

CONTACT

April 1977

Buckets of Blood
(see page 97)

National Blood Transfusion Service

This is to Certify that
Mr. J. Jones Morris
has donated blood
for the benefit
of others on
50 occasions



Regional Transfusion Centre
Leeds
Date *January 1977*

Richard Jones
Director

Regional Centre
Leeds

FEEDING THE 500 THOUSAND



Above: Mr. Don Wade (Energy Sales Engineer, Oswestry), left, with two of his friends from Powys County Council, Miss E. Evans (Home Economics Adviser) and Miss Gilbert (School Meals Organiser), at one of the stands.

Below: Helping out at the exhibition, from left to right: Mrs. Jane Evans, Mrs. Nellie James, Mrs. Irene Morris and her daughter Helen and Miss Elizabeth Owen.



Our 'Girl from MANWEB,' Jackie Pemberton, is on hand at the exhibition to pour a cup of coffee for the special guests Councillor and Mrs. Jos Thomas, Mayor and Mayoress of Aberystwyth. Looking on are Messrs. Lynn Price (District Commercial Engineer) and Allen Carr (2nd engineer, Energy Sales).



A two-day Catering Exhibition recently staged at Aberystwyth by MANWEB has put the Board's name on the map in a big way as far as the hoteliers and restaurant owners of the very popular Welsh seaside resort are concerned.

As a result our District staff has enough work connected with catering installations—some immediate, some long-term—to keep them going right throughout the Summer and well into next Winter.

In addition to the hotel trade, visitors to the exhibition included representatives of local authorities and the University, and such is the interest created that local caterers would like to see the exhibition become an annual event.

Opening the exhibition Aberystwyth's Mayor, Councillor Jos Thomas, said that 1977 was the 700th anniversary of the granting of the Charter.

"It is important that we cater properly for the 500,000 visitors who come to the town each year, so we should thank MANWEB for giving us the opportunity to spend wisely on electric catering," said the Mayor.

There is no doubt that Councillor Thomas was the ideal man to perform the opening ceremony, for apart from being the town's First Citizen he enjoys the benefits of electric catering at home, and also keeps warm with storage radiators.

Mrs. Joan Dittrich, our Head Office catering specialist, paid warm tribute to the hard work put in by District staff in making the exhibition such an outstanding success.



CONTACT

Vol. 29 No. 4

April 1977

Editorial

ENJOYING RETIREMENT

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EACH monthly edition of *Contact* contains reports of the retirements of popular colleagues, many of whom have spent the whole of their working lives in the electricity industry.

Many people look forward to retirement. For those lucky enough to retire in good health much depends on the pattern of their lives prior to retirement. A full and active social life, or a number of absorbing interests and hobbies, augurs well for the years of rest and leisure which everyone deserves after the magic day arrives. As every reader of *Contact* knows, one itchy-footed gentleman bought a motor caravan and set off happily on a round-the-world trip!

The people who may dread retirement, however, or find that it comes as a depressing shock, are those who have "lived for the job." Loneliness and sadness are real dangers, and many people who have dreamed of retiring to some distant beauty spot find their dream turning to a nightmare as advancing infirmity or lack of social contacts constrict their interests.

During recent years there has been a considerable upsurge in activity among pensioners' groups in several parts of the MANWEB area, and this number of *Contact* contains reports of the doings of several such groups.

Any former Board employees living within the orbit of the activities of these groups is assured of a warm welcome—as are former employees of other electricity boards who may have chosen to retire within the bounds of the MANWEB area.

Editorial Staff

Keith Baldwin Phone H.O. 2164
John F. Perry 2167
Sam Doughty 2166

A Thought for the Month

Do you realise that . . . the annual rental for a colour TV plus the licence fee and a regular copy of the *TV or Radio Times* costs more than the average domestic electricity bill?

NEW ELECTRICITY TARIFFS

Off-peak an even better buy

New electricity Tariffs, effective from April 1st, have been approved by the Price Commission and the Secretary of State for Energy. They will appear on householders' bills sent out from July 1st onwards.

Commenting on the new prices MANWEB Chairman Mr. Denis Dodds said:

"The increases are the regrettable, but inescapable consequence of inflation which is now running at the rate of 17%. High interest rates, heavy increases in local authority rates and increased costs of salaries, materials and services have all contributed to the need for higher electricity prices despite further economies in internal working. Like many other industries we have not been setting aside, by way of depreciation provision, enough to pay for replacing essential plant and equipment."

How Customers Will Be Affected

The immediate increase on the basic price of MANWEB's ordinary domestic tariff is about 8%. The basic price of the 8-hour off-peak night rates will, however, be reduced by around 3½%.

The price differential between normal and off-peak

tariffs will thus be widened and off-peak electricity will become nearly 1.4p a unit cheaper than the normal day-time price. Mr. Dodds said that this should convince existing and prospective off-peak users that space and water heating by the electrical thermal storage method is a very good buy in a competitive sector of the energy market.

In cash terms, fairly small domestic use of around 500 units a quarter will attract an increase of about 10p a week in the basic price. Consumers using 2000 units a quarter will pay an extra 30p a week on the basic price. If, however, three quarters of this use was for storage and water heating at night rates, the increase would be less than 6p a week.

Mr. Dodds pointed out that the recently announced increase of 15% in the price of coal supplied to power stations to generate electricity would add a further 6% to electricity prices by the end of March 1978.

Commerce and Industry

Commercial and industrial tariffs would, said Mr. Dodds, be increased to a broadly similar extent overall.

YOUR PENSION PLANS

- In less than a year, 6th April 1978, a fundamental change in the State Pension Scheme will affect every working person in this country.
- Information explaining this and action to be taken within the Electricity Supply Industry has recently been distributed to all MANWEB employees.
- During the next few months, meetings will be held at which staff will be given the opportunity to ask questions about the new State Scheme and the benefits of full membership of the Electricity Supply Industry Schemes.

Pensions are important . . . to you and to your dependants. Watch out for announcements of the proposed meetings to be held throughout the Board's area and take the opportunity of finding out exactly how the changes will affect you.

ABERYSTWYTH DISTRICT
STAFF CONFERENCE

The Prospects of Wave Power

The ocean waves offer the best "natural" prospect of providing electrical energy which will fit in with Britain's pattern of energy demand, and the Central Electricity Generating Board is more interested in the possibility of "wave power" than in any of the other so-called sources of "natural energy."

This was the analysis of Dr. Ken James, of the Central Electricity Research Laboratories, Leatherhead, who was guest speaker at the recent staff conference organised jointly for employees of MANWEB and the CEGB in the Aberystwyth District, and held at an Aberystwyth hotel.

In his illustrated talk Dr. James touched on all the sources of "natural" energy which have been put forward as possible alternatives to fossil fuels and uranium. "Hot rocks," direct solar energy and wind-power were all subject to serious practical limitations, while the harnessing of the tides—such as the scheme put forward for the Severn estuary—appeared to offer a very costly prospect if funded entirely by the electricity industry.

Wave power, however, offered much more encouraging prospects, and fitted in nicely with our type of demand pattern, said Dr. James. Much work remained to be done on the technical side, but the

continually-rising cost of power station fuel made the possibilities of wave-powered electricity more and more attractive.

Answering questions, Dr. James said he thought that there would be a prototype wave-powered generating system in operation in two or three years. There had been a considerable amount of laboratory research involving the use of the "Salter Duck"—a floating device designed to harness the power of the waves. There were problems over the techniques of anchoring large installations, but he thought that we might have a prototype capable of generating two megawatts in a few years.

The meeting, chaired by Group Manager, Mr. Jim Barraclough, was well attended by employees from both sides of the industry. An especially welcome visitor was Mr. Ken Helliwell, former Group Manager, making his first appearance as a pensioner!

Reports on the working of the LACs were presented by the respective secretaries, Mr. John Hughes (MANWEB) and Mr. E. Lloyd-Jones (CEGB).

A lively Open Forum session, an enjoyable buffet and a pleasant social gathering rounded off the occasion.



Chairing the Conference was Mr. Jim Barraclough (Group Manager).

Some of the MANWEB and CEGB staff at their conference at Aberystwyth.





Chester Kitchen Fair

The New Look!
MANWEB's Monarch
Kitchen displayed at
our Chester shop.

A Kitchen Fair held at Chester Shop recently saw the launching of a new range of kitchen furniture, and demonstrated modern cooking techniques, cleaning and home laundry appliances.

The star attraction at the three evening event was the new exclusive MANWEB "Monarch" range of kitchen units. Doors and fronts are in the 'vellum' look Formica, in a creamy parchment colour with contrasting chocolate brown worktops. For all orders exceeding £300 installation is free.

Door tops and bottoms, and the worktops have rounded edges for easy cleaning and safety. Base units and top cupboards are in standard metric sizes. A common problem with standard-sized units is the gaps caused by the non-standard kitchens in which they are fitted. MANWEB have cracked that one—our installers will fit a run by adapting the standard unit to fit the situation (at no extra cost), so giving a smooth, truly "fitted" kitchen.

One piece kicking strips and tailored work-tops add to the final appearance, making the perfect kitchen.

Since entering the kitchen furniture market two years ago MANWEB have sold nearly 400 kitchens through the kitchen centres at selected Board shops. The success has been due to the comprehensive package. MANWEB were the first in the field to do the whole job right. The Board plan and instal the

whole job—wiring, plumbing, tiling, flooring, joinery, and even arrange for financing.

The Toshiba microwave oven was another attention-getter at the Fair. Microwave cooking has become fairly well established in the catering industry, and the Toshiba brings the domestic version into the price range of some housewives.

High-frequency radio waves generate heat throughout the food in seconds, but metal, pottery etc, are not effected. Food can be cooked on the serving dishes or even plates, which can be removed from the oven without burning fingers.

Food can be cooked from scratch in one fifth of the normal time, defrosted from a freezer in minutes, and reheated in seconds. The oven operates from 13-amp plug and uses about $\frac{1}{2}$ a unit an hour. One of the most amazing demonstrations was to see a tiny sponge cake rise—through the glass door—looking like those "speeded up" films showing a flower growing in a few seconds.

The crowds at the Kitchen Fair also had an opportunity to see the fan-assisted electric ovens with their super speed conventional cooking and the easy-clean ceramic hobs. Foodmixers, washing machines and vacuum cleaners were also demonstrated.

By the time you get copy this of *Contact* the first Monarch Kitchen—sold at the fair—will be installed, and the second will be on the way.



Top picture: Menna Roberts, right, demonstrates microwave cooking.

Above: Staff on duty, from left to right: Messrs. Cliff Evans (District Sales Supervisor), Norman Large (shop supervisor) and Bill Wakelin (Regional Sales Controller).

Above: A visitor intrigued by the Moffat touch-control ceramic hob.

Below: More visitors who showed keen interest in the new addition to the range of MANWEB kitchens.





LONG SERVICE STAFF

20 YEARS

From left to right: Messrs. Dennis Hughes (District Administrative Officer), Cyril Jones, Ernest Owen, Moi Parry, Barry Painter, Tommy Wyn Jones, Will Pritchard and Dick Parry (Principal Assistant—Admin.).



IN OUR GWYNEDD DISTRICT

30 YEARS

From left to right: Messrs. Russell Shaw (District Engineer), Idris Williams, R. J. Hughes, Arthur Williams, John Hughes, Aneurin Ellis, Cled Hughes and Norman Maden (District Commercial Engineer).

40 YEARS

From left to right: Messrs. Alan Pritchard, John Jones, Vivian Derby-Brown, Jim Barraclough (Group Manager), Ben Hastings (Deputy Chairman), Emlyn Hughes and Charles Jones.



LONG SERVICE PRESENTATIONS

Deputy Chairman at Gwynedd

AFTER presenting long service Certificates to members of our Gwynedd District staff a short time ago, Mr. Ben Hastings (*Deputy Chairman*) confessed to feelings of pride and envy.

"I am proud to be working in an industry where people stay for so long, not necessarily for the money or for better working conditions but mainly because of job satisfaction and doing worth-while work," he commented.

Going on to speak of his other 'deadly sin', envy, Mr. Hastings said, "I am envious of the work done by all the staff, especially the 30 and 40 year men who worked during the pioneering days in the industry. Bringing electricity to North Wales for the first time must have been most exciting."

"In those days," he continued, "one could not foresee that folk in their cottages would be watching the world—in colour on their TV sets.

"We today do not know what we are helping to make possible in the years to come. Electric cars . . . visual telephones, and many other things. One of the greatest satisfactions in working in this industry is the part we all play in shaping the future."

Earlier, Mr. Jim Barraclough (*Group Manager*) had welcomed everyone to the 'family' gathering before asking the District Officers to call-up the members of their own departments to receive their Certificates from Mr. Hastings.

Mr. Arthur Shaw (*District Engineer*) and Mr. Norman Maden (*District Commercial Engineer*) introduced their respective staffs recalling incidents in their working lives, while Mr. Dennis Hughes (*District Administrative Officers*)—still a young man—said he was full of admiration for all those who had put in so much service in our industry.

The awards were as follows:

40 Year Awards: Messrs. H. V. Derby-Brown, T. E. Hughes, J. S. Jones, L. C. Jones, R. I. Morris, W. H. Morris and R. A. Pritchard.

35 Year Award: Mr. W. H. Blunt.

30 Year Awards: Messrs. A. Ellis, T. J. Evans, C. Hughes, O. J. Hughes, R. J. Hughes, E. Jones, G. R. Jones, K. T. Lock, R. E. Owen, H. W. Roberts, T. J. Roberts, A. L. Williams and H. I. Williams.

20 Year Awards: Mrs. M. E. Roberts, and Messrs. J. E. Dewhurst, G. Hughes, D. C. Jones, R. W. Jones, R. W. Jones, T. W. Jones, E. Owen, B. V. Painter, E. Parry, M. Parry, W. A. Pritchard, H. Roberts, J. E. Roberts and T. Roberts.

Nearly 1000 years at Dee Valley

CONGRATULATING the 35 members of our Dee Valley District staff who had qualified for their 20, 30 or 40-year long service awards, Mr. Jim Barraclough (*Group Manager*) commented, "The reasons why so many people stay in our industry for such a long time is because of the good working relationships developed with their colleagues and the variety of people among our million-plus customers who make working life so interesting."

He went on to speak of the real value of long service and of the friendly and 'family' atmosphere among MANWEB staff. In conclusion, he thanked everyone for their long and loyal service, their devotion to their work and for their valuable experience.

A vote of thanks, sprinkled with humorous comment, was given by Mr. Dave Jones, supervisor at our shop in Shotton.

The Certificates were presented at a ceremony held in the idyllic surroundings of the Bryn Howel hotel at Trevor near Llangollen a short time ago when each of the trio of District Officers introduced the members of their sections who had completed the various periods of long service.

The awards were as follows:

40 Years Service: Messrs. J. Atkin (*second engineer*), D. Jones (*shop supervisor*), R. G. Jones (*shop supervisor*), D. T. Lally (*meter reading foreman*) and E. T. Peters (*District Engineer*).

30 Years Service: Mrs. A. B. Jones (*clerical assistant*), Miss L. Jones (*typist*), and Messrs. J. W. Astbury (*chargehand public lighting attendant*), W. R. F. Barlow (*shop supervisor*), J. W. Forrester (*Installation Engineer*), H. A. Hall (*instrument inspector*), C. V. Jones (*clerical assistant*), H. D. Jones (*electrician*), V. Jones (*linesman's mate*), A. Roberts (*second engineer*) and T. Taylor (*electrician*).

20 Years Service: Miss M. E. Jones (*clerical assistant*), Mrs. S. A. Jones (*canteen assistant*), and Messrs. C. D. Birtles (*meter reader*), A. J. Cummins (*sub-station attendant*), G. Davies (*mains foreman*), B. S. Dodd (*jointer's mate*), G. Edge (*jointer*), J. F. Gulliver (*meter reader/collector*), P. W. Jennings (*records draughtsman*), D. Jones (*linesman's mate*), J. O. Jones (*labourer*), T. E. Jones (*chargehand storekeeper*), I. S. Mackin (*meter reader*), L. Morris (*bricklayer*), R. A. Norfolk (*fitter*), D. P. O'Connor (*labourer*), A. Riley (*meter reader/collector*), T. Williams (*records draughtsman*) and H. W. Woodall (*electrician*).

◀◀ Pictures opposite

Pictures overleaf ▶▶

DEE VALLEY LONG SERVICE STAFF

40 YEARS

Mr. Jim Barraclough (*Group Manager*), left, congratulates Mr. Eurwynn T. Peters on his 40-years' service. Other recipients, from left to right, were, Messrs. Dominic Lally, Dave Jones, Dick Jones and James Atkin.



30 YEARS

Mrs. Barbara Jones receives congratulations from Mr. Ron Williams (*District Commercial Engineer*) on her 30-years' service. Completing the picture are, from left to right: Messrs. Bert Hall, Joe Forrester, Charlie Jones, Albert Roberts and Vernon Jones.



20 YEARS

Some of our Dee Valley District staff who qualified for their twenty-year long service awards and who were recently presented with their Certificates are seen here with Mr. Tony Shell (*District Administrative Officer*), centre.



A million miles of driving in North Mersey District

"IN twelve months, after nearly one million miles of driving, MANWEB staff in the North Mersey District were involved in only 22 accidents in which the driver could be judged blameworthy in any way," commented Mr. Jack Hill, the Board's Transport Engineer on the occasion of the Royal Society for the Prevention of Accident Safe Driving Award presentation ceremony held one evening recently at MANWEB's Sports and Social Club at Bridle Road, Bootle.

He said that the awards were made for skill, but a certain amount of luck entered into it. "One year's accident-free driving is quite good," he went on, "and five years is an achievement to be proud of especially when driving in and around the City of Liverpool."

Of the 94 drivers receiving awards, 53 had completed five years or more without being involved in an accident. Top driver was Mr. Peter Moore, who had completed 29 years of safe driving.

The presentation of medals, bars and diplomas to the drivers was made by our 'Girl from MANWEB,' Jackie Pemberton.

Top driver Mr. Peter Moore being congratulated on his achievement by 'Girl from MANWEB' Jackie Pemberton. In the centre of our picture is Mr. Jack Hill (Transport Engineer), and on the left is Mr. Sid Fairclough (Group Manager).

Awards were presented as follows:

Bar to 25 Year Medal: Mr. P. Moore.

20 Year Medal: Mr. T. H. Hodge.

Bar to 15 Year Medal: Messrs. A. W. Briscoe, W. S. Owen, S. Paul and J. F. Scoggings.

Oakleaf Bar to 10 Year Medal: Messrs. R. Allan, J. A. Bell, R. H. Clapham, K. Cooper, W. Foster, B. King, T. E. Matthews, K. Sproat, K. Stuart and W. J. L. Taunton.

Ten Year Medal: Messrs. G. J. Hughes, L. G. Lloyd and J. McAvoy.

Bar to 5 Year Medal: Messrs. C. D. Burleigh, H. Cooper, F. N. Guppy, F. Illingworth, J. Johnson, J. Kelly, T. Lawrenson, I. Ledson, P. J. Lee, R. D. Mellor, H. W. Miller, J. Rimmer, F. Sheenan, B. Stephens, M. Stevenson, M. H. V. Stubbs, P. Tew, E. J. Willan and H. Woods.

Five Year Medal: Messrs. B. F. Baldwin, J. Baldwin, J. Beardwood, J. Browne, G. Canavan, L. M. Fallows, W. Gibbs, R. W. Harley, N. Hart, L. Jackson, K. Morris, J. O'Meara, V. O'Sullivan, J. Pownall and E. Smith.

Diplomas: Messrs. D. Allan, J. Bingham, T. H. Burt, W. Campbell, D. Cowhig, M. Davies, W. J. Duddle, R. C. Dutton, A. Fadian, K. B. Fitter, P. F. Fletcher, D. Gambon, H. Gutteridge, J. Hart, F. W. Hartley, R. Hodge, A. E. Hollands, G. Hughes T. Humphries, A. D. James, J. Johnson, W. E. Jones, R. Lea, F. Lee, J. Lee, E. J. McAlinden, K. J. McDonald, G. Mathews, S. B. Mitchell, F. Morris, K. Murrow, L. Ratcliffe, C. Reid, L. Rigby, B. J. Robinson, T. Scarisbrick, H. Shields, W. R. C. Turner, E. White and J. Williams.





Guest of Honour at a recent luncheon organised for the North Wirral Staff Pensioners Association and held in the delightful setting of the Riverhill Hotel at Oxton, was Councillor John Evans, Mayor of Wirral.

As a former District Senior Clerk at our North Wirral District, John is a 'fully paid-up' member of the Association in his own right.



Pensioners Outings at North Wirral . . . Mid-Cheshire ▽ ▽ ▽ ▽ . . .

Our packed picture, *below*, shows most of the 57 members of the Mid-Cheshire Retired Employees Association who attended the annual luncheon at a Crewe hotel a few weeks ago. Special guests for the occasion were our District Officers from Macon Way, Messrs. Graham Zeiher (*District Engineer*), Norman Walsh (*District Commercial Engineer*) and John Roberts (*District Administrative Officer*).

The Association's Committee have booked the first Summer Outing for their members. This will take place on Tuesday, 17th May when a 49-seater coach will take them to the Lake District where they will enjoy a trip across Lake Windermere from Bowness to Ambleside.

If you are a member of the Association and have not yet booked then get in touch with Mr. T. V. Walley, Clyde Cottage, Swanley Lane, Near Nantwich, Cheshire. There may still be a place for you!



.. Liverpool ...

Honorary Secretary of the Liverpool Retired Employees Group, Mr. Harry Robertson has written to tell us of the diary of events arranged for the rest of this year. They start off on **16th May** with a day trip to Fleetwood Power Station. Then, in keeping with the countrywide celebrations marking the Silver Jubilee of H.M. The Queen, the Liverpool Electric Power and Lighting Sports Welfare Club are organising a lunch for the Retired Group on **7th June**.

On **11th July** is the annual visit by colleagues from

.. Clwyd ...

Officials of the Clwyd District Retired Members' Association photographed on the occasion of their visit to Rhostyllen recently. They are, from left to right: Messrs. Eric James (*Vice-Chairman*), Ted Grosse (*Treasurer*), Alec Garman (*Chairman*), Fred Evans (*Secretary*), Trevor Williams and Ernie Walley (*Committee Members*).



and Dee Valley

Over 100 members of the Dee Valley and Clwyd Retired Members' Associations enjoyed a get-together at Rhostyllen a few weeks ago. After an excellent tea, prepared and served by the canteen staff, Mr. Keith Griffiths (*principal assistant—Admin.*) held everyone's interest with a "Bingo" session. The glittering array of prizes were donated personally by members of the Dee Valley Association's Committee.

The successful evening was rounded off with some excellent entertainment by a group of ladies from Rhos.

A trio from the Dee Valley host Association. From left to right: Messrs. George Parry (*Treasurer*), Ellis Griffiths (*Secretary*) and George Keay (*Member*).



CLWYD DISTRICT SAFE DRIVERS

at Rhyl Depot . . .

Chief Inspector K. Shierson, North Wales Police, presents a Bar to the 15-Year Brooch to Mr. J. C. Jones, a public lighting attendant based at Rhyl. Other award recipients make up our picture.



. . . Mold Depot . . .

This happy group of safe drivers from the Mold and Ruthin depots were presented with their awards by Chief Inspector D. W. Williams centre, from the North Wales Police. On the extreme left are District Officers Messrs. David Mellor (DCE) and Leslie Griffiths (DE).



. . . and at Llandudno Junction Depot

Safe drivers based at Llandudno Junction look on as Chief Inspector E. M. Jones, North Wales Police, presents a Bar to the 15-Year Brooch to Mr. Ron Smith, an installation inspector.



Presentations at Rhyl, Mold and Llandudno Junction

Corresponding Bar to 15 Year Brooch: At Rhyl, Mr. J. C. Jones and at Llandudno Junction, Mr. R. Smith.

15 Year Brooch: Mr. C. Thomas, Llanrwst.

Bar to 10 Year Medal: At Rhyl, Messrs. J. T. Davies, R. K. Davies, J. J. Nethercott, R. G. Roberts J. E. Williams, T. R. Williams, and W. C. Williams, at Mold, Messrs. J. R. Evans, T. Field, D. A. L. Jones and F. Thomas, and at Llandudno Junction, Messrs. A. K. Jones and E. A. Thomas.

10 Year Medal: At Rhyl, Messrs. C. Kirkham and W. Southerland, and at Llandudno Junction, Mr. B. James.

Bar to 5 Year Medal: At Rhyl, Messrs. B. Davies, R. Harkness, K. E. Hatley, M. I. Jones, T. A. Jones, T. H. Jones, H. M. Kearsley, A. E. Salisbury, R. Walley, C. H. S. Wheeler, and P. C. Williams. At Mold, Messrs. M. Evans, W. A. Hughes, B. Parry, B. Roberts, G. Schoegl, E. J. Williams and J. Wooley, at Ruthin, Mr. H. Evans, and at Llandudno Junction, Messrs. P. M. Horsley, B. Jones and J. B. Jones.

5 Year Medal: At Rhyl, Mr. R. T. Jones, at Mold, Mr. J. Lonsdale, and at Llandudno Junction, Mr. W. V. Owen.

Diplomas at Rhyl: Messrs. R. G. Ball, A. M. Birtles, D. Brown, G. Cunnah, E. J. Davies, J. A. Davies, M. J. Davies, S. Davies, T. E. Davies, D. W. Evans, E. Evans, T. J. Evans, W. G. Foster, J. E. Garratt, I. Hayes, D. T. Hughes, T. Hughes, A. Jones, E. Ll. Jones, J. S. Jones, R. W. Jones, A. L. Manfredi, B. F. Marchbank, C. H. Parkin, E. I. Roberts, R. Roberts, M. F. Skelly, R. C. Stobart, S. R. Tate, D. J. Tomkinson, R. H. Waring and C. Wynne.

Diplomas at Mold: Messrs. P. O. Braithwaite, E. P. Evans, T. Hayes, T. Hughes, A. Jones, G. M. Jones, M. D. Jones, C. E. Parry, D. H. Parry, M. Price, B. Ramsey, E. Roberts and R. Williams.

Diplomas at Ruthin: Messrs. A. Bailey, G. Dalloio, T. H. Jones, K. Lloyd and B. Royles.

Diplomas at Llandudno Junction: Messrs. W. D. Brown, D. S. Collins, D. C. Davies, E. L. Davies, T. J. Davies, G. B. Goss, D. T. Jones, P. G. Jones, R. E. Moxon, E. Owen, G. Perkins, F. H. Pomeroy, J. H. Powell, J. I. Roberts, R. E. Robinson, B. M. Thomas and K. B. Thomas.

 Pictures opposite



The Two Arthurs. Twenty-year safe drivers, Messrs. Arthur Bold, *left*, and Arthur Turner.

MID-MERSEY AWARD WINNERS

Star Bar to 20 Year Brooch: Mr. A. M. Turner

20 Year Brooch: Mr. E. A. Bold

Bar to 15 Year Brooch: Messrs. T. B. Almond, F. R. Fryer, N. Gabbott, C. F. Oultram, J. Smith, A. Sutton and T. Topping.

15 Year Brooch: Messrs. T. C. P. Baines, G. K. Hazelhurst, F. Nuttall and J. Tart.

Bar to 10 Year Medal: Messrs. F. W. Bignall, R. Bramhall, J. A. Brown, L. Case, J. B. Edwards, J. Huyton, J. E. Moore, R. Vickerstaff and T. Whitney.

10 Year Medal: Messrs. H. Blythe, L. Bowler, J. B. Brassington, and A. Horribin.

Bar to 5 Year Medal: Ms. H. C. Brown, and Messrs. A. Dearden, S. Ford, B. Hope, E. Hough, A. Houghton, A. E. Houghton, W. T. Jones, L. Keough, J. McKague, G. McCarthy, J. Povey, J. Rae and J. W. Wells.

5 Year Medal: Ms. M. Waller, and Messrs. J. Allen, W. Blake, T. Fillingham, K. Forber, D. A. Johnson, E. Keogh, P. C. Medkicot, and E. J. Watkins.

Diplomas: Ms. I. Harker, and Messrs. P. Arbuckle, B. T. Ashcroft, J. W. Atherton, E. G. Barrett, A. Bate, D. Beal, W. Boughy, R. Briscoe, J. E. Brown, D. Brown, L. Butterworth, G. Coulton, F. O. Clague, E. A. Clayton, M. Craven, W. Crooks, N. Dennett, D. Eckersley, B. Evans, J. Former, N. Gamble, R. Garvey, D. W. Goff, B. Hayes, A. Houghton, B. Howarth, J. W. Jones, M. Joyce, B. Kelly, J. P. Kevlin, M. J. Lindon, W. Lomax, S. A. G. Lowe, A. Kinsey, J. K. Melvin, P. O'Malley, N. Rawsthorne J. C. Robinson, L. C. Siebert, N. Stubbs, W. Sutton, A. E. Titchard, K. Tomlinson, A. Tucker, A. E. Webster, L. C. K. Whitbread, G. Whitlow, A. L. Wilkinson, D. R. Willis, D. J. Wood and T. Yorke.

Happiness is . . .

At the recent North Wales Coast Catering Trades Exhibition held at Rhyl, our Clwyd District demonstrator, Mrs. Lynette Gibson, left, shows the excellent results of cooking by electricity to special guests, from left to right: Miss Sion Adey-Jones



(Miss Wales), Councillor Ralph G. Spacey (Mayor of Rhuddlan Borough Council), Mrs. Jackie Pemberton (The 'Girl from MANWEB'), Councillor Ron Davies (Deputy Mayor, Rhyl Town Council) and Mrs. Edna Spacey (Mayoress of Rhuddlan Borough Council).



Our picture, left, shows the happy occasion recently when MANWEB Chairman, Mr. Denis Dodds, centre, presented Sir Arthur Hawkins with a cheque for the Electrical and Electronic Industries Benevolent Association—the proceeds of the West Lanes, Merseyside and North Wales Branch annual ball at the Adelphi Hotel in Liverpool. The ceremony took place at the Adelphi.

Sir Arthur, retiring Chairman of the CEGB is the President of the EEIBA.

Standing between them is Mrs. Dodds, while on the left of the picture are Mr. G. L. Butler (Chairman of the EEIBA Social Executive Committee) and Lady Hawkins.



On the day following Aberystwyth District's staff conference Mr. John Hughes, administrative assistant at District Office, was enjoying a stroll among the sand-dunes at Ynyslas Borth, near Aberystwyth, when he came across what he describes as a "very rare bird."

Quick on the draw with his camera, John produced this snap of what he believes to be the species "Ex-Managerus Happpicus," whose favourite haunt is thought to be a remote part of the Welsh coast where it nests in a motor-caravan with mate and friends. Its diet, adds John, consists of Cakes and Ale!

A Thought for the Month

Do you realise that . . . the annual rental for a colour TV plus the licence fee and a regular copy of the TV or Radio Times costs more than the average domestic electricity bill?



Talking Notes

FIFTY LIFE-SAVING PINTS!

TWICE a year a team from the Blood Transfusion Service sets up shop in Llangollen Town Hall to take blood donations from a reliable band of local people who recognise the tremendous importance of supporting this great life-saving service. And twice a year, with clockwork regularity, the smiling face of **Mr. John Morris**, chargehand electrician with our Dee Valley District, is there to greet them.

John first became a blood donor in 1950, and now his unflinching reliability has earned him the transfusion service's Gold Award and a special certificate marking his 50th blood donation—a record of unobtrusive but indispensable public service which is equalled by very few people.

Starting as an apprentice electrician with the former Llangollen and District Electric Light and Power Company 32 years ago John is now based at Corwen and works his regular "beat" in the Dee Valley sorting out the electrical problems of MANWEB's customers. He is also the depot's representative on the Works and Local Advisory Committees.

A 47-year-old bachelor, John lives in Hall Street, Llangollen. "Everyone who is healthy and able to give blood should be willing to do so," he says.

OUR COVER PICTURE is of Mr. John Morris, our super blood-donor, with his Certificate and 50-pint pin badge. In his lapel is his 25-pint badge, which he has been wearing proudly for some years now!

"No-one ever knows when their lives may depend on being given a transfusion themselves."

His record is certainly a credit to his philosophy and a fine example to his home town and his MANWEB colleagues.

Big Golf Turnout

A 70-strong field turned out on the Duke of Westminster's Eaton golf course on March 24th for the first of a series of eight meetings organised by the MANWEB Golf Society.

A nine-hole Betterball Stableford was played in the morning, with some good scores recorded. Eventual winners were **Warren Davies** and **T. G. Morris** after a card play-off, with a score of 23 points.

In the afternoon the competitors again battled with this long and difficult course. Scores of 7, 8 and 9 were not uncommon, but the winning scores were all very close.

After a Back Nine card play-off the winner was **Kevin Gee** (Head Office, Revenue), last year's EEIBA National Scratch Champion, with a fine score of 73-4-69. **Harry Parsons** (H.O. Engineering), with 82-13-69 was pushed into second place, but with a little more luck with his

putter on difficult greens would undoubtedly have taken first place.

The next three places went to **Brian Morris** (Oswestry), **Mike Lindon** and **Austin Heathwood** (Warrington), with respective scores of 88-18-70, 84-13-71, and 85-14-71. The prizes were presented by the new captain, **Norman Clarke**, of Dee Valley.

Coming Fixtures:

Curzon Park (Stableford) May 19th
Rhuddlan (Inter District Comp) June 17th

Wrexham (Bernie Green

Memorial) July 8th

Helsby (Stableford) July 21st

Llangollen (Medal) August 18th

Oswestry (Captain's Day)

September 2nd

Our New Reporter!

Welcome to our corps of Contact Correspondents **Mr. Rod Taylor**, a 2nd engineer at Clwyd District whose main job is the supervision of our Rhyl depot.



Rod Taylor

Rod, who has been with the District for about ten years was an assistant section engineer prior to re-organisation, and lives at Rhuddlan.

He is especially active in the District's Sports and Social Club, serving on the committee and acting as disc jockey at the regular social evenings organised by the Club. His other interests include tennis, badminton and ice-skating.

If any members of our staff in the District know of anything which might make a story for *Contact* we ask them to get in touch with Rod (internal 'phone 688) so that he can keep Clwyd in the news limelight!

MANWEB's Mr. and Mrs.

Married couples, sons, daughters, aunts, uncles, are not an uncommon thing among MANWEB employees, but a man and wife team working side by side doing the same job is rather unusual.

Bryan and Jean Potts are both meter readers, working in the Dee Valley District, and are based at Chester. They have both been employed by the Board for five years, Jean a few months longer than Bryan.

Jean Ferguson, as she was, applied for an office job, but was asked to become a meter reader temporarily. She liked the work, so she became a permanent member of the staff.

Bryan left his job as a postman to join the Board, where he met Jean and they were married seven months ago.

In a road accident last December when a MANWEB van and a lorry collided in dense fog several members of the meter reading staff were injured and taken to the Clatterbridge Hospital. After treatment they were allowed to go home, but no buses were running, and



Chester meter readers, from left to right: Bill Clegg, Bryan Potts, Jean Potts and Dick Dodd.

taxi drivers were not operating in the fog.

Two vehicles were needed, so Jean and Bryan volunteered to drive them. But the Potts' good deeds did not end there. When Jean picked up her passenger, **Dick Dodd**, she found he had fractured ribs and other injuries.

She knew Dick was a bachelor and lived alone, so the Potts' took him to their small flat, where they put him up for three weeks. Jean even had time off work to look after Dick, who was fairly poorly for several days.

Bill Clegg, another of the meter readers also braved the nasty elements to bring back one of the men stranded at the scene of the accident.

Bootle's Intellectuals

In a recent "*Brains of Bridle Road*" contest, staged at North Mersey's Sports and Social Club, the teams appearing in the final represented the engineers and the meter department

The engineers (**Alex Smitton**, **Gwyn Williams** and **Chas Latham**), ran out winners over the metermen (**Charlie Jones**, **Ron Reeves** and **Ken Hughes**). It was a double celebration for Alex, whose wife presented him with a bouncing new son that night.

Rumour has it that the members of the winning team have been asked to participate in next year's "*Mastermind*," and that as a result all other contestants have decided to withdraw!

Hay Drying Championship

The 1977 Farm-electric Hay Drying Championship, organised by the Electricity Council in conjunction with the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, and the National Farmers' Union, has a total prize pool of nearly £2,000 and is expected to attract entries from farmers in all parts of Britain.

The Championship opens with regional competitions in Electricity Board areas. Each entrant submits a bale of hay for core analysis by an Agricultural Development and Advisory Services laboratory. Up to 75 marks will be allocated at the laboratory on assessments for moisture content, crude protein, modified acid detergent fibre, silicon free ash, siliceous matter, calcium and phosphorous. The remaining 25 marks will be awarded for visual appraisal on a number of points.

Where big bales are entered, a sample will be taken from a bale selected by the entrant. Each regional judging panel comprises an ADAS regional

crop husbandry officer, a member of the NFU and an Electricity Board representative. Prizes for the first three in the regional rounds of the Championship will be £50, £30 and £20.

First prizewinners in the regional competitions go forward to the National Final which will be held in London on 28th October 1977. All bales in the final round will be re-analysed at one ADAS laboratory to preclude any possibility of regional discrepancies.

The 1977 Farm-electric Hay Drying Champion will receive £250, and the runner-up, £125. The third prizewinner will receive £75.

Circulation Doubled!

From far-off La Paz, capital of Bolivia, comes a letter from **Sr. Manuel Contreras**, of the Bolivian Power Co. Ltd.

He writes: "Regularly we have been receiving your very interesting magazine 'Contact' directed to Mr. Kenneth Lyons, an ex-MANWEB employee. Mr. Lyons is now chief engineer of our company in San Salvador, Central America, and we ask you to address future editions to him."

"We here in La Paz would appreciate staying on your mailing list as our engineers enjoy reading the various articles."

It seems that MANWEB's engineers can still teach the world a thing or two!

New Booklet

"Come Fishing," the CEGB North Western Region's informative free booklet on its Welsh fisheries, has been revised and extended to 48 pages for the coming season, following its successful introduction last year.

New features this year include an expert article on how best to fish the "put and take" reservoirs at Rheidol and Ffes-

tiniog; details of the five open competitions being held this year; and a special classified section on cheap accommodation.

This is in addition to illustrated information covering permits, prices, local agents, permitted fishing methods and useful "where to find us" maps which include precise fishing area and car park locations.

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

Last season nearly 16,000 anglers used the fisheries, which are stocked from the Region's fish farms at Trawsfynydd nuclear power station and Rheidol. The fisheries have gained two national environment awards in the past two years.

"Come Fishing" is available from Department A15, CEGB Bron Heulog, Conway Road, Llandudno Junction, LL31 9TQ. Tel. 0492 81248.

N.B. — Concessionary rates are available to electricity industry employees.

New Arrival

Congratulations to **Len Cornah** (assistant, work control, Liverpool District) and his wife **Pat** on the birth of a daughter (Phillipa Jane).

For Sale

1976 (P) Opel Ansona 1.9 SR 4 Door Saloon, signal red, black vinyl roof. Similar in styling to Cavalier GL, but with Opel extras including halogen wash/wipe headlights, cord upholstery, headrest, sports road wheels. Door and sills wax injected. Immaculate throughout,

only 12,500 miles, would cost £3450 now today, offered at £2495 o.v.n.o. Tel. Chester 47160.

HOLIDAY ACCOMMODATION

MORECAMBE — Holiday flats near sea and W.E. Pier. All amenities and TV. Write: 10 Barnes Road, Morecambe.

ABERSOCH — North Wales. Caravans to let, four berth and six berth. Mains water, flush toilets, showers on site, sea view. Inquiries to Mr. T. J. Hill, 283 Peter Street, Macclesfield.

BISPHAM — Blackpool. Self-contained de-luxe flat just off Prom. Sleeps 2-4, vacant after Easter. Mrs. Creamer, 33 Beaufort Avenue, Blackpool.

SILVERDALE — Four berth Bluebird caravan to let. Approx seven miles north of Morecambe on coastal site and within easy reach of the "Lakes." All amenities on the site. S. H. Edmundson, 26 West Drive, Cleveleys, Lancs.

CUMBRIA — Flookburg, Grange-Over-Sands. Six berth caravan with end bedroom, fridge, cooker, water heater, electric and gas in caravan. Amenities include: shop, club, dance hall, swimming pool, putting green, disco and amusements. D. Lomas, 28 Deane Walk, Bolton BL3 5DG.

MORECAMBE — 1972 Six berth Pemberton caravan on Regent caravan site, all club amenities, within easy reach of sea shops. F. Shofield, Morecambe 415485.

BLACKPOOL — Bed, breakfast and evening dinner or bed and breakfast. 8 Carlyle Avenue (off New South Promenade). Mr. H. Barnes, 56 York Street, Blackley, Manchester 9.



Chief Inspector D. W. Williams of Wrexham Police Traffic Department with some of our Dee Valley District staff who received their safe driving awards.

DEE VALLEY SAFE DRIVERS

“BELT UP PLEASE!”

Police Chief's Appeal

An appeal to all MANWEB drivers to enhance their fine safe driving records by setting an example to the public over the wearing of seat belts was made at our Dee Valley District Office recently.

The plea came from Chief Inspector D. W. Williams, of Wrexham Police Traffic Department, when he visited Rhostyllen to present ROSPA Safe Driving Awards to members of the District staff based at Rhostyllen, Legacy and Corwen.

Congratulating the recipients on their awards, Chief Inspector Williams said that it was “no mean feat” for people like electricians, engineers and meter readers—for whom driving was a “second job”—to gain the Awards. There had been 49 fatal road accidents in the County of Clwyd during 1976 and 624 people received serious injuries—a distressing total of pain, distress and financial cost.

On the seat belt question Chief Inspector Williams

said he realised that heavy vehicles were not yet fitted with them, but if employees of public bodies such as MANWEB always wore seat belts whenever possible this would be a fine example to the public.

Awards were gained as follows:

Corresponding Bar to 15 Year Medal: Messrs. E. T. Cornfield and D. Phillips.

15 Year Brooch: Messrs. E. B. Edwards, F. Jones and T. C. Williams.

Oak Leaf Bar to 10 Year Medal: Messrs. E. E. Davies, J. A. G. Harris, E. Lloyd, R. Parry, J. W. Pierce and E. N. Williams.

10 Year Medal: Messrs. D. Ffoulkes, E. Gilpin and E. H. L. Webb.

Bar to 5 Year Medal: Messrs. G. Clarke, E. Ellis,

Some members of our Dee Valley District staff based at Chester depot are seen here with Mr. G. E. Fenn, Deputy Chief Constable Cheshire Constabulary, *centre right*, after he had presented them with safe driving awards at a ceremony held at Head Office.



J. R. Evans, H. D. Jones, T. O. Jones, D. Owens, D. A. Roberts and D. J. Roberts.

5 Year Medal: Messrs. A. Lovell, C. Jones and J. Millington.

Diploma: Miss M. Roberts, Messrs. D. J. Burke, F. Crump, D. Challoner, E. W. Davies, G. Davies, Leonard Davies, Lloyd Davies, J. Devaney, A. C. Edwards, G. Edwards, G. N. Edwards, G. Evans, K. Evans, M. Evans, P. S. Forrett, S. G. Griffiths, A. Hughes, D. W. Hughes, R. Hughes, L. Humphreys, R. James, P. W. Jennings, E. Johnstone, D. G. Jones, E. Jones, G. Jones, W. Jones, J. J. Jordon, H. Lewis, J. A. Lloyd, W. Mazur, R. McCluskey, I. Morris, J. J. Morris, R. A. Norfolk, G. Oliver, T. Owen, J. B. Parry, E. Phillips, F. R. Prile, R. E. Richards, C. Roberts, A. O. Simpson, A. Tonks, J. Wagstaff, P. J. Williams, R. Williams and H. W. Woodall.

CHESTER AWARDS

Congratulating the Chester safe driving award winners, Mr. G. E. Fenn, the Deputy Chief Constable of Cheshire, told them that there were 8,000 accidents in Cheshire in 1976, and in February 1977 275 people had been injured and 13 killed.

Turning right and losing control of the vehicle were the two major causes of accidents. Safe driving, Mr. Fenn told his audience was a state of mind, and not purely skill. A driver alert to hazards was

more likely to avoid accidents.

Chester safe driving awards went to:

Star Bar to 20 Year Brooch: Messrs. K. G. Burden and C. G. Smith.

Corresponding Bar to 15 Year Brooch: Messrs. W. J. Burton, R. G. Cotterell, R. J. Harrison and J. E. Taylor.

15 Year Brooch: Mr. E. M. B. Jones.

Oak Leaf Bar to 10 Year Medal: Messrs. W. T. Allman, J. Ashbrook, C. T. Bentley, D. C. Hall, I. A. John, G. A. Johnson, A. R. Jonas and F. Newell

10 Year Medal: Messrs. C. Bowyer, W. G. Carlton, G. F. Grindley, R. F. Hood and F. Mealing.

Bar to 5 Year Medal: Messrs. C. D. Birtles, G. Browne, W. H. Clegg, B. Griffiths, D. T. Lally, E. K. Salisbury, I. M. Shone, G. Thomas and M. Williams.

5 Year Medal: Messrs. F. Gerrard, R. C. Lanceley, S. O'Brien and C. Robinson.

Diploma: Messrs. F. C. Baker, D. Bird, G. B. Croft, R. Davies, G. Edge, R. F. Graves, S. Griffiths, T. Hayden, G. Howarth, T. C. Humphries, G. F. Jones, J. Jones, R. Jones, T. Jones, F. Kerr, E. J. Langdon, J. B. Lawson, J. Lockley, D. J. Lynch, R. O. Merryweather, P. Newbrook, R. A. Probert, A. Prince, R. W. Reynolds, J. A. Roberts, F. A. Rose, G. Smale, K. Stokes, J. H. Sutherland, G. Swift, D. H. Williams, G. E. Williams, D. J. Windsor and S. Wright.

Understanding Electricity

1977

Understanding Electricity's 1977 catalogue brings together for the first time all the educational material and facilities available to schools from the various parts of the electricity supply industry in Britain. Between them the Electricity Council, the Area Electricity Boards in England and Wales, the Central Electricity Generating Board and its five Regions, and the two multi-purpose Scottish Electricity Boards provide a wealth of material of great value to teachers.

An educational information service sponsored by the electricity supply industry, Understanding Electricity sets out to im-

prove the knowledge of young people about basic electrical principles, their practical applications and background information on the use of electricity in commerce, agriculture, horticulture, industry and the home. The catalogue lists 65 films as well as filmstrips, wall charts, information sheets and publications.

Understanding Electricity films are available on free loan and publications are free in classroom quantities where this is applicable. Catalogues, which will be updated continuously and completely revised annually, are available from Understanding Electricity, The Electricity Council, 30 Millbank, London SW1P 4RD.

They really did get it!

The following extracts from the "Fifty Years Ago" column of the *North Wales Weekly News* also make interesting reading—

"It was rumoured that Capel Garmon would soon have electricity but many people doubted this. The only thing they were willing to accept was that an electrical engineer would be visiting the place."

* * *

"It was agreed by Llandudno Council that all new council houses would in future have electricity appliances for domestic use."

A Thought for the Month

Do you realise that . . . the annual rental for a colour TV plus the licence fee and a regular copy of the TV or Radio Times costs more than the average domestic electricity bill?

CARREG FILLTIR

By **HOWARD WORSNIP**

(CLERK, ADMIN SECTION
CLWYD DISTRICT)



Looking quite composed, Howard faces the double ordeal of the TV cameras and the competition.

Fel un wedi ei eni a'i fagu ym Manceinion, teimlais, pan ddaethum i'r Rhyl i fyw, y buasai o fantais imi mewn cymdeithas lle mae'r Gymraeg yn cael ei siarad, i ddysgu'r iaith.

Aeth tair blynedd heibio, derbyniais wahoddiad oddiwrth gyfaill i gymryd rhan fel aelod o dîm Y Rhyl yn y Rhaglen Gymraeg ar H.T.V. "*Carreg Filltir*," cystadleuaeth wythnosol rhwng dau dîm wedi eu cyfansoddi o'r rheini sy'n dysgu Cymraeg. Dydd Sadwrn y Sed o Fawrth, bu cystadleuaeth rhwng ein tîm ni a thîm o Aberystwyth.

Ein cyfarfyddiad cyntaf a'n "gwrthwynebwy'r" oedd yn mynedfa'r Stiwdio deledu. 'Roeddynt yn siarad yr iaith yn rhigil, ac wedi teithio i lawr o Aberystwyth y noson cynt.

Gofynnodd yr 'holwr' inni gyflwyno'n hunain, a theimlais bod hyn yn anodd iawn ar y nerfau. Gofynnwyd inni siarad am dros funud ar bwnc; cyfieithu geiriau a brawddegau; hefyd ateb gofynion ar wybodaeth cyffredinol ar Gymru. Cynhaliwyd oll o'r gweithrediadau yn yr iaith Gymraeg. Llwyddodd y "Gwrthwynebwy'r" i ennill gyda 48 pwynt i 44, teimlem fod hyn yn deg am fod eu Cymraeg hwy yn well na'n hiaith ni. Credwn mae'r rheswm am hyn yw'r ffaith fod y Gymraeg yn cael ei siarad mewn cylch ehangach yn Aberystwyth nag yn Y Rhyl.

Profiad rhyfedd oedd gweld fy hun ar deledu lliw, yn gwyllo fy hun yn ymddangos yn ofnus a cheisio ymddangos fel bod popeth o dan reolaith llwyr. Wrth eistedd yn yr ystafell fwyta gwelsom pwy oedd y 'ser,' ond credaf yn y dyfodol y cyfyngaf fy hun i fod yn wylwiwr yn unig—mae'n llai o straeln!

As a Mancunian born and bred, I felt when I came to Rhyl, that it would be to my advantage living in a partially Welsh speaking community, to learn to speak Welsh.

Three years have passed, and I was invited by a friend to participate as a member of a Rhyl team in the Welsh H.T.V. programme "*Carreg Filltir*" (Milestone), which is a weekly competition between two teams composed of those learning Welsh. On Saturday, 5th March, our team competed against an Aberystwyth team.

We first met our opposing team, in the foyer of the Harlech studios. They spoke excellent Welsh and had travelled down the previous night from Aberystwyth.

The quiz-master asked us all to introduce ourselves, which I found particularly nerve racking. We were asked to talk on a subject for a little over a minute; translate sentences and words, also to answer some general knowledge questions about Wales. The whole proceeding was conducted in Welsh. The opposing team won by 48 points to 44 which we felt was quite justified as their Welsh was superior to ours. This we credited to the fact that Welsh is more widely spoken in the Aberystwyth area than in Rhyl.

It was a strange experience seeing myself on television in full colour, watching myself being nervous and trying to act as if everything was under full control. Sitting in the television canteen we were able to "spot the star," but I think in the future I will confine myself to viewing only—I think it is less of a strain!

Some of our Liverpool District staff gather round as Mr. Bob Jowett, centre left, presents their parting gifts and good wishes to Mr. Ron Love on the occasion of his recent retirement.



RETIREMENT

Mr. R. LOVE

After 47 years' service to the industry Mr. Ron Love, first assistant Supply Engineer at Liverpool District, retired on March 31st. Ron's popularity was testified to by the large number of colleagues who turned up to wish him a long and happy retirement and to see Mr. Bob Jowett (*District Commercial Engineer*) present him with a variety of gifts on their behalf.

Ron joined the former Liverpool Corporation

department in 1930 as an apprentice electrician at 6s 11d a week!, serving his time at Pumpfields. He moved into the office at Hatton Garden in 1936 in the Sales and Service section and travelled the country working for the Ministry of Supply during the war years.

Following nationalisation he stayed with Sales and Service until MANWEB was re-organised in 1970, when he moved to Lister Drive and became first assistant Supply Engineer.

Ron enjoys walking and cricket (he is a member of Sefton Cricket Club), and is also a keen gardener.

IN RESPONSE

Last month's back-cover poem by John McInerney was just too much doom and gloom for Margaret Ollier, of the Work Control section at Crewe, who brings us a bit of sunshine to counter it.

There's one thing our stomachs just can't take

It's poems about stale Christmas cake
Why not write about something nice
Like hot weekends, or gin with ice?

Summer hols—not far away

A beach to laze on thro' the day
Ice cream melting in heat intense
Two more Cokes—damn the expense!

His wife's intentions I'm sure were good

To feed poor birdies with concrete food
What happened to old bread and fat?
Put out at night to fool the cat!

Put tempting morsels on the sill

How would our friend like "stale Trill?"
Just one thing he forgot to state—
Did his wife *make* the Christmas cake?

CALLING ALL COOKS!

And now let us forget all about stale Christmas cake and find out which of our readers really have the cordon bleu touch as far as regional cooking is concerned.

Our catering expert Mrs. Joan Dittrich is exploring the possibility of producing a MANWEB cook book, to include especially recipes with a "MANWEB area" origin. We all know that Wales is famous for Welsh rarebit and *bara brith*, and that "Scouse" is the name by which Merseysiders are known the world over, but how many people are quite sure of the real original recipes?

If you are—or if you have any treasured recipe for food (or drinks) handed down from Grandma, Joan would be very pleased to receive them from you. Just address them to her at MANWEB Head Office, Sealand Road, Chester CH1 4LR (or via the internal mailing system to Room 2W1).

PEOPLE WRITE . . .

A Hospital Job!

A letter from a Sister in the Outpatients Department to the Engineer of a local hospital has been passed on to Mr. Frank Kay (installation engineer) at our North Wirral District.

He in turn has sent it to us for publication and it reads as follows:

"As you know, since 6th December until very recently, Outpatients Department has been in the process of being re-wired.

"I would be most grateful if you could convey to MANWEB our sincere thanks for the efforts of Mr. Norman Davies, Mr. Ken Taylor, Mr. Roy Ellis and the apprentice in making the disruption of our work minimal.

"The co-operation we received from all of them was splendid, we have been most impressed by their industry and application to the job in hand.

"It was a pleasure (all be it doubtful at times) to have them around.

"We will miss ducking under ladders and falling over cables!"

Take a bow, Norman (charge-hand electrician), Ken and Roy (electricians) and apprentice Pete Morley. We hope the need of the hospital's service to you will never be needed!

Eight Hours . . .

From our District in the deep South, Aberystwyth, comes a letter from yet another kind customer who writes . . .

"My wife and I are anxious to express in writing our grateful thanks to MANWEB engineers who worked so unselfishly last Thursday to re-connect the electricity supply to our corner of Dyffryn after a failure which lasted eight hours. These men worked under the most appalling

weather conditions for many hours and it was certainly due to their tenacity of purpose that success eventually came.

Heating and lighting were both restored to the residents, many of whom are senior citizens.

"We, ourselves, rely entirely on electricity for heating, lighting and cooking and, when power failures occur, we are entirely dependent on the maintenance staff."

The writer concludes by asking us to pass on his grateful and heartfelt thanks to all the men concerned for their magnificent effort.

"A Fine Team"

Another bouquet for the Men from MANWEB, this time from Clwyd District, comes in a letter from a thoughtful customer. It reads as follows:

"I have recently had these premises re-wired by MANWEB on behalf of Rhuddlan Borough Council.

"I feel it is my duty to bring to your notice how well pleased I am with the work carried out by a very fine team of men.

"The work has been well and neatly done, and caused very little inconvenience (if any) to me or any member of the family, with great civility by the team.

"I shall be pleased if my remarks were placed on these men's records."

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Last month's cover picture of the De Dion Bouton Forecar, owned and restored by Mr. Gordon Woodward of our North Mersey District, was published by courtesy of Seston Newspapers, while the wedding picture of Mr. and Mrs. David Jones was by Mike Hall, of Head Office photographic section.

Sorry folks, we missed out the courtesies last month!

Obituary

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

Mr. W. H. ("Bill") Isaacs, who retired after 35 years' service in February 1975. Mr. Isaacs was 2nd assistant supply engineer with North Mersey District at the time of his retirement, having formerly worked with the South Wales Board and the West Cambrian Power Company. After retirement he lived at Loughborough.

Mr. Ronald Rawling, a labourer at our Llandudno Junction depot, after a short illness at the age of 42. Mr. Rawling had been with the Board since 1956.

Mr. J. H. Range, formerly a section engineer at Liverpool, who moved to St. Anne's on Sea after retirement in 1970.

Mr. Range came from a family which has given great service to the industry in Liverpool, with a father, brothers, uncles and a nephew all working in various capacities. He was apprenticed with the former Liverpool Corporation department, and made a big contribution in restoring supplies knocked out by wartime air raids.

Mr. William Weaver, a charge-hand labourer at Warrington, who retired on health grounds last July. He was 64.

Mr. R. M. ("Bob") Lilly, formerly of North Mersey District, who served the industry in a variety of jobs from 1938 until his early retirement in 1971. Despite being plagued by ill-health and disablement Mr. Lilly played a very constructive role in the field of industrial relations and joint consultation.

Mr. Edward Smith, a cooker assembler at Warrington prior to his retirement in 1962. Mr. Smith was 76.

We extend our sincere sympathies to the families of our colleagues who have passed on.