

CONTACT

April 1971



QUEEN MARIA
(see page 73)

Can you afford . . . Not to spare a few pence?

FOR MOST of us, most of the time, life is fairly straightforward. We all have our problems, of course, but when real tragedy strikes it is usually someone else who is affected. No-one expects to be hit by lightning—not today, at any rate.

But there is always tomorrow—and tomorrow it could be YOUR turn to be the subject of your workmates' sympathetic conversation. . . . "Poor old so-and-so . . . did you hear. . . ?"—and more in the same vein.

For administrative and technical staff in the electrical and electronics industry . . . when hard times come . . . when sickness benefits run out and State benefits are not enough . . . when we are bereaved, or disabled . . . there is a cushion to fall back on.

The Electrical and Electronics Industries Benevolent Association, established nearly 70 years ago to help people who have worked in the industry in a non-manual capacity—or their dependants—exists to restore people to their proper place in society by the best means at its disposal. Each case brought to the Association's attention is considered individually, and everything possible is done to help.

During 1970 a total of £110,000 was distributed in grants and allowances to needy colleagues, or their dependants, and in the West Lancs, Merseyside and North Wales area some £2,500 was paid to 30 beneficiaries—seven of whom were MANWEB employees, or the widows of retired colleagues.

But the E.E.I.B.A. can only pay out whatever funds are in the kitty, and the purpose of this article is to appeal to you to support a drive currently

being undertaken to substantially improve the Association's regular income from the MANWEB staff.

The various fund-raising activities associated with our local branch are well-known, and I now ask all individual staff members concerned to take part in the salary deduction scheme.

At present the average contributions by the combined Boards works out as 24 pence a year, for each member of the total staff. The MANWEB figure is only 14½ pence, with only 400 staff contributing from an eligible total of 2,970.

For the sake of your colleagues who fall on difficult times—and perhaps of yourself and your family—please consider seriously whether you can afford to contribute, say, ten pence a month from your salary—or such lesser sum as you think you can afford.

Mr. J. Pilkington, Hon. Secretary of the Branch, and the Welfare staff of the Board at Head Office, will be very pleased to supply you with the necessary salary deduction slip.

May I take this opportunity of thanking you in anticipation of your whole-hearted support of this worthy cause—that of helping your colleagues who have been less fortunate than yourselves.

Henry Jones.

Chairman, MANWEB

DISTINGUISHED VISITORS AT HEAD OFFICE



At the invitation of our Chairman and Deputy Chairman, some very special visitors came to look round the Head Office block a few weeks ago. Our picture shows the party being shown the model of the building and the layout of the grounds prior to their tour of inspection. From left to right, are, Mrs. Dodds, Mr. W. R. Baucher (North West Construction Company) Mrs. Ball (Mayoress of Crosby), Councillor E. Rowland Ball (Mayor of Crosby), Mr. D. G. Dodds (Chairman), Mrs. Baucher and Mr. D. G. Gwyn (Deputy Chairman).



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John F. Perry
Sam Doughty

EDITORIAL

The Sales Battlefield

AT A TIME when industry in general is pulling in its horns in all kinds of ways, when production lines are slowing or stopping for a variety of reasons, and when unemployment has reached its highest level for more than twenty years, it is inevitable that these factors should be reflected in the sales of electricity—for long regarded as a reliable meter of the nation's economic pulse.

The fact, however, that these trends are reflected, not by a fall in electricity sales but by a slowing down in our accustomed rate of expansion, underlines most forcefully how absolutely essential is our industry. Other industries mark time, or retreat, but electricity continues to move forward, albeit in a lower gear.

It is against this background that the continuous efforts of our sales colleagues to expand electricity sales, despite the difficulties which face them, must be viewed. This number of *Contact* contains accounts of electric selling in a number of fields, including the home, catering on a commercial scale, and large-scale horticulture, while our annual Sales Conference will be reported next month.

Regardless of the part we play, selling electricity is the ultimate object of the exercise for us all. In times of difficulty it will help our sales colleagues if they can clearly see that we are all backing them to the hilt, and giving all the help we can in every possible way.



Mr. Gwyn addresses members of the staff at the Liverpool Conference.

ELECTRICITY

—THE LONG TERM SOLUTION

—Deputy Chairman

IN THE long term, with an ever-growing population and an ever-increasing shortage of fossil fuels, the only way in which our fuel needs can be met is by electricity. From a technological point of view we have cracked the problems of nuclear generation.

"Whichever way prices go, there is a terminal life on the availability of coal, oil, and natural gas, and to the younger people among you I would say—'Ultimately you will be the only means whereby energy can be supplied and transmitted'."

With these words the Deputy Chairman of the Board (Mr. D. G. Gwyn) summed up the long-term future for our fuel supplies, when speaking at an employees' conference held in Liverpool recently under the auspices of No 1 LAC.

The packed meeting, held at a Liverpool restaurant, was attended by about 200 people, included a good proportion of retired colleagues.

After a welcome by Mr. H. Telfer (*Group*

Manager), who occupied the chair for the evening, Mr. Gwyn began his talk by saying that two main problems, in some ways related, faced MANWEB at present. The first was the slowing down in the rate of growth of demand for electricity, while the second was the bogey of rising costs.

On the first point, Mr. Gwyn commented that at the moment industry itself was cutting back generally and we were in some kind of recession.

"We are only happy when our resources are being stretched, but in the ultimate our activities are dictated by the requirements of our customers. We do our best to see that our product is superb, and we accept with pleasure the sense of public service which is part of our work," he added.

Dramatic Rises in Costs

Dealing with costs, the speaker said he would never have expected to see the present degree of inflation occur in his working lifetime. He quoted several examples of dramatic rises in the costs of cable and other equipment—some as high as 50 per cent—during the course of 1970, and added that this represented "galloping inflation."

Mr. Gwyn went on to refer to the steeply-rising trend in the cost of power station coal, and to the world shortage of coal and oil, leading to his final conclusions on the long-term importance of nuclear generation and the essential role of the electricity supply industry in meeting fuel demands.

Mr. Gwyn went on to discuss some of the problems facing people on retirement, and this led to the involvement of some of the pensioners at the meeting and to agreement on future "get-togethers" for retired staff.



Two audience shots taken during the Conference.

CHESTER



*Sponsored by the
"Chester Chronicle"*



Maria, left, being congratulated by Mr. M. M. Parker (Secretary and Solicitor) as a very sad Miss Woodburne, who came third, looks on.

The last Friday in March was a great night for many members of the MANWEB staff and particularly for 19-year-old Miss Maria Isabella Gillett, for this was her big night as she was crowned Chester "Queen of Commerce".

The evening began with the MANWEB ballroom bouncing with some 600 supporters from the six firms who had their own girls competing for the title.

TV star Ray Fell put the audience in a happy mood before going on to introduce and interview each contestant. The judges' verdict was then announced with our girl as a most worthy winner.

Maria left school in Flint just four years ago and worked at various jobs before joining the Board twelve months ago. For the last six months she has worked as an audio copy typist at Head Office. She



**Runner-up
Miss "Owen Owen"**

A jubilant group with Maria immediately after the 'crowning' ceremony
From left to right: Mrs. Catherall (fiance's mother), Maria's sister-in-law and brother, her fiance, Mr. Bernard Catherall and her own Dad and Mum.



likes swimming, sewing and driving—her fiance Bernard Catherall owns an Opus beach buggy! Maria and Bernard hope to marry next Easter and so some of the £100 prize money has been safely put away. Another part of her prize is a 15-day holiday for two, and she has chosen Ibiza in August. Still more to come is a grooming course at a mannequin school and Maria intends making full use of this and hopes to try some part-time modelling later.

OUR COVER PICTURE
shows Maria receiving congratulations from Ray Fell after last year's winner, Miss Lynne Hughes had handed over the crown.



Mr. J. W. Forrester

New E.P.E.A. President

NEWLY-elected President of the Electrical Power Engineers' Association is Mr. Joseph William Forrester, Installation Engineer in MANWEB's Dee Valley District.

The Association embraces engineers of all grades on both the distribution and generation sides of the electricity supply industry. There are nearly 30,000 members, and they play a vital role in ensuring the stability and continuity of the country's electricity supplies.

Known to all and sundry as "Joe," Mr. Forrester acknowledged his installation as the new President on March 27th, by making reference to the issue uppermost in the minds of the Association's members.

"The technical staff of the electricity supply industry" he said, "have always borne enormous responsibility in their varied

professions with dignity and pride. It will undoubtedly be a pleasure and a privilege to represent them in an endeavour to ensure that their efforts are more tangibly rewarded.

"Progress is mostly a matter of changing old worries for new ones. The introduction by the present government of the Industrial Relations Bill which will undoubtedly become law this summer, will present problems in the field of negotiations that will require careful and diligent consideration by honorary and permanent officials of our Association alike. This, I would assure you will be done so as to ensure that all possible benefit may be gained for our members.

"A challenge, such as this can be much helped by the right leadership, but to succeed, a leadership must have united followers. The membership of our Association has now grown to nearly 30,000 but it must be recognised that to retain these members in the Association, no effort must be spared on their behalf."

Presidential Message

In his President's message published in the Association's magazine, Mr. Forrester wrote :

"The years 1970—1971 will long be remembered by British Trade Unions as a period in which industrial relationship between management and trade unions deteriorated to a stage of mutual distrust. In our own industry, electricity supply, the Government has been obliged to set up a Court of Inquiry to examine the cause and circumstances of the dispute between our Association and the Electricity Boards relating to our claim for restoration of differentials and more recently a Court of Inquiry to deal with the disagreements between the trade unions representing the industrial staff and the Electricity Boards.

"If the Government wishes sincerely to improve the overall efficiencies of the supply industry, it should recognise that no less than 44% of the Central Electricity Board's total costs are accounted for in its fuel bill and that the absence of a real fuel policy results in our industry having to be the main prop of the National Coal Board.

Opting Out

"If British Railways and the Gas Council could opt out of their responsibilities as long standing customers of the Coal Board without penalties, why not the Electricity Industry? Incidentally, why should we also have to support national funds in excess of any other nationalised industry, by heavy oil taxes?

Whilst this unfair treatment exists, to the detriment of profitability, Treasury intervention in salary claims on our industry cannot be tolerated.

You may have heard the suggestion that the Government have given consideration to 'hive off' shops, service centres whatever they call retail outlets in your Area. As a member of the electricity supply industries you must be well aware that this is the vital link between the Board and the public and the loss of this method of communication will upset the smooth system of working that has functioned so well in the past. To break this link would cause irreparable damage to the industry.

"Competition in the electrical retailing industry is very keen and the Board's outlets have helped to create a healthy competitive spirit. At the same time they have been developing the wide range of appliances that are now so well known to the public.

"Should the Boards lose these outlets, the public will suffer, the Boards will suffer, the country will suffer.

WREXHAM CONFERENCE

Big Business of the Electricity Boards

ABOUT 130 people, including a number of pensioners, enjoyed a pleasant social evening at the Maesgwyn Hall, Wrexham, recently, and heard Mr. H. W. Hegarty (*Assistant Chief Accountant Finance*) explain the comings and goings of MANWEB's cash in a talk on "The Financing of an Area Board".

The occasion was the annual conference for members of Wrexham District staff, organised by No. 12 LAC.

Reporting on the work of the Committee during the year, Mr. Eifion Jones (*Secretary*), said that joint consultation was the em-

ployee's right, and not a privilege conferred upon him. The responsibility for operating effective joint consultation, and the achievement of maximum efficiency, was therefore shared by all.

Most people except accountants quail at the prospect of a talk on accountancy procedures, but the guest speaker succeeded in presenting his subject in a human and entertaining way, thus achieving the difficult task of getting the essential facts over to his audience.

The electricity supply industry, said Mr. Hegarty, was the second largest in the world as far as capital employed was concerned, with



Mr. Hegarty explains the comings and goings of MANWEB's cash.

assets of about £7,300 million. With the aid of charts he explained the financial ins-and-outs of the industry in general and of MANWEB in particular, pointing out that the industry's financial surpluses were very small when related to the size of our business.

In passing he referred to recent public suggestions that the electricity and gas industries paid too little in rates.

"I do not agree with these suggestions. In my view we make a fair contribution towards the rates," he added.

In the current wave of rising prices, reflected Mr. Hegarty, it was some consolation to remember that during 1969/70 MANWEB's prices were the lowest in the country.

During the open forum session, when the panel consisted of Mr. K. Helliwell (*Group Manager*), the guest speaker, and the new District officers, questions dealing with transport maintenance, the provision of more power tools, and other subjects, were ventilated.



Deep in thought, absorbing the facts and figures being given by Mr. Hegarty.

A NICE CHANGE

Most of the letters we receive from customers are, unhappily, letters of complaint.

The satisfied hundreds of thousands enjoy their electrically-cooked meals, bask in their electrically-warmed homes. But the odd few who are not satisfied. . . .

well, they COMPLAIN!

It was nice, therefore, for our Rhostyllen office to receive a note from a customer as follows :

"I am writing to commend the service given by Mr. Jones of your Dolgellau branch. I telephoned him from London yesterday morning to ask if it was possible for a new cooker to be delivered to our

cottage on the mountain road . . . I rang during the afternoon and was delighted to learn that the cooker had been delivered.

"This sort of service is something we have unfortunately had to learn to live without down here, and I congratulate you and Mr. Jones on putting value on customer goodwill."

ELECTRICITY IN HORTICULTURE

New Nursery Opened at Sandymere



Pictured on opening day we have, from left to right: Messrs. D. R. Bastin, W. N. Shires (Deputy C.C.O.), A. Canham, J. R. Harrison and R. Stewart (Energy Sales Manager).

THE MOST modern horticultural nursery in the North of England, with electrical contracting work, lighting design and installation by MANWEB was opened recently.

Sandymere Nurseries, of Tarporley, Cheshire have incorporated the latest techniques and equipment in their reconstructed and modernised premises. Mr. Ron Andrews our Horticultural and Agricultural Sales Engineer has worked closely with the Managing Director, Mr. J. R. Harrison, and his manager, Mr. D. R. Basten, who planned the whole scheme.

Electrification has enabled many of the processes to be automated, saving time and labour costs, and giving greater control of the environment of house plants and flowers—the speciality at Sandymere.

There are three applications of electric lighting incorporated in the nursery. All were developed at Reading University's Horticultural Department by Mr. Alan Canham, and it was he who was invited to perform the opening of the new nursery.

The plants and flowers begin their life in the propagation house where the cuttings spring into life after

only a few days on the 12 kW of electrically warmed benches and under a spray of fine mist, regulated automatically. When they are large enough to handle they are pricked out and placed into large pallets and transferred to the growing room benches beneath banks of fluorescent tubes. Warm air from the lighting is circulated by a fan mounted in the roof down one side of the rooms over the benches, and up to the roof again. Surplus heat is lost through a thermostatically controlled vent in the eaves. Watering is automatic, to assist loading and unloading benches are constructed on a roller conveyor system.

From the growing rooms the plants are potted, and this tedious task is eased and speeded by the use of an automatic potting machine. Sandymere's seven huge glass houses cover almost 1½ acres, and the newly-potted plants are transferred to one of these. In these houses are found the other two applications of electric lighting.

Some plants, in particular chrysanthemums, are difficult to grow in the North during the winter months, and many of the better-quality potted and spray varieties are transported from the South where longer and brighter daylight hours aid their growth. By supplementing the poor quality sunlight with good quality electric light, Sandymere have achieved some remarkable results.

On view at the opening day, when MANWEB and Sandymere staged an exhibition of many new techniques and equipment available to the grower, were some spray chrysanthemums. These are intended for florists, who require long stems and plenty of even buds. Side by side were two beds of these flowers. One bed had received supplementary lighting for two weeks early in their growth, the other bed only natural sunlight. The treated plants were six inches taller, carried more buds, and were of more even proportions. To cap it all, the untreated flowers were a fortnight older.



A pallet of chrysanthemums ready for removal from the growing room. Above the bench are banks of lights and the thermostat controlling the air vents can be seen in the centre of the picture.

Night-break lighting is another application of electric light at Sandymere. Some plants form their buds only when night-time darkness exceeds eight hours—and this means most of the year. If for commercial reasons a grower wishes to delay the budding process all he has to do is switch on his artificial electric sunlight in the middle of the night and the plants are kidded into accepting that summer days are here, and delay their budding.

The absorption of carbon dioxide by plants helps to provide the food they need, but they can only do this if the light is intense enough. At Sandymere electrically-fired gas burners provide the carbon dioxide, but a time switch switches on during daylight hours and off again at night time. During daylight hours a photo-electrical cell switches off the gas burner if the light intensity is not sufficient, and these controls ensure that CO₂ is produced only when conditions are right.

Plants are watered by either overhead sprays or individual pot watering, and this is controlled automatically. Automated ventilation sees to it that the houses are kept at the right temperature. A very sophisticated system closes ventilators facing prevailing wind and rain, and opens those on the opposite side of the house.

For the more technically-minded there is a 400-amp cubicle switchboard normally seen in a factory installed at Sandymere, carrying a 210 kW load and using about 6000 units a week. Each house has its own self-contained distribution board with MCB's. The wiring in the glass houses has been installed to utilise the box sections of the metal frame work, so eliminating the use of conduit, which would obscure some of the natural lighting.

All-in-all this is a superb modern "plant factory" producing healthy plants and flowers of high standard and competitive prices. Electricity is a major factor in this success, and this nursery is the envy of many a grower.

As far as Sandymere are concerned this is only the beginning, for already Ron Andrews has been called in to help with further plans and experiments.

Mr. Basten, left, discusses the results of supplementary lighting on pot chrysanthemums with our Mr. Andrews.



Below:

One of the seven large glass houses with the night-break lighting units over the developing plants.

Electricity for Plant Production

The installations of commercial horticultural growers who are using electricity for lighting, heating and watering, were exhibited at the Electricity Council's stand at the British Growers "Look Ahead" Exhibition, recently held at Harrogate.

At the same time a joint project by the Electricity Council and Simplex of Cambridge has resulted in the development of a conveyor-belt system, carrying pot-plants in wire baskets, which enables two layers of pot-plants to be grown in standard glasshouses by utilising natural daylight to the maximum. Substantial increases in output have been achieved.



Round the Exhibitions . . .

HEATING at Newtown

A special 'Heatex 71' exhibition was put on in the Memorial Gallery, Newtown, Shropshire, a short time ago and a considerable amount of press publicity and goodwill among Council officials was gained. Our picture shows a quartette from among those present—from left to right:

Mr J. W. Trimble (Group Manager), Miss Hilary Panting (The "Girl from MANWEB"), Councillor C. A. Hopkinson (Chairman of Newtown U.D.C.)—who officially opened the exhibition—and Mr. R. A. Williams (District Commercial Engineer, Oswestry). (Shropshire Star picture)



COMMERCIAL CATERING

at Southport

The Cambridge Hall, Southport was the venue for our second Commercial Catering Exhibition a few weeks ago. It was very well attended by people from the town as well as visitors from as far afield as Manchester and Bolton. The picture here shows, from left to right: Mrs. F. Irvine, watching the photographer, as her husband Mr. F. Irvine (President of the Southport Hotel, Guest House and Caterers' Association) and Mrs. Joan Ditttrich (3rd assistant engineer, Head Office) keep their eyes on the turkey cooked in a micro-wave oven, then Miss Hilary Panting (The "Girl from MANWEB") and Mr. D. E. Noad (District Commercial Engineer, North Mersey) look to the camera.



and at Bangor

The final exhibition was held at the City Library in Bangor and was featured on TV. Our picture shows a study in expressions as The Mayor of Bangor (Councillor T. Vivian Lewis) samples some of the deliciously cooked food with his wife looking on. Holding the plate is Helen Griffiths (Sales demonstrator) while the broad smile in the background is on the face of our "Girl from MANWEB" Miss Hilary Panting.

SHOP OF THE MONTH

3, GREEN END WHITCHURCH

New Premises Opened

We were not fooling when it was decided to open our new shop at Whitchurch on April 1st for since that date business has been terrific.

Council officials and local dignitaries attended the official opening ceremony, which was carried out by Councillor H. N. Batkin, Chairman of the North Shropshire Rural District Council. He is also a Salop County Councillor and a member of the Area Consultative Council.

He said that he had been associated with the electricity supply industry since 1948 and had seen tremendous improvements taking place each year. He shared the Board's confidence in the future, especially in Whitchurch where with the new shop premises, customers could select and buy the latest and the best electrical appliances—and of course—pay their accounts.

After thanking Councillor Batkin for so ably performing the opening ceremony and for his kind remarks, Mr. J. W. Trimble (Group Manager) said that the Board and its predecessors, the North Wales Power Company had served the public of Whitchurch from the old shop in the High Street since 1931, and 40 years was a long time to be in one place. He now hoped that our old customers and many more new ones would be visiting our new shop at Green End.

The staff: Mr. Geoffrey Wright, the senior salesman, started work with the Board at Wrexham in 1959. Four years later he went to our Portmadoc shop and last June came to Whitchurch. He is married and has two sons. Geoff is a radio and TV enthusiast and likes to do a little gardening. Although he is settling down in Whitchurch, he says that he still longs for the green hills and the sound of the sea at Portmadoc. Maybe the ringing of his till will take its place. Mrs. Ivy Eddies, a saleswoman has been with us for just over two years. She has two married sons and believe it or not—six grandchildren! Ivy likes dressmaking, and has lived in the area all her life.



At the official opening of the new shop, from left to right, Mr. Trimble, Mrs Batkin, Councillor Batkin and Hilary Panting.



Above: Mrs. Eddies and Mr. Wright concentrate on a customer.

Below: A photograph taken at night showing the wide window area and spacious interior of the new shop at Whitchurch.





Tony Wilcox, up the ladder, looks definitely threatening with a mallet in his hand, as Jeff Baker, looks away—not being a witness to what may happen. Two willing back room boys from our Display Department.

PERHAPS IT all started one day during last October. The internal telephone rang, and somebody asked me what I thought of the title 'Planned Selling' for the 1971 Sales Conference.

'Great!' I replied, realising that with still nearly six months to go, the Conference countdown had already begun.

Even if, like myself, you're only involved with one small aspect of the Conference, you can't help being aware of the progress as the weeks go by. Soon, a first rough programme outlining the suggested speakers and subjects arrives on your desk. You search the files and contact suppliers of curious things like seat cushions, projection equipment, decorative plants. The hall at Chester College of Further Education must be booked well in advance for the week before Easter when the school is on holiday. Then for the first time, the organisers, speakers, and production staff get together across a table for a preliminary meeting to shape the programme. It all starts casually enough.

Soon the time to the Conference begins to be measured in weeks, the meetings get more frequent and detailed as individual talks are submitted and approved. The flesh begins to hang upon the bones. Slides (*over 400 of them*) are now in the hands of the Display section, cartoonists, and photographers. Myself, I nearly ended up behind bars on one occasion. One of the speakers wanted to illustrate electrical power, so I went out with a freelance photographer to take a shot of some transmission pylons. We were taking photographs outside Connah's Quay power station, which offers a marvellously artistic interlacing of pylons and cables, when a police patrolman drew up and demanded to know what we were doing. Apparently it is highly suspicious to be taking snapshots of 'Official Installations.' Fortunately a MANWEB letterhead bailed us out!

At the same time films were being ordered, or shot to order, and visits to the College settled the stage layout. The panels had to be accurate to the inch, and were in safe hands at our joiners shop at Pumpfields, Liverpool.

During the last week the pace quickens, but we all still have our everyday work to attend to. The speeches have been timed and the programmes sent out, the question forms printed, the speakers from distant parts booked into a local hotel, but even on the last Friday before, the Conference is still only an idea. Then suddenly, over the weekend it begins to come together. Both stages (*the Conference divides for two morning sessions*) are set with a great deal of pulling and heaving, lifting and hammering. The projection galleries begin to look a little more like home, cables trailing everywhere like spaghetti. Amplifiers and P.A. equipment are tuned in. From

Getting it together

COUNTDOWN FOR THE 1971 SALES CONFERENCE

Story by CHARLES UTTLEY

now on there's always music in your ears. Volunteers, perhaps willing members of production staff families, will be adding the frills to the decorations.

Sunday—last minute preparations, the various bits of films are edited, spliced and timed ; slides are put into magazines in the correct order ; special effects are recorded and tried out, we have rolling thunder, farmyard sounds, a gunshot... the machinery is being wound up.

Monday—dress rehearsal. Last minute panics as the Conference hall has been double-booked for a film show, however we start at last—two hours late. It is a strange feeling when things that were arranged months ago begin to happen, things you have almost forgotten about. The van arrives full of glorious plants for the stage, the seat cushions, the appliance display for the foyer. Everyone is working hard, straining their ears for cue-words, shifting props, there are laughs and shocks. Each speaker is a different person, some nervous, some confident. Even now there are last minute changes to the programme and the talks, and when something goes wrong someone will shrug and say :

'It'll be all right on the day.'

And the day is tomorrow, but it has to be right.

All the slides have arrived in good time, the films are laced up, the 'psychedelic' lighting units focused in, the tapes are on the recorder, the lights checked and double checked, the scripts safely in their folders. At about 9 p.m. someone says: 'Well, that's it lads, if it's not done now, it never will be.'

Tuesday—we arrive early, the speakers drift in . . . good luck everybody! Oooh, those butterflies, wonder if everyone has them. Suddenly the car park begins to fill, our audience is arriving: the seats below begin to fill . . .

Hurried last minute preparations being carried out by Mr. Norman Kenyon (Head Office), left, adjusting film on a spool, Mr. Ron Carter (Chwyd District), centre—the well-known film producer, and Mr. Charles Uttley (Head Office) arranging film slides in sequence.



O.K. for sound, as John Drew (South Lancashire District) checks the recording and amplifying equipment.

Continued NEXT MONTH with a full report on the Conference.





The organisers and speakers—from left to right, Messrs. D. G. Thomas (Secretary of No. 17 Local Advisory Committee), R. Lewis (District Administrative Officer), G. H. O. Speaight (District Commercial Engineer), Elystan Morgan, M.P., W. D. Slater (Group Superintendent C.E.G.B. and Chairman of No. 28 Local Advisory Committee), D. A. Hamblin (District Engineer) and K. Helliwell (Group Manager and Chariman of No. 17 Local Advisory Committee).

M.P. at Aberystwyth Conference

When Aberystwyth District staff held their employees' conference they were able to gain a fascinating insight into the working life of a Member of Parliament by choosing as their guest speaker their local M.P., Mr. Elystan Morgan (Cardiganshire).

The conference, held at the Royal Pier Pavilion, was organised by Nos. 17 and 28 Local Advisory Committees, and Mr. Morgan's talk—"A Day in

the House" was the climax of a busy and informative morning's work.

Mr. D. G. Thomas and Mr. W. D. Slater reported on the workings of their respective Committees during the year, and Mr. K. Helliwell outlined the progress made in our former Area 4 over the same period.

A lively "Any Questions?" session, and an enjoyable lunch, rounded off a successful gathering.



A section of the audience at the Aberystwyth Conference.

Another Satisfied Customer

Some time ago, Mr. G. Bowers, our North Wirral District Commercial Engineer, took a party of local Council officials to see some storage radiator installations in Council-owned dwellings at St. Helens.

Following the trip, the visitors decided to install electric storage radiators in some of their own Council houses.

One of their tenants did not seem to like the idea—at first,

but then the Housing Manager received the following letter which he passed on to Mr. Bowers. . .

Dear Sir,

As I am the tenant who did most of the grumbling I think I now ought to be the one to offer the most grateful thanks for the comfortable change of temperature in our bungalows. I do thank you and all others concerned for these new benefits. They have made an

appreciable difference to our way of life. Yours very sincerely,
(Signed)

WANTED

Fourth person for car trip to Le Mans 24-hour car race. Leaving Friday, June 11th and return Tuesday, June 15th. Full details from Ian Parkinson, Work Study Crew.

Tel. Crewe 55171 or 81-126
(internal)

ELECTRICITY DOES RECORD IDEAL HOME BUSINESS

Record breaking business in electric appliances was achieved for Electricity Boards at the Electric Living Centre at the *Daily Mail* Ideal Home Exhibition, London. When the exhibition doors closed, sales of electrical appliances showed an almost 100 per cent increase over last year. Electric cooker sales more than doubled their 1970 total.

Sales of all major domestic labour saving appliances were up. Washing machines and vacuum cleaners broke all previous sales records and food freezers were again very popular. The Electricity Boards' shop which offered special trade-in allowances, did good business.

Over 3,000 electric cookers were sold showing the success of the modern features—self and easy

cleaning ovens; a grill chamber that serves as a second oven; and prices that mean housewives can buy a compact family size cooker with four hob plates, an easy clean oven with an autotimer and full-size grill, for around £50.

Electric central heating again did well. Of the six houses in the Ideal Home village, four were equipped with Electricaire ducted warm air central heating and three were all-electric throughout. They produced the largest-ever number of enquiries including many from building firms and from architects.

DON'T ALL RUSH

If it hadn't been a hoax, there might have been a rush for the job. . . .

A card left at a customer's premises as part of a sales campaign was returned to our Willow Road, Wrexham, office, completed as follows :

"I am interested in the purchase of an Electrician, at an economical cost, with White Meter, the cheapest heat meter, and one I can control at the flick of a switch . . ."

Our representative was invited to call at *"The Clinging Vine, Lover's Lane, Rhosrobin"*. . . . while the signature at the end was. . . . *"B. Bardot."*

The card added that any day would suit, but that the most convenient time would be between 10 p.m. and midnight!

ROBOT BEACON STARTS WORK

Billy Beacon, featured in the February issue of *'Contact'* started work as a teacher at a Chester school recently immediately after being handed over to the Cheshire Police by Mr. J. W. Trimble (*Group Manager*). Assistant Chief Constable Mr. J. A. Rennie officially received this newest recruit in the Cheshire Constabulary's drive to cut down road accidents. Our picture shows Billy Beacon surrounded by delighted schoolchildren, MANWEB boffins and members of the police force.



SOUTHPORT E.A.W.

The lone male among these ladies of the Southport Electrical Association for Women is Mr D. E. Noad (*District Commercial Engineer, North Mersey*) The occasion was at the seventh annual general meeting of the Branch.





A bird's eye view of the official guests, members of the No. 10 Local Advisory Committee and members of our North Wirral District staff at their annual Conference in the Town Hall, Birkenhead.

CONFERENCE AT BIRKENHEAD

The meeting began with a first-class meal, after which Mr. J. W. Trimble (*Chairman of the Committee*), reviewed the work of the L.A.C. throughout the year.

The Deputy Chairman of MANWEB (Mr. D. G. Gwyn), then contributed a progress report on current Board affairs, and the guest speaker was Dr. Edwin Brooks, a Liverpool University lecturer and former M.P. for Bebington.

Dr. Brooks chose as his theme "*Conflict and Communication*," and gave a most interesting talk, including many light and humorous touches, which was listened to by an appreciative audience with close attention and keen interest.

The "Open Forum" session which brought a most successful evening to a close dealt with a number of current problems, all comprehensively answered by the "panel."

Make Room with Electricity

"Make Room With Electricity", a new Electricity Council film shows how older homes can be modernised with the aid of local government improvement grants.

An old part of Rochdale, declared an improvement area by the Borough Council, has had its whole street scene refurbished. In the film, the houses are shown

heated by storage radiators. They have modern kitchens and bathrooms with constant hot water.

Similar domestic facilities are also shown newly installed in entirely different sorts of homes in many other parts of the country. The original occupants are now enjoying modern comforts in a house or flat that only recently

would have been classified as sub-standard.

In every case, electric home heating, water heating, kitchens and the number of electricity sockets in each room have been brought up to Parker Morris standards.

"Make Room With Electricity" (16 mm. colour/sound, 24 minutes), is available from the MANWEB Film Library at Head Office.

THE FIRST TEAM. *From left to right, standing: Peter Turner, Don Hatfield, George Harrison, George Tuthill, Big John Salisbury, Peter Arnold and Jay Tyrer. Seated: Mal Cooper, Brian Murrow, Eric Foulger (captain), Georgie Vose, Davie Wilson and Pat Byrne.* In front of the team is an impressive display of last season's trophies, *from left to right: The Melly Cup, J. McMinn Cup, R. D. Pringle Award Shield, Tiltotson Cup and Lewis Cup.*



ELECTRIC SUPPLY A.F.C. **—ANOTHER YEAR OF SUCCESS**

After yet another successful season, the Liverpool Electric Supply A.F.C. first team is still in the running for the Liverpool Shipping League 1st Division championship, and can look back on tremendous performances in both the Lancashire Amateur Cup and the Liverpool Amateur Cup competitions.

Although knocked out of the Melly Cup (*which*

they won last year), the first team knocked out some of the best amateur sides in Manchester and Liverpool on their way to the quarter-finals of the Lancashire Amateur Cup.

The team recently went on another tour of Plymouth, where last year they created a great impression—both soccer-wise and socially—on the

THE SECOND TEAM. *From left to right, standing: John Rotherham (referee), Harry Branegan, Ted Smith, Les Rimmer, Ronnie Lee, Peter Reynolds, and George Harrison. Seated: Jimmy Brennan, Jed Collins, Paul Mosquito, Eric Craven, Eric Webb and Charlie Beattie.* Referee Rotherham is a former member of our staff at Lister Drive and in the past has played football for the Electric Supply teams.





ELECTRICITY SUPPLY INDUSTRY RESTRICTED TEAM NATIONAL BADMINTON CHAMPIONSHIPS

MANWEB WIN AGAIN

Mrs. Dodds joins her husband as he presents the Challenge Shield to winning captain Paul Wilkinson.

A HIGHLY successful tournament, from both organisational and competitive points of view, was staged at the Deeside Recreation and Leisure Centre at Queensferry a few weeks ago. This was the second time that the electricity supply industry's restricted team badminton championships had been held in our area, but it was certainly no coincidence that we won the competition for the second time.

We had two teams competing in the separate groups, and in the first round our No. 1 team beat the C.E.G.B. South East Region by four games to one. Our Second Team narrowly beat the South Wales team by three games to two. In the next round MANWEB 1 had a good victory over the Yorkshire Board—three games to two while MANWEB 11 lost to Burymead/C.E.R.L. by four games to one. Our first team got revenge in the

semi-final by beating Burymead/C.E.R.L. by four games to one and went on to face a strong side from the East Midlands Board in a most exciting final.

A large crowd had gathered to watch the final, including Mr. D. G. Dodds (*Chairman*) and Mrs. Dodds and Mr. M. M. Parker (*Secretary and Solicitor*). The standard of play was very high which was not surprising as no less than six County players were involved. Again, MANWEB were successful, winning by three games to two and were presented with the Challenge Shield by Mr. Dodds. The trophy had been donated for the National Tournament by Mr. Dodds on behalf of our Board.

Prizes were also awarded to the runners-up from the East Midlands, and their team captain expressed sincere thanks on behalf of all the teams taking part for MANWEB's fine efforts in organising the

FOOTBALL—continued

local people. This year they played two games against semi-professional teams, winning both matches to maintain last year's unbeaten record.

One of the main reasons for the team's success on the soccer field is the regular social contact between the players and their regular weekly training sessions (*which continue throughout the summer*) under the expert guidance of team captain and coach, Eric Foulger.

They are supported throughout by the unsung heroines of any football team—the wives and girlfriends—who undertake a variety of tasks ranging from nursing the "wounded" to seeing to it that football strips are always in immaculate condition for the next match!

Two members of the Electric Supply team—Don Hatfield and Brian Morrow—were chosen to represent the Liverpool Shipping League against the Manchester Amateur League, while Davie Wilson was selected as reserve. This means that no fewer than eight members of the current team have gained Shipping League honours in the past few years. The other five are George Tuthill, George Harrison, Eric Taylor, John Salisbury and Pat Byrne—a fitting tribute to a fine club and a credit to the electricity supply industry.

There is always next year—and succeeding years—to think about however. No team rests forever on its laurels, and skilled players of proven ability are needed to reinforce both first and second teams for next season's programme.

tournament—and the accommodation—which made for a most enjoyable week-end. He went on to say that the East Midlands Board had agreed to organise next year's competition which they hoped would be staged at Loughborough College.

Our teams, drawn from staff working and living as far apart as Caernarvon and Liverpool were organised by Mr. John Foster and Mr. Tony Thakray from Head Office.

Other teams in the competition represented area Electricity Board, regions of the C.E.G.B., and Research Centre staffs. They travelled from as far afield as Plymouth in the South and Newcastle in the North.

The boys and girls from MANWEB are now all set for the Hat Trick next year!



An all action shot during the competition with Tony Tonks and Joan Whatling.

The MANWEB badminton teams From left to right, standing : Doreen Rushton (Birkenhead), Jeff Phillips (Hoylake Training Centre), Alan Snape (Caernarvon), John Ford (Head Office), Will Jones (Caernarvon) and Tony Thakray (Head Office). Kneeling : John Foster (Head Office), Ann Griffiths (Head Office), Andrew Stewart (Colwyn Bay), Charles Lynch (Head Office), Kathleen Hough (Head Office), Paul Wilkinson (Liverpool) and inset, Jean Huntington (ex. North Wirral). Front row : Beth Tinsley (Head Office), Pat Blaydon (ex. North Wirral), Kath Knight (Head Office) and Joan Whatling (Head Office). One player missed this group photograph —Tony Tonks (Chester).



Golf in Ireland

What better place to be 'on the greens' than in the Emerald Isle itself, and begorrah, this is precisely where some members of the MANWEB (Chester) Golfing Society went recently for a great golfing week-end. Their hosts were the Electricity Supply Board of Eire who entertained our colleagues with typical Irish hospitality.

Shortly after their arrival at Dublin airport on the Friday, the visitors had a warm-up match on the championship course at the Royal Dublin Golf Club. On the following day, matches with their hosts were played on the County Louth Golf Club course at Baltray. The final results—three games each.



Above: Left to right, standing: Messrs. W. A. Jones and B. K. Furnis (MANWEB). Seated: Messrs. J. O'Herlihy and M. Conway (E.S.B.). Win for MANWEB.

Top Left: l. to right: Messrs. M. R. Cowan (MANWEB), T. Costello (E.S.B.), P. Moriarty (E.S.B.) and F. Brown (MANWEB). Win for E.S.B.

Bottom Left: left to right: Messrs. F. O'Tuama (E.S.B.), N. Jones and W. Brighthouse (MANWEB). The man missing—Mr. B. Curran (E.S.B.). Win for E.S.B.

Below: From left to right: Messrs. R. J. Barraclough (MANWEB), M. Orea (E.S.B.), W. R. Thompson (MANWEB) and S. Tinney (E.S.B.). Win for MANWEB

A wonderful time was had by one and all, especially at the 19th hole.

Other scores in the competition, Messrs. G. G. Barnes and G. Bowers (MANWEB), lost to Messrs. V. Carey and J. Fiman (E.S.B.) and Messrs. W. Daniels and J. Haslam (MANWEB) beat N. Harkin and D. Woods (E.S.B.)

The next meeting of the Golfing Society—Upton-by-Chester Golf Club, Mon., May 10th, 1.30 p.m.



Public Speaking

The MANWEB finals of this year's Electricity Supply Industry Public Speaking Competition was held recently at Head Office.

The morning session was taken over by the men when nine members of the staff competed for the honour of representing MANWEB in the National Finals.

The adjudicators, Mr. R. Helliwell (*Electricity Council*), Mr. S. G. Griffiths (*senior assistant Commercial Engineer, Head Office*) and Miss R. V. Mooney (*former typing supervisor at Head Office*), listened to some excellent talks before judging the winner to be **Mr. A. Edwards**, a supply engineer from Oswestry District. In second place was **Mr. J. Mercer**, a senior salesman from North Mersey and in joint third place was **Mr. K. Jarvis** a trainee salesman from North Mersey District—at 17-years-of-age, the youngest competitor, and **Mr. C. W. Uttley**, an advertising assistant at Head Office.

In the Women's Section, there were only two competitors, but the standard of their talks was very high indeed.

The winner, who will join Mr. Edwards in representing the Board in London on May 19th/20th was **Mrs. S. A. Kent**, a sales demonstrator in the Aberystwyth



Competitors in this year's Public Speaking Competition. Standing, from left to right: Messrs. C. W. Uttley, G. C. Roberts, K. Jarvis, J. Mercer, A. Edwards, R. S. M. Ward and D. J. Taylor. Seated: Mrs. S. A. Kent and Mrs. H. B. Christian. Other competitors who missed the photograph were Messrs. A. J. Bishop and D. J. Tinsley.

District who talked on "*Ergonomic Gardening*." Following closely behind in second place was **Mrs. H. B. Christian**, a senior demonstrator in the Liverpool District whose talk was

entitled "*Frozen Assets*."

Returning to Chair the proceedings was the very welcome face and personality of Mr. T. R. Smith, a former Assistant Chief Commercial Officer.

Obituary

Mr. F. MORGAN

Mr. F. Morgan, a MANWEB Assistant Chief Engineer who played a prominent part in supervising the construction of the Board's new Head Office at Chester, died recently, after a lifetime of service to the electricity supply industry. He was 68.

Mr. Morgan began his career with Leeds Corporation,

In 1947 he became Deputy Electrical Engineer and Manager for the City of Chester, and

joined MANWEB on the nationalisation of the industry in 1948 as a Deputy Sub-Area Engineer. Later he was appointed Area Engineer, and following a merger of two MANWEB Areas became Assistant Chief Engineer (Civil) at Head Office in Liverpool, in 1964.

Mr. Morgan formally retired in 1967, but remained in harness with MANWEB to supervise the construction of the Board's new Head Office building at

Chester—the first major office block in Europe to incorporate the "heat reclaim" system of air-conditioning.

He leaves a widow and two sons.

Mr. T. H. DONNELLY

A good servant of the Board for over 20 years, Mr. Thomas Henry Donnelly died in retirement a few weeks ago. Mr. Donnelly worked as a clerk at Hatton Garden and Lister Drive.



Mr. Ted Carson, *extreme right*, just gets in on his own retirement picture taken with just a few of his colleagues at Craven Street.

Mr. E. L. CARSON

Best wishes for retirement, and a complete recovery from the illness which hastened it, are sent by the many friends of Mr. E. L. ("Ted") Carson, mechanical fitter's mate, who retired recently from the staff at Birkenhead.

Mr. Carson began his working life as a ticket collector with the Mersey Railway, later serving as a deckhand on Mersey tugboats, and joining the

MANWEB staff as a fitter's mate in the workshop at Birkenhead in 1957.

About six months ago he had the misfortune to suffer a severe illness, and in presenting him with the results of a cash collection his friends added their hopes that his health would improve and that he would be able to increasingly enjoy his hobbies of gardening—particularly rose-growing—and his "do-it-yourself" work at home.

RETIREMENTS from North Wirral . . .

Mr. FRANK KELLY

Another of the dwindling band of "fifty-year men," Mr. Frank Kelly, retired recently from his work on the electrical fitting staff at Birkenhead.

Mr. Kelly began as an errand boy with Birkenhead

Corporation Electricity Department in 1919, becoming an electrician in 1930 and ultimately joining the electrical fitting department.

To mark the occasion his many friends made a cash collection, and wished him many years to enjoy his main hobby—photography.

Friends gather round to say their farewells to Mr. Kelly, *centre right*.





On the eve of his retirement, Mr. Leech, *centre left*, has a farewell handshake with Mr. Hegarty.

Miss ELSIE ANDERTON

After 30 years' service to the electricity supply industry, Miss Elsie Anderton, of the Head Office cashier's section, retired recently. Miss Anderton worked at Derby House, Liverpool, until the move of Area 1 staff to Chester.

Away from the office she was a keen cricket fan, and a lady member of the Lancashire Cricket Club.

and Head Office Accounts

She also enjoys walking on the Lakeland fells. On behalf of her friends and colleagues she was presented with an electric clock—and best wishes for a long and happy retirement—by Mr. H. W. Hegarty (Assistant Chief Accountant—Finance).

Mr. GEORGE LEECH

Another long-serving member Mr. George Leech, retired on March 31st.

Mr. Leech began his career 43 years ago with the Treasurer's Department of Hawarden R.D.C., and became Chief Cashier for MANWEB's Area 3 in 1948. In 1965 he was transferred to internal audit duties, and last year became chief cashier at Area 4 office at Rhosyllen.

Mr. Leech is a well-known personality in his home district of Penyffordd, being hon. treasurer of the Meadowslea Hospital League of Friends, a churchwarden and a Sunday School superintendent.

Wishing him well for the future, Mr. Hegarty presented Mr. Leech with a coffee set and other gifts on behalf of his friends in the industry.

A happy picture of Miss Anderton, *seated*, surrounded by her colleagues from the Cashiers Section at Head Office, after the presentation of a farewell gift.



PRIZE CROSSWORD COMPETITION

Our last crossword puzzle must have been a little too difficult for most of our addicts, so we asked our compiler, Mr. F. G. Lott, to make things easier this time.

We ourselves have had a go at this one and we think it just about right—not easy at all—but certainly not impossible.

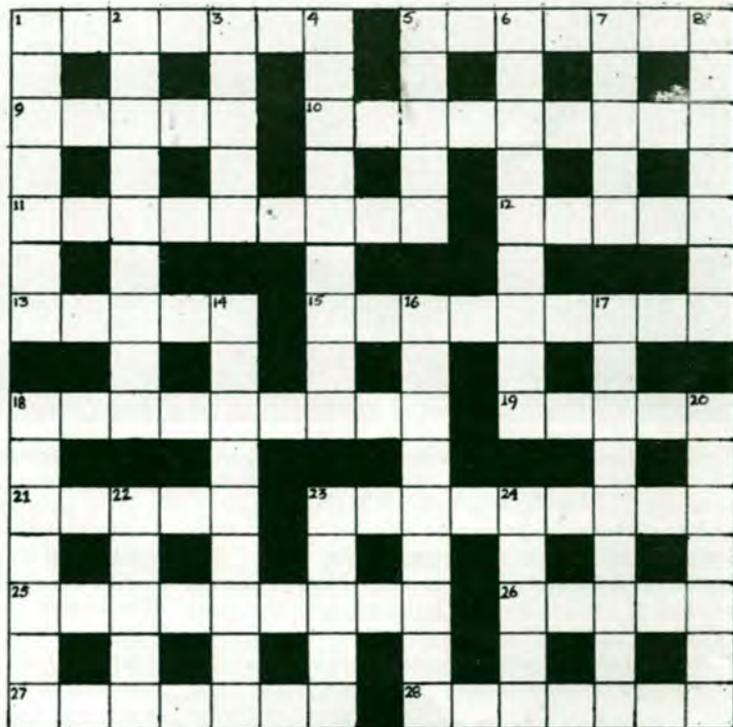
Prizes of £2 each to the senders of the first three all-correct solutions opened on May 10th—the last date for receipt of entries.

Send them to *The Editor, Contact, MANWEB Head Office, Sealand Road, Chester, CH1 4LR.*

This competition is restricted to MANWEB staff, pensioners and their families.

Clues Across :

- 1 and 5. 17's old man of the sea (7,7)
9. There is nothing hearsay about this hand (5)
10. Unsettled, I meet Stan here for a meal (9)
11. South African government, for example (9)
12. Sometimes seen in leaflets, pamphlets, bulletins, etc. (5)
13. Unusual hotel on a boat (5)
15. They maintain a high level (9)
18. Saluted in error but possibly avoided electrocution (9)
19. Rainer Maria . . . (5)
21. Musical wrecker (5)
23. Advances made to William Tell and the Barber of Seville (9)
25. Dear Dad, I am hard up. P.S. Lennie's broke too! (9)
26. Mobile clause (5)
27. The quality of unconscious humour (7)
28. In at which people are sometimes thrown (4,3)



Clues Down :

1. Hardly a case of someone talking behind one's back (7)
2. This kind of orris-cord is not gold lace, though said to have power (9)
3. Formerly, art returned more than was necessary (5)
4. Very cutting to pitch a ranch tent thus (9)
5. Infested with Tinea (5)
6. Right of succession—to what is left, obviously (9)
7. Up to these for perfection (5)
8. Takes turns as the rota reaches a set-back (7)
14. It upset Len eating the dog-rose (9)
16. Bare salad? (9)
17. See 1 across (9)
18. Tasteless (7)
20. Made certain needs tumble about the ancient city (7)
22. One of the Whiteoaks (5)
23. S-shaped curves go back and return, see? (5)
24. James James Morrison Morrison Weatherby George Dupree was only this (5)

Maternity Home

The grid substation at St. Asaph recently became the birth-place of a family of thrushes. On hand to take a picture was Mr. Ray Ball, an electrician at Rhyl.

