home freezers were sold as against 34 last year and well over twice as many vacuum cleaners were sold compared with 1969. There was also a record number of inquiries from customers wishing to install storage radiators, Electricaire and electric water heating.



# MANWEB MOVE CABLES OUT OF THE WEIGH

*Delicate operation by  
our Area 4  
Engineering Staff*

Story by

**MR. F. BRIAN DOYLE**

**(2nd Assistant Engineer Substations)**

**Area 4**

**B**ETWEEN 1847 and 1850, Robert Stephenson, son of George Stephenson of 'Rocket' fame, built the Britannia Tubular Bridge to carry the London to Holyhead railway from the mainland of Wales to the island of Anglesey.

During the 'Railway Age' of the mid 1800s it became necessary to span the River Conway and Menai Straits in order to connect Chester with Holyhead. As engineer in charge of works, Robert Stephenson intended to build a cast iron arched bridge across the Straits, in two spans of 450 feet each, the height of the arches being 100 feet from the level of the water and the track to be 50 feet from the level.

This design did not meet with the approval of the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty as conservators of the navigation. It was necessary that the clearance above water level of any bridge should be a minimum of 105 feet in order to give clear passage to the considerable volume of shipping which used the Menai Straits during this era.

Stephenson thus abandoned the arched form of bridge and conceived the original idea of a huge tubular bridge, to be constructed of riveted plates of wrought iron and of such dimensions as to allow the passage of locomotive engines and railway trains through the interior of it.

The bridge is made up of two separate tubes, each carrying a single track. Each tube is made up of four sections which are joined at the supporting towers.

When one considers the equipment which was used in 1850 in the construction of such a mammoth project it can be realised the magnitude of the problem with which Stephenson was faced.



Britannia Bridge, linking Caernarvon with Anglesey, where MANWEB engineers recently carried out 'cable lifting' operations.

Each tube comprised two girders and wrought iron plates weighing 4,680 tons, joined by nearly two million rivets. The abutment tubes were built 'in situ' working from the land at each end towards the Caernarvon and Anglesey land towers respectively. It was not, however, possible to build the centre spans in this conventional manner due to the restrictions imposed by the Admiralty in that scaffolding should not be erected in any way to interrupt the navigation channels for shipping.

The four tubes which comprise the two double centre spans were, consequently, built on the banks of the Menai Strait and floated on pontoons into position between the supporting towers. From this position they were jacked up to a height of over 100 feet to their final position. This was achieved by the use of hydraulic rams powered by steam engines sited at the foot of each tower. The rams lifted the tubes in stages of 6 feet, at which point the tubes were wedged to the sides of the towers and the rams repositioned to give a further 6 feet lift.

From the date of the opening of the Britannia bridge, so named from the Britannia rock on which the centre tower stands, freight and passengers have been carried to and from Anglesey and Ireland undisturbed for over one hundred years, until 1952 when the need for additional supplies of electricity to the chemical plants at Amlwch made it necessary to install two additional 33kV circuits from what is now Bangor Grid substation, to Anglesey to reinforce supplies provided by a double circuit overhead crossing of the Menai Straits.

Negotiations took place with British Railways to lay two 33kV 0.2 square inch cables through the North East tube of the bridge. This was done by

In order for this to be done it would be necessary to insert stiffening frames temporarily in the vicinity of the reactions so that hydraulic jacks could operate with the measuring equipment. It would, therefore, be necessary for MANWEB's cables to be lifted to permit the steelwork to be fitted into position.

Whereas one would not expect a 33kV cable to stretch, calculations carried out by the Area 4 Survey Engineer, indicated that a cable laid, as these had been, directly from a railway truck and not 'pulled in' in the normal way there would be sufficient slack in the cable to achieve the calculated  $\frac{3}{8}$  in. extension for an arc with a maximum height of 2ft. 3in.

Discussions took place with British Railways and



Engineering staff from our Anglesey District carrying out some 33,000 volt jointing on cable damaged by a train derailment.

installing a wooden trough alongside the rails, and laying the cables in this trough by means of cable drums set on railway trucks.

*The bridge, being fixed at the centre, expands at each end by as much as 4 inches due to temperature variations for which due allowance was made in the installation of the cables.*

In 1964, it became necessary to recover the overhead crossing of the Straits to make way for the 400kV line which has now been built to carry power from the nuclear power station at Wylfa.

This crossing was replaced by a cable laid along the top of the South West tube.

Once again, the bridge was left in peace until May 1969, when British Railways informed the Area 4 Engineer that 'It was necessary to carry out certain works on the Bridge to assess its strength in relation to modern traffic of a particularly heavy kind and to see whether it will be necessary to undertake any works of strengthening.'

The intention was to measure the reaction forces of the North East tube at the supporting towers so as to calculate precisely the 'dead load' stresses of the continuous structure.

the programming of the five cable lifts was drawn up to correspond with the 'weighing' of the bridge.

The complete job had to be carried out in a period of 10 days, during which time all traffic through the bridge would be diverted through the other tube.

#### **Derailment Damage**

To add complications to the problem, a few weeks prior to this the last 3 wagons of a goods train were derailed in the tube, causing extensive damage to the cable and troughing, as a result of which it was necessary to remove the damaged section of cable and carry out repairs during the weighing period.

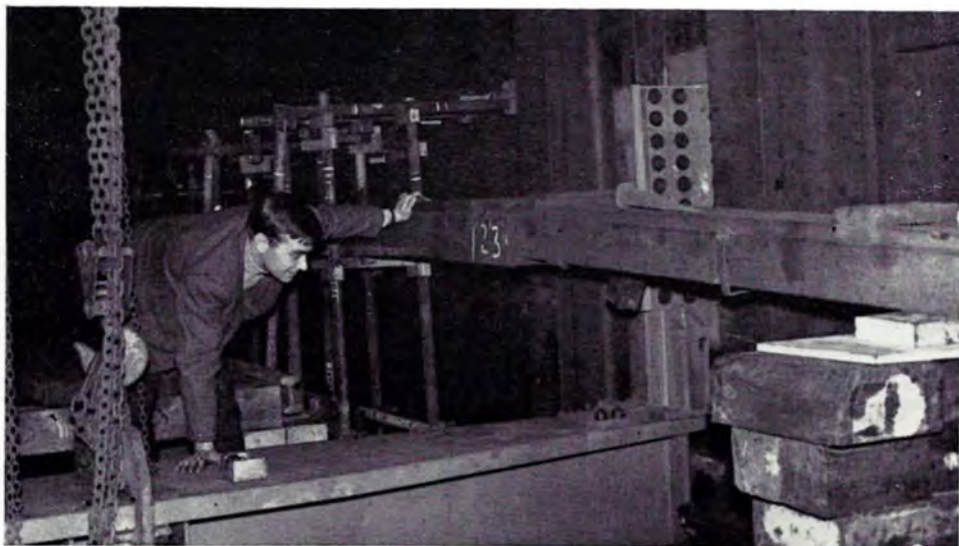
A method of lifting the trunking devised by the Area Engineer and his staff comprised scaffolding frames fitted around the troughing at 9 foot intervals over a distance of 90 feet on each side of the points at which the main steelwork for the bridge weighing process had to be fitted.

By the use of small jacks, the troughing carrying the cables would be lifted at each supporting point in  $3\frac{1}{2}$  in. steps and supported by adjustment of the scaffolding. This process would be carried out in such a manner as to form the cables into an arch of length 180 feet with a maximum height of 2ft. 3in.

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The man in charge—Mr. Brian Doyle makes a critical examination of the lifting beam in position.

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above its original position.

On completion of measurements by British Railways Research Engineers, the cables would be lowered to their original position. This process was required to be carried out at each of the five towers of the bridge.

The general principle of the weighing process carried out by British Railways was to fix the ends of large girders to the sides of the tubes of the bridge and apply sufficient pressure to the centre of each girder in turn to lift the ends of each tubular section clear of its supports. Having gained adequate

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Mr. D. G. Price (2nd assistant engineer) indicates the position of the hydraulic jack used to lift the tubular section of the bridge.

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clearance from the supports, the weight being lifted is calculated from measurements of the amount by which the girders bend.

The jacks used in lifting the bridge comprise simply two parallel steel sheets spaced one inch apart and joined at their edges. Into the space between these plates is pumped hydraulic fluid or air under extreme pressure. The expansion of the plates, although as little as  $\frac{3}{16}$  in. is sufficient to lift loads of up to 1,600 tons as was the case with the centre spans of this bridge.

The cable lifting operation duly commenced when the men of the Area 4 Substation Unit, based at Vauxhall, entered the tube to put into practice the preparation which had gone into this rather unusual task.

Despite many difficulties experienced by British Railways Research Engineers in carrying out this 'first'—it has never previously been necessary to 'weigh' a tubular bridge—the job was completed on schedule.

The cable section damaged by the earlier derailment was replaced by new cable laid into the troughing which had been rebuilt to cater for 33kV joints. A similar method was used to lay the cable as in 1952, this time running the cable off a small trolley specially made in the Vauxhall workshops.

The four straight joints were carried out by jointers from Caernarvon and Anglesey District and after successfully being pressure tested the security of supply to Anglesey was restored to normal.



Mr. E. E. Davies makes a final check before the trough holding the cables is lifted.

Once again the Britannia Bridge will be left to perform its vital duty in the rail communications between the now more industrialised areas of Anglesey and the mainland of Great Britain.

Members of our Area 4 Construction Unit who worked on the bridge-lifting operation. Standing in the front row, on the extreme left, is Mr. Doyle, the author of our article and engineer in charge of the job.



## STAFF SUPPORT FOR CHARITY FUND

Over the past five years members of our former Sandiway House staff have actively supported a children's charity organisation and have raised about £1,000 in cash and kind to help the upkeep of a holiday centre for the needy children in South Cheshire and North Staffordshire.

Before their transfer to Head Office, the Sandiway group sponsored a competition prize of a 'Week-end for Two in Dublin'—the lucky winners flying from Manchester to Dublin, staying at a top-class hotel, and a sightseeing tour by hire-car thrown in for good measure.

The competition was timed so that staff at Sealand Road could enter and although the winner



All set for the prize draw in the presence of members of Air Lingus staff and Mr. C. Morse (Charity Chairman), left, and Mr. John Shallcross and his wife Jean, right. Holding the draw box, Peter and Andrew Shallcross.

came from Crewe, three consolation prizes did come to Chester.

We understand that as so many people would have liked to have won this neatly packaged holiday the Chester (MANWEB) Sports

and Social Club have been asked to run a similar holiday in the Spring of 1971.

Further details may be obtained from Mr. F. Astbury or Mr. J. Shallcross, both in the Drawing Office at Sealand Road.

## SAFE DRIVING AWARDS

At a special ceremony held a few weeks ago, Mr. Richard Payne, J.P., a local dignitary, presented Safe Driving Awards to members of our Oswestry District staff.

The presentations were made as follows :

**20-Year Brooch** : Mr. C. H. O. Wilkinson.

**Bar to 15-Year Brooch** : Messrs. J. T. Jones and D. M. Neaves.

**15-Year Brooch** : Messrs. W. H. Blackwell and C. C. Lewis.

**Bar to 10-Year Medal** : Mr. G. H. Davies.

**Bar to 5-Year Medal** : Messrs. A. E. Chandler and C. B. Day.

**5-Year Medal** : Mr. P. Gittins.

**Diploma** : Messrs. E. J. Brierly and R. T. Hughes.

**Exemption Certificate** : Mr. L. S. Lovell.

Mr. Payne, centre right, presents a 20-year Safe Driving Brooch to Mr. Cyril Wilkinson.



# Rhostyllen Farewell Dance

## **GLEE CLUB as the Star Attraction**

The Annual Dance organised by the Area 4 Sports and Social Club was again, on the whole, a great success. Held at the Memorial Hall in Wrexham a few weeks ago, the highspot of the evening was the entertainment provided by the Area 4 Glee Club under their conductor Mr. Emyr James.

Singing on their home ground they sounded better than ever, even though they had some members missing. The expression and pace of the varying numbers was a delight to the ear. Their discipline when singing helps to hold the audience and their rendition of 'Chiti Chiti Bang Bang' at great speed had clear diction, verve and power, ending with a



Posed near the floral fountain which decorated the entrance to the Memorial Hall are the dance organisers, from left to right, Mr. George Coupe, Mrs. Brenda Ryder and Miss Heather Pearson.

knife sharp cut which made the brief silence which followed ring loud in echo.

The rest of the evening went off well with the exception of the buffet. At the 'help-yourself feed-in' some people took away plates piled high with meat and poultry—enough to see them through the week-end one would suppose. It was a great pity and we sympathise with the organisers. However, those who were not fortunate enough to have a full meal soon forgot their disappointment as they went on to enjoy the festivities until the early hours of the morning.

Conductor Emyr James brings out the sound of music from the Glee Club.





Mr. John Myers, right, Chairman of the Area 4 Sports and Social Club, with Mrs. Myers, second from left, and friends, Mr. and Mrs. J. Thomas.



Happy family headed by Mr. Roy Stewart, left, with Mrs. Stewart and daughter Judith. Completing the picture is Mr. Clive Colley.

***Some of the happy groups at the Memorial Hall, Wrexham***





#### CHEQUE FOR CHARITY

At the E.E.I.B.A. Annual Ball, held in Liverpool recently, a cheque was handed to Mr. Denis Dodds, as Chairman of the local committee. Our picture shows, from left to right: Mr. S. T. Killick (E.E.I.B.A.), Mrs. Killick, Mr. Dodds, Mrs. Dodds and Mr. G. L. Butler, (Chairman of the Social Committee)

### Most Popular Central Heating

Electric storage radiators were easily the most popular central heating system to be installed in the last quarter of 1969. According to AGB Home Audits, 32% of all new installations in the October/December quarter of 1969 were for electric storage radiators. Gas independent boilers were the next most popular system with 22%.

Mr. Bob Phillips, Marketing Adviser to The Electricity Council said: "It is clear that in existing homes and for smaller installations where families simply want to have added warmth at an economic cost, electric storage radiators continue to lead the market."

"New High Capacity storage

radiators, designed to take advantage of the Electricity Boards White Meter and night tariffs, are now in the shops. They build up their heat at night and do not require any boost during the day so are perfect for these money-saving tariffs. We expect that the introduction of High Capacity storage radiators will speed the trend towards electric central heating."

## PROMOTION

A money-off promotion for High Capacity storage radiators was launched in April. Storage radiators bought through our shops will carry the offer.

The 'Pile of Money' campaign will be featured in 30-second television commercials and at point-of-sale. It will run throughout the spring and the early part of the summer. Customers will receive £2 off when buying one High Capacity storage radiator; £5 off two; £8 off three; £12 off four; £15 off five and £18 off six.

Mr. Bob Phillips, marketing adviser to The Electricity Council, said:

"Customers will not only save money, they will receive quick delivery and installation before the peak selling period starts."

"Last year, a similar campaign resulted in sales being over 50% up on the similar period of the previous year."

### National Winners —Again!

The coveted Florence Nightingale Statuette is held tightly by Mrs. Sybil Cooper, captain of MANWEB Chester Ladies First Aid team who again walked off with the top prize in the National Finals. Making the presentation was Mr. C. G. Hancock of the Electricity Council. The rest of the team are, from left to right: Miss Sybil Timmins, Miss Joyce Littler, Miss Betty Jackson and Mrs. Judy Vennard.





## **TECHNICIANS AT WORK**

# FAULT LOCATION BY MEN FROM MANWEB

IF YOU were asked the question, 'What does MANWEB do?' putting aside the funny answers, you would probably reply, 'Oh! we supply and sell electricity to houses, shops and factories . . . we also install and test the wiring in these premises . . . we sell equipment and appliances . . . '—and then we will tend to dry-up.

The actual service which the Board provides for all its customers is much more comprehensive and not always apparent even to many members of our own staff. We therefore take this opportunity of reporting in these pages, just a couple of typical examples of the effective, but little broadcast,

backing-up service which MANWEB provides and which often proves to be a 'life-saver' to our customers.

Case number one concerns the Birds Eye Foods Limited factory on the Kirkby Trading Estate, near Liverpool. On this factory site and adjacent to the process and packaging areas are the cold stores ranging up to 7,000 tons capacity each.

All of these stores are fully insulated and refrigerated and the insulation extends underneath the concrete floors which carry the heavy fork trucks loaded with products. However, even these floors with 8" of cork insulation would not prevent heat



**'That's the spot,' says Mr. K. Hill, left, (Electrical Engineer Birds Eye Foods Ltd.) as the men from MANWEB, Mr. Tom Owen (4th assistant engineer, Test and Development) and Mr. Jim Marland (contracting engineer), locate the fault in one of the huge ice-boxes. On the right is Mr. R. K. Pounder (Refrigerator Manager, Birds Eye Foods Ltd.)**

being drawn up through the ground into the minus 20° fahrenheit temperature within the store.

To prevent this loss of heat from the ground, which would eventually cause formation of frost and the uneven lifting of the whole structure by a process known as 'frostheave,' electric heating cables are run beneath the cork hut above the base concrete.

Birds Eye Foods Limited have their own staff of experts and extensive technical resources. When it was apparent to them that a section of the mineral copper sheathed heating cable had broken down they recalled the cooperation which the Board had given on an earlier cold store and asked for the Board's assistance. With cables buried so deep, that is about 18" compared with the usual floor warming cables at a depth of 2" to 3", normal fault location techniques could not be used. Apart from the difficult working conditions, the expense of excavating a large area of the floor to uncover the whole of the faulty section was prohibitive.

However MANWEB staff were able to reduce drastically the cost by using radar equipment and measuring the distance to the fault on a time scale. Once located exactly the job of excavating the small area of concrete base and getting through the reinforcing layer, and the installation and repairing of the cable was simple for the specialist contractor.

Relief and satisfaction for yet another MANWEB customer.

### Fault in Tower Supply

Case number two was a challenge to locate a fault in the power supply cables in the dizzy heights of the new tower arising from the St. John's Shopping Precinct in the centre of Liverpool.

Power supply to the restaurant, which is to be established near the top of this new high tower, is taken up through eight single-core mineral-insulated copper-covered cables which are routed from the switchroom in the base of the tower through the staircase well to the restaurant high in the sky.

The length of each run is about 500 feet involving two joint in each of the cables.

Recently the cable manufacturers were ready to hand over the installation to the site surveyors, but before doing so, put the circuits on test only to find that one of the cables had a very low insulation test to earth. The fault had to be found and the Men from MANWEB were called in.

First, our experts asked for a short length of the cable and the insulation resistance of the piece supplied was about 10,000 ohms. A high-voltage transformer, controlled from a Variac (*variable voltage autotransformer*) was then connected between the core and the sheath of the cable. Within five



*Above : Departmental co-operation in sorting out one of the technical problems we have Mr. Harold Wilson, left, (2nd assistant engineer, Technical) and Mr. Jim Lornie (senior assistant engineer, Technical Services).*

*Below : Installation inspectors Mr. Ken Cooper, left, and Mr. Eric Williams, have a word with electrician Mr. Tommy Eagleton as he sets off in his mini to another job.*



minutes the faulty section had heated up sufficient for easy location.

This principle was then tried 'on site' on Saturday morning when it was most convenient to switch off the main supplies.

The method proved successful in practice as it had been in experiment and the fault was located . . . as luck would have it, very near to the top of the tower.

## The Technicians

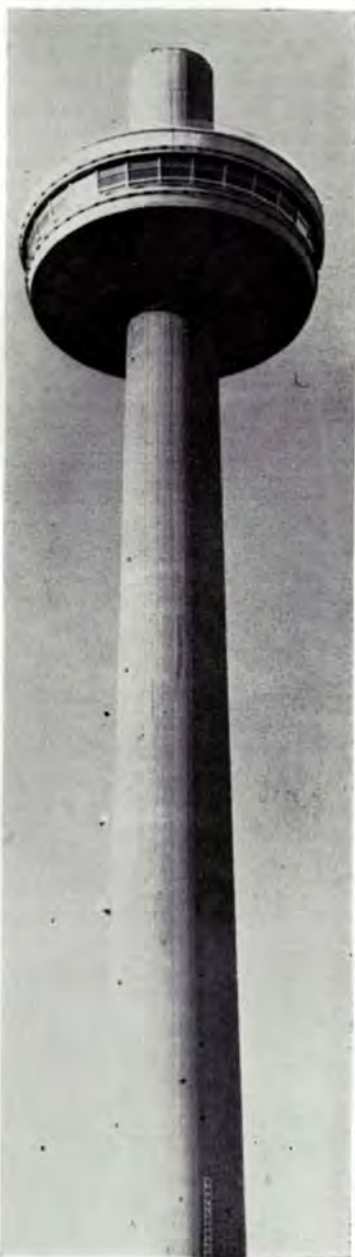
Fortunately some members of our staff did know of these 'extra' services we provide. On the Birds Eye job, when their engineers called on our Liverpool North District, **Mr. J. Wignall** (former 1st assistant District Commercial Engineer) sent out **Mr. Jim Marland** (contracting engineer), **Mr. Ken Cooper** and **Mr. Eric Williams** (installation inspectors) and **Mr. Tommy Eagleton** (electrician) to investigate the trouble. They soon realised that it was a case for the experts and a call was put in to **Mr. J. T. Lornie** (senior assistant commercial engineer, Technical Services) at Head Office who in turn brought in one of the boffins from Pumpfields, **Mr. T. H. Owen** (4th assistant engineer, Technical Development).

When the fault was located a second opinion to 'prove the fault' was called for and this was done by **Mr. H. Wilson** (2nd assistant engineer, Technical).

Incidentally, it took a 'volunteer' some 17 minutes to climb the stairs to the highest point of the tower!

This call for help came directly from the cable manufacturers . . . which goes to prove that even outside the Board organisation, some people are aware of our technical services and resources. Our man on this particular job was **Mr. Harry Sharples** (general assistant engineer).

Offering a panoramic view of Liverpool, this new tower with its skyline restaurant needed the MANWEB experts some time ago to locate a serious wiring fault. . . . And the man who spent his Saturday morning on the job was **Mr. Harry Sharples** who is seen here checking some measurement records at Pumpfields Test House.



## OSWESTRY STAFF CONFERENCE

*Where the money comes from  
and where it goes to*

A FLURRY of facts and figures came out if this year's Oswestry District Staff Conference held a short time ago at a local hotel.

In a very quick-fire summary of the electricity industry's financial policy, Mr. H. W. Hegarty (*Area 4 Accountant*) explained how under the 1947 Act the various electricity boards were required to 'break even' with their annual accounts. Following the Herbert Committee Report in 1956, it was decided that the electricity supply industry should be run on more commercial lines—like a limited company. More recently, the area boards have been working on a five-year profit-making trial period taking into account interest rates and depreciation of equipment and plant.

Mr. Hegarty went on to say a few words about the revenue side of our business and of the capital required to acquire assets such as sub-stations etc. He mentioned that the figures published in the last report of the electricity supply industry showed that the gross assets amounted to some £7,000 million!

*This high figure of capital employed put the electricity industry of England and Wales into second highest position in world ratings, way above such organisations as General Motors and Royal Dutch Shell.*

In the early days, money was raised through British Electricity Stock, but in 1955 advances were granted through the Exchequer repayable by 25 annual payments. By 1969 the industry's outstanding loans amounted to £4,000 million and had increased by £150 million during the year.

All these figures quoted by Mr. Hegarty were concerned with the industry as a whole and were a little difficult to comprehend especially when compared with a monthly salary chit or a weekly wage packet.

Knocking off a few noughts and with the aid of a few slides, he went on to show how MANWEB got its money



**CANDID CAMERA  
SHOTS TAKEN  
AT THE CONFERENCE**



and how it was eventually spent. The money came in mainly from energy sold and the profit from the sale of appliances and our contracting work, which last year helped us to a £3 million surplus.

Mr. Hegarty explained why it was necessary to keep stocks of appliances and equipment at a low level in order to save capital, saying that sometimes this kind of thing brought its problems. He also mentioned that a certain amount of money was always lying idle while jobs were in progress and that the sooner work was completed and the account rendered, than the quicker we would get our outlay back, plus the profit. He talked of the present problems associated with the Area 4 billing section saying that they should keep well on top and up-to-date in order to have the list of debtors at a minimum.

**'Pertinent to our profits is our tariff structure'** continued Mr. Hegarty as he went on to show how charges to the different types of customers were made up so that the expenses were reasonably shared.

He then produced some charts showing that MANWEB's cost per unit of electricity was the second cheapest in the country. Our aim was to keep our customers happy by keeping our prices low.

He said that we were always faced with the alternatives of putting up our prices to balance our

borrowing or to reduce our expenditure—it being increasingly difficult to make any great impact by the latter course, because the part which we could control was so small in relation to the total.

'Finance concerns everyone,' concluded Mr. Hegarty, 'not only management. We can adopt correct techniques, but anyone can waste money just as anyone can save money.'

Due to the excessive time taken over the dinner, Mr. Hegarty had to cut his planned 50 minute talk down to about 15 minutes, but he certainly covered a lot of ground in the time available and gave his audience much food for thought.

Next came Mr. K. Helliwell (*Manager Area 4*) who took only five minutes of very lively and straight talking to give a review of the year's work by the Board, Area 4 and Oswestry District, and in doing so adequately covered all the salient points.

Question time started off in a light vein with direct answers coupled with humorous asides from Mr. A. Kidd (*Area 4 Secretary*), Mr. M. M. Parker (*Board Secretary*) and Mr. A. P. Whyte (*Chief Accountant*). Unfortunately, a good evening came to a rather dull end due to one particular question being put over and over again with the questioners not really listening to the answers or explanations.

This kind of thing puts a damper on any meeting.

## CIVIC VISITORS TO SEALAND ROAD OFFICES

A few weeks ago, members and officials of the Chester City Council were guests for the day at our new Head Office block in Sealand Road, Chester.

Our photographer was on the spot to get this picture of The Right Worshipful the Mayor of Chester, Alderman R. E. France-Heyhurst, *right*, with Mr. D. M. Kermode, the Town Clerk, *centre*.

Escorting them is Mr. M. M. Parker, the Board's Secretary and Solicitor.



# 'PAY AND PRODUCTIVITY'

## *Aberystwyth Conference Theme*

The object of introducing productivity payment schemes in the electricity supply industry was to lift take-home pay based on a set number of hours and not on extended hours—to 'the highest possible level within the framework of the economic climate of the country.'

Mr. N. Plimmer, of the Central Electricity Generating Board, made this point when speaking on the theme of 'The Board's Approach to Pay and Productivity' at Aberystwyth District staff conference, held at an Aberystwyth hotel recently.

'The economic climate says that we cannot take home greater pay which is not related to greater productivity,' added Mr. Plimmer.

He defined 'productivity' as 'turning out more work for the same effort,' and added that this obviously could mean more work being done by the same, or a lesser number of people.

Productivity schemes, he stressed, were not 'piece-work' schemes, and experience showed that it was quite easy for average people doing well-defined jobs to achieve the targets without being involved in a 'sweat and blood effort.'

People already working at a higher rate than standard would automatically be paid the proper bonus, and Mr. Plimmer added that he wished to give the lie to the fear that the introduction of incentive schemes would automatically lead to reductions in staff.

Answering the question 'Where is the extra productivity coming from?' Mr. Plimmer said that the real nub of the schemes was manpower utilisation, on an equitable basis acceptable to both men and management.

In cases where staff reductions had to be effected, natural wastage would be used to advantage to make



Providing the answers were, from left to right: Messrs. N. Plimmer, W. D. Slater (C.E.G.B.), G. H. O. Speight and D. A. Hamblin.

the changes in a painless manner.

'Changes in attitudes are sometimes necessary to bring productivity payment schemes into proper operation' went on Mr. Plimmer. 'We believe in complete consultation and in getting everybody's ideas. These are absolutely necessary in the introduction of the schemes.'

Mobility, both of people and of work, was an important element, and in some cases it might be necessary to take the work to the people or the people to the work. Quality control was 'built in' to the schemes, as was safety—based on doing everything possible to eliminate the 'accident situation.'

### Rumour

For Question Time, Mr. Plimmer was joined by Mr. G. H. O. Speight (*District Commercial Engineer designate*), and Mr. D. A. Hamblin (*District Manager*). Questions on a number of topics including work study, MANWEB re-organisation, and the role of Consultative Councils, were dealt with.

Answering a question about a 'rumour about the future of Barmouth depot,' Mr. Hamblin urged his audience 'take no notice of rumours. They are bad for morale, and make people start to lose interest. If you hear any disturbing rumours, just ring and ask me!'

Earlier, Mr. Hamblin had stood-in for Mr. K. Helliwell (*Area 4 Manager*), in presenting an analysis of the work of the Area during the year.



A section of the audience at the Aberystwyth District staff Conference.

# Management and Trade Union's 'tribal practices' impede progress

## —ACCUSATIONS BY GUEST SPEAKER AT NORTH WIRRAL CONFERENCE

FOLLOWING an excellent meal in the stately setting of Birkenhead Town Hall, Mr. G. Bowers, the North Wirral District Commercial Engineer and Chairman of No. 10 Local Advisory Committee, opened the business of the evening with a report on the work of the Committee.

The most striking success, which had the approval of all of those present, was the provision of a new canteen at Craven Street.

Mr. Bowers said that it was the responsibility of the L.A.C. to watch what Management were doing, and to see that they dealt fairly with staff whilst still operating an organisation with maximum profitability.

The Annual Conference was the opportunity of the staff to keep their eye on the Committee and speak out for or against the measures taken—this was the L.A.C.'s only measure of their success.

### Re-organisation

Mr. Bowers then introduced Mr. D. G. Dodds (*MANWEB Chairman*) who invited 'bricks as well as rosettes' from his audience, and went on to talk about the Board's re-organisation.

As North Wirral District was remaining intact with no alterations to its geographical structure it seemed that the re-organisation of MANWEB would not effect the staff, said Mr. Dodds, however, there were some changes in the management of the District, and the majority of appointments had now been made.

Mr. Dodds explained that the re-organisation had been planned in three separate phases. The first



Mr. Dodds (*Chairman*) talking to the staff at the North Wirral Conference. Seated right is Mr. G. Bowers (*District Commercial Engineer*).

phase—the removal of Head Office staff from Liverpool to the new Administrative Centre at Chester—was now complete.

The second and third phases—the gradual integration of Area staff with Head Office staff, and the fusing of the new Districts—were now under way.

### Planning Industrial Relations

Mr. Bowers thanked Mr. Dodds and went on to introduce the main speaker of the evening, Mr. E. Fletcher, from Associated Industrial Consultants Limited, who was to speak on 'Current Developments in Industrial Relations.' A Cambridge economics graduate, Mr. Fletcher has led a very varied career, at one stage being a shop steward and at another a foreman.

Mr. Fletcher opened his talk by criticising publicly owned enterprises, in which he included MANWEB, for underestimating the pace of change.

Directing his first remarks to the 'top table,' he commented that public enterprises not only had to be good, but also had a duty to be ahead, and to show the way in the field of industrial relations.

Not only had management to plan ahead in finance and design but also in industrial relations. He was greatly concerned about our semi-automated, semi-affluent society, where a man could be better off financially when he was away from work and where 'tribal practices' by trade unions and management were impeding progress.

"At one time," said Mr. Fletcher "anthropologists sailed up the Congo River, examined the quaint customs of the natives, returned home and wrote a thesis. Thus another Doctor of Philosophy was created. Eventually the Congo got too dangerous, so the anthropologists turned their attention to a mist-shrouded isle off the north-west coast of Europe—Great Britain. There they were able to study warring tribes; and this is how the industrial relations consultant was born."

There was a new concept of Management which was now replacing the all-powerful dictatorial Managing Director at the apex of the managerial triangle. The new concept was a circle where management, drivers, clerical staff, and all other groups were an integrated part of the whole and were all interdependent. All groups had their finger on the main switch, leading to 'management by consent.' The greatest problem now was how to synthesise a new management structure from the new 'circle' and the traditional 'triangle.'

The idea of staff and workers having separate conditions was now obsolete, and Mr. Fletcher

urged MANWEB to take a lead and to introduce Work Study techniques into management and industrial relations to eliminate 'tribal practices' which were the cause of many industrial disputes.

#### Question Time

Was work study an economic proposition for MANWEB?—this was the first of the questions to be asked in the Open Forum.

The Management Services Officer, Mr. L. J. Scudamore, confirmed that it was. In North Wirral there had been a number of schemes completed, all of which had proved advantageous, and Mr. Scudamore was able to quote figures to make his point.

Other questions concerned inadequate transport and appliance delivery. The questioners were assured by the panel that both situations were being carefully watched and something would be done if the present trend continued.

On decimalisation Mr. Trimble, the Area 2/3 Manager said he understood MANWEB plans were well advanced for the change-over to decimal currency.

Dinner is served—for our North Wirral staff.



Guest speaker, Mr. E. Fletcher.



## Obituary

It is with deep regret that we record the death of Mr. T. V. Williams, a foreman linesman from Caernarvon. A man of kindly nature and very popular among his fellow workers. Mr. Williams was recently presented with a 35-year Long Service Award. We extend our sincere sympathy to his widow and his two sons.

Some of our former colleagues have also passed from the scene Miss Jane Lillian Bate who once worked as a clerk in our Warrington District. She was 74.

Mr. Alfred Charles Pike, who died recently aged 79. He was Caernarvon's first and only electrical engineer and manager and completed over 45 years in the electricity supply industry.

And finally of special interest to all *Contact* readers, is the death of Mr. John Redfern Peter Jones, a former Senior Clerk in the Clwyd District before his retirement in 1961.

Mr. Jones was the man who won the competition to name our staff magazine *Contact*.

We extend our deepest sympathy to their families.



# Big Turnout at Liverpool Staff Conference

**N**EARLY 300 people, including about 100 retired members of the MANWEB staff, packed the assembly room at a Liverpool restaurant one evening a few weeks ago for the annual staff conference organised by No. 1 L.A.C.

Guest speaker for the evening was the Chairman of the Board (Mr. Denis Dodds), who made reference to two main themes—the national situation of the electricity supply industry, and the present situation and future outlook on MANWEB re-organisation.

Referring to the national generating situation, Mr. Dodds said that despite losses of generating capacity caused by teething troubles in some of the 500 megawatt sets, and the need to reduce operating temperatures in certain nuclear stations due to oxidation of bolts, the demand for power had been substantially met throughout the winter.

On the financial front there had been all-round wage increases, which, together with increases in the price of coal, would put the Area Boards' retail tariffs under pressure. This was a national problem, said the Chairman, but every effort would be made to hold our prices to the customer.

**"If there is to be a price increase, it will arise from the inevitable fact that one man's wage increase is another man's price increase"** commented the Chairman.

In real terms, he added, despite inflationary pressures, the real cost of electricity continued to go down. If, today, the £1 was worth what it was in 1948, there would have been an actual cash reduction in the price of electricity.

Moving on to MANWEB re-organisation, the Chairman said that the first stage—the transfer of Head Office to Chester—was now complete.

Senior District personnel had been appointed, and had taken up their new responsibilities.

The coming months would see the progressive drawing-in of Area office work to Head Office, combined with gradual progress in the plan to integrate the old 18 MANWEB Districts into the ten new Districts.

These changes, he pointed out, would primarily affect the administrative and office staffs, while the main developments as far as N.J.I.C. staff was concerned would be the continuing introduction of work study allied to productivity payment working.

*"The re-organisation programme calls for quite a lot of improvisation at all levels during the change-over process"* added the Chairman. *"I would like to thank all those who are helping us to get through these 'growing pains'."*

Chairman for the evening was Mr. H. Telfer (*Area Manager*). After welcoming in particular the retired employees, Mr. Telfer called for questions, and the informative 'Open Forum' included an explanation of the Board's approach to the problems of Decimalisation by Mr. T. D. Hamilton (*Area Admin. Officer designate, Liverpool District.*)

An enjoyable meal and social get-together rounded off a most satisfactory staff meeting.

**Attentive listeners at the Area 1 Annual Conference as Mr. Dodds speaks of the Board's re-organisation.**





**Mr. and Mrs. Makin, left, with Mr. and Mrs. Cox.**  
(Northwich Guardian picture)

## RETIREMENTS

### Mr. W. W. MAKIN

After serving with MANWEB for the past 21 years, Mr. William W. Makin, our Northwich District Engineer decided to retire.

Prior to taking up his duties at Northwich, Mr. Makin worked for the Mersey Power Company at Runcorn having previously worked in electricity supply undertakings in Lincolnshire and Argyllshire.

At a farewell dinner held a few weeks ago at a Weaverham hotel, some 58 guests were present to see Mr. S. A. Cox (Principal senior assistant engineer,

Area 2/3), on behalf of the District staff, present Mr. Makin with an original painting of Dudden Pool in the Forest of Dean, Mrs. M. M. Le Voi, who has been Mr. Makin's secretary for 21 years, then presented Mrs. Makin with a bouquet of flowers.

Other gifts were presented and many tributes were paid to Mr. Makin who will now be moving to Hereford where, along with his two sons, he has extensive farming interests.

### Mr. H. C. BARR

Another of our District Eng-

ineers, Mr. Henry C. Barr, of St. Helens District, retired a short time ago, and to mark the occasion he and his wife were guests of honour at a dinner party.

Here, Mr. Barr was presented with a power tool kit, plus many attachments, which will obviously keep him well occupied during his leisure hours! Mrs. Barr was then presented with a bouquet of flowers by Miss M. Rochford of the St. Helens District staff.

This retirement brought to an end an active career which started with the B.I.C.C. at Prescot. Later Mr. Barr became an articled pupil with St. Helens Corporation Electricity Department, studying at the local College of Technology.

Since taking up his post as District Engineer in 1951, Mr. Barr has put in a great deal of work with the Staff, Local Advisory and Works Committees, in addition to being the Board's representative for the Manual Worker's Benevolent Scheme. He also took a keen interest in the Gas and Electricity Recreation Club and was at one time President of the Club.

**Mr. H. C. Barr, seated centre, with his wife, holding bouquet, among just a few of their many friends from the St. Helens District and beyond.**





Staff from our Queensferry stores gather round as Mr. T. O. Kirkby, left, has a farewell handshake for Mr. Morris on his last day at work.

### Mr. F. KEIGHT

After 37 years' service, Mr. Frank Keight, a jointer with our North Mersey District, retired a few weeks ago in fine style with a social evening held at the Navy Club in Seaforth.

On behalf of his friends and colleagues in the District, Frank was presented with a wallet and money by Mr. C. S. Shimmin (Systems Engineer, North Mersey District).

The presentation preceded some first class entertainment. M.C'd by Mr. W. Taunton. Workmates and former friends, now in the ranks of the retired, came along with their wives to

make the evening a 'right good do' to say their goodbyes to the man who had become known locally as the 'Pot-End King.'

### Mr. H. MORRIS

Friends of Mr. Herbert Morris, an assistant at our Queensferry Central Stores, subscribed to present him with a food mixer and a cheque, handed over on their behalf by Mr. T. Kirby (supervisor), on the occasion of Herbert's recent retirement.

He had made many friends during his twenty years with the Board, working in the Area 4 Appliance Workshops before

transferring to the Central Stores.

Retirement will not be at all boring for Mr. Morris as he has many interests which include photography, beekeeping and music.

We join with his colleagues in wishing him a long and active retirement.

### Mr. T. N. FARMER

Having spent all his working life in the electricity supply industry, except for his five years with the 'cream' (R.A.F.) during the war years, Mr. Thomas N. Farmer (T.N.) recently retired

(continued overleaf)

Below: Mr. Keats, left, receives a farewell handshake from Mr. Shimmin.

Right: Mr. Farmer, right, receives a parting gift from his friends.



## Dates for your Diary

**Thursday, 14th May**

**Manual Workers Benevolent Society**

### **Annual General Meeting**

at 5.15 p.m. in the Canteen  
Craven Street,  
Birkenhead

A Buffet Tea will be available from 4.45 p.m.

**Friday, 15th May**

**Chester (MANWEB) Sports and  
Social Club**

### **Fancy Dress Ball**

in the Restaurant, Sealand Road  
from 8 p.m. to 1 a.m.

Tickets: 7/6 each (Members)  
12/6 each (Non Members)

Available from The Welfare Section, Head Office or  
Area 2/3 Office.

## **'ELECTRICITY FOR COMFORT'**

### **Heating Exhibition at Warrington**

Miss Peggy Francis, our 'Girl from MANWEB' had a busy time recently when she went along to the 'Electricity for Comfort' Heating Exhibition at Warrington. In addition to posing for press publicity pictures she also had the job as hostess to the civic leaders who were present.

The official opening was carried out by the Mayor of Warrington, Councillor R. G. Crocker, D.F.C., a member of the local Electricity Consultative Council accompanied by the Mayoress.

The exhibition featured many of the latest electric heating appliances and MANWEB demonstrators and sales staff were on hand to pass on facts and figures on installation and running costs.

## **Retirements**

... continued

from his post as District Commercial Engineer at Oswestry.

Way back in 1925, he started work with the Midland Electric Corporation for Power Distribution Ltd., in Birmingham. Later he served with the Trent Valley and High Peak Electricity Company and the North Wales Power Company at Whitchurch. In 1939 he moved to Nantwich just before joining-up in 1940.

In the R.A.F., he gained his pilot's wings in Canada and later got his Specialists Navigator's Ticket. He was demobilised in 1945 as a Flying Officer.

Then he returned to Nantwich and in 1951 he was appointed as 1st Assistant D.C.E. at Oswestry, gaining promotion to District Commercial Engineer in 1957.

As a farewell gift from his staff, Mr. Farmer was presented with a car radio.

### **Mr. P. CUNNIFF**

A switchboard attendant at Crewe Grid substation, Mr. Peter Cuniff retired some time ago.

He joined the industry in 1933 when he went to work for Crewe Corporation as a stoker in the generating station. Later he did a spot of driving before moving to Middlewich Road Substation in 1957.

Many members of the District staff gathered together to wish Peter a long and happy retirement and to see Mr. R. H. Woodall (*District Engineer*), on their behalf, present him with some parting gifts.

### **Mr. J. B. THOMAS**

Another member of the Crewe District staff, off to a life of retirement is Mr. John B. Thomas, a mains foreman, who has been in the industry since joining the Vauxhall Construction gang in 1934.

Making a presentation of a cheque on behalf of the staff,

Mr. R. H. Woodall (*District Engineer*) thanked John for the cheerful and efficient manner he had carried out his work which had contributed so much to the smooth running of the section.

Over the past 40 years, John has been associated with the Crewe and Nantwich Motor Cycle Club and on occasions has acted as a course official at the Isle of Man T.T. races.

### **Mr. J. O'ROURKE**

For just about half of his 43 years in the industry, Mr. James O'Rourke has served MANWEB as an assistant consumers' engineer at Whitchurch.

A Chester man, Mr. O'Rourke served his apprenticeship with an engineering firm in the city, and in 1927 worked as an electrician at Sandbach.

As a parting gift, he received a barometer from his many friends, the presentation being made by Mr. A. L. Baker (*consumers' engineer*).