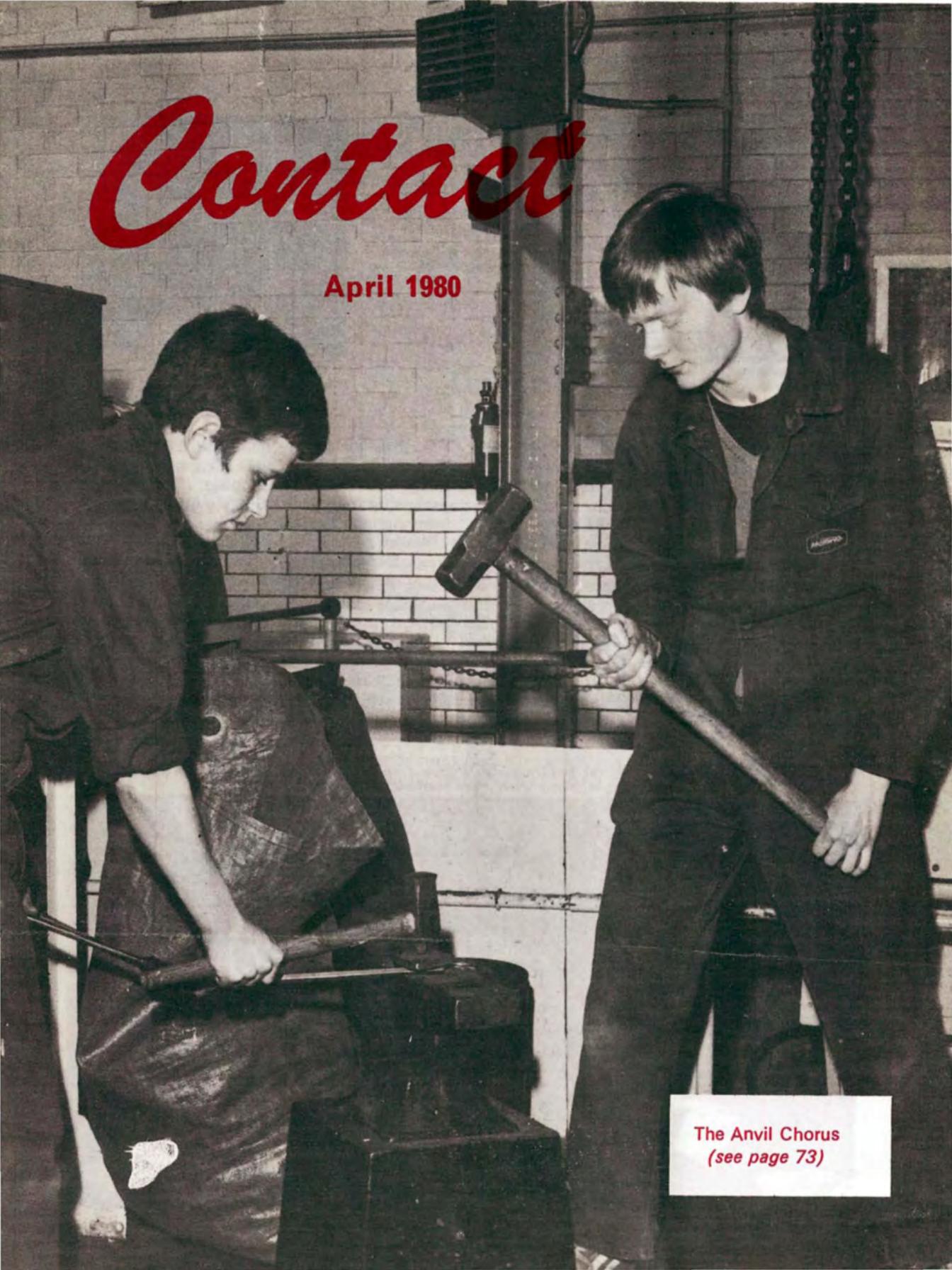


Contact

April 1980



The Anvil Chorus
(see page 73)



Energy salesman
Doug Barnes
of Oswestry
District.

CATERING THROUGH THE 80's

Special Campaign Mounted



Our demonstrators at the New-
town show, E. V. Jones (Oswes-
try), left, and Irene Morris
(Aberystwyth).

OVER the past few weeks, hundreds of specially selected guests have been invited to exhibitions and seminars designed to emphasise MANWEB's Five Star Catering Service.

Under the title "Catering Through The 80's", many people throughout our area, responsible for the preparation and serving of food, have taken the opportunity to meet and talk to our own catering experts. Guests have come from industrial and commercial concerns, from the local authority school meals service, from hotels and pubs and from restaurants and cafes.

The main exhibition was held over a three-day period last month at the Holiday Inn, Liverpool. Here, under one roof, was a full range of electric catering equipment from leading manufacturers.

Microwave and convection ovens, fryers, back-bar equipment and all the latest in refrigeration and food storage were featured on displays. Each day, guest speakers addressed specialist groups and practical demonstrations were given.

Smaller exhibitions were staged at Aberystwyth, Crewe, Dolgellau and Newtown and successful seminars at Bangor, Chester and Wrexham.

FIVE-STAR CATERING SERVICE

- *Top quality products at competitive prices
- *Quick delivery from stock
- *Expert Catering Planning
- *Installation and Fitting Service
- *Reliable After-Sales Service

The attractive trio of demonstrators at the Liverpool exhibition. From left to right we see, Beth Owen (Liverpool), Margaret Boyle (North Mersey) and Marjorie Scregg (North Wirral).



Contact

THE STAFF MAGAZINE
OF THE
MERSEYSIDE AND
NORTH WALES
ELECTRICITY BOARD

Vol. 32 No. 4

April 1980

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ELECTRIC ENCOURAGEMENT

PETROL tax up. Road tax on conventional vehicles up. Excise duty on electric vehicles abolished!

The inclusion of these changes in the Chancellor's budget measures represents a shot-in-the-arm for energy conservation, encouragement for the anti-pollution lobby and a real boost for our electric vehicle industry, recognised world-wide as a leader in its field.

In a number of countries, considerable government assistance has been given to the drive to improve the performance, reliability and cost-effectiveness of electric delivery vehicles. But only in Britain are more than a thousand new electric road vehicles made each year, and only in Britain do battery-electric road vehicles run 300 million miles each year.

The best of our electric vehicle technology will be on show to the world in October when the *Drive Electric 80* exhibition and conference will be staged at Wembley Conference Centre. About 40 major companies have already indicated their intention to take part, in the certainty that the future offers bright and expanding prospects for electric industrial and road vehicles.

MAKE IT COUNT!

Electricity supply has always been a trail-blazer in the field of staff consultation, and our joint machinery has long been the envy of many other industries.

With this number of *Contact* every MANWEB employee will receive a staff opinion survey form, incorporating an explanatory message from the Chairman. The topics on which you are asked to express your views explain themselves.

A lot of work will go into the analysis of the returns, and it is important that the results should be an accurate reflection of the broad streams of staff opinion.

As they say at election time—"Don't waste your vote!"

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



In the Appliance Repair Section, from left to right: Robert Cooke from Crewe, Wilfred Cottam from St. Helens, Vendon Crawford from Crewe and Kevin Eccles from Southport.



Apprentices on Course

A candid camera tour among the young 'Men from MANWEB' at our Hoylake Training Centre

On the bench! Michael Little of Runcorn, *left*, and Keith Wooding who hails from Liverpool.

In the forge! Jonathan Hawker of Ellesmere Port, *left*, and Dave Taylor from Liverpool.



The smallest apprentice on course is Robert Hughes who comes from Llandudno in our Clwyd District.



More apprentices,

from left to right:
Andrew Edwards
from Abersoch,
Craig Edwards
from Colwyn Bay,
Gary Evans from
Oswestry, **Philip**
Griffiths from
Caernarfon and
Neil Harrison from
Holywell.



OUR COVER PICTURE shows David Hughes of Wallasey, *left*, and Andrew Miley of Liverpool at work in the forge at our Hoylake Training Centre. They are just two of the 50 young men at present in their first few months as apprentice electricians, fitters, telecommunication, meter mechanics and motor vehicle mechanics.



IN THE ELECTRICAL INSTALLATION SECTION

Above: Working together we see Andrew James from Aberystwyth, *left*, and Peter Kendall of Runcorn. *Right:* Our cameraman catches three more young apprentices hard at work. *From left to right:* Ron Thomas from Aberystwyth, John Morris from Newtown and Peter Roberts, also from Aberystwyth.



A happy trio fixing the lighting. *From left to right:* Robin Williams from Caernarfon, Anthony Scott from Ellesmere Port and Paul Wilson from Warrington.



We get Letters...

... about

... re-wiring ...

From a Caernarfon gent, to Gwynedd District, expressing thanks for a re-wiring job:

"Although the task was far from straightforward, and needed adjustments to meet our personal requirements, the work was completed cleanly and with the minimum of disruption in under five days. For this we have to thank the careful pre-planning by your department and the obvious skills and conscientious application of the two-man team of Mr. Alan Owen and Mr. Ifor Jones. They reported promptly for work and filled their working hours with honest and efficient labour. We were deeply impressed not only by their dexterity but also by their cheerful attitude and courteous behaviour."

.. a rogue cooker ..

To Liverpool District, from a Rainhill lady—

"Thank you for your prompt and personal attention to my rogue cooker. Your understanding kindness and courtesy on the phone is to be admired."

The medal goes to Len Cornah, work control supervisor.

.. storage heaters ..

This unsolicited testimonial from someone who knows what he is talking about was recently received by our Dee Valley District Commercial Engineer:

"I had three Creda TSR storage heaters (2—3.4 kW, 1—2.55 kW) installed on Jan. 8/9 and as a Y.E.B. retiree I had the benefit of staff terms. The heaters were installed in a perfectly satisfactory manner by a Crane Street electrician

whose name I think was Keith Salisbury.

"I would say that after eight weeks' use, during which I have kept records of consumption and outside/inside temperatures (to a certain extent), I am very pleased with the performance of the three heaters. Without going into details, I would just say that we have had very good background heating, a temperature rise of 20/25 deg. F. which is all I expected, and the temperature drop at the end of the day is only about 4 deg. F., which is better than I expected, bearing in mind we are on Tariff OE.

Running cost pleases me also—the average cost during the past eight weeks has been about £4.60 per week. Of course I have made maximum use of controls to effect economy.

"I can recommend these heaters to anyone."

... hard work ...

In a letter to Mid-Cheshire District energy sales engineer Malcolm Cooper, a customer writes as follows:

"I enclose cheque for £190.30, this being the balance of the charge for installing storage heaters a month ago.

"I am very pleased with them so far and I cannot let this opportunity pass without a word of praise for the two electricians who did the installation—Ted Naughton and Roy Mather. They never wasted a minute, hardly having time to have a cup of tea when I made one. They had it beside them as they continued working.

"If the rest of the workforce in this country worked like they did, we should soon be on our feet."

.. rare treatment ..

A very lucid and obviously 'with it' O.A.P. who felt that he had received the V.I.P. treatment at our North Wirral District offices, writes as follows:

"I have just moved to the above

address from an aged house in Birkenhead. The pensioner's flat I am now occupying is all-electric—storage heater, electric stove, etc. Watching the White Meter—low and normal—moving up, and not knowing the Tariff I was being charged on, I decided to call at Craven Street office to see if I could clarify the situation.

"Being 71 years of age and not very pleased with the red tape I have encountered since retiring six years ago, I was more than delighted at the reception I received from your office staff.

"First I explained my troubles to an understanding and courteous telephonist. Within a minute I was attended to by a young lady from the inner office. She too was very kind but, being unable to answer my enquiries fully, told me to wait a while and within another two minutes a young gentleman asked for me by name and took me to a private office.

"Quickly and skilfully he explained to me the whole situation and I came away from your office much more knowledgeable about the use of electric meters and cost and walked out feeling like a V.I.P.

"Such treatment is very rare nowadays and although I do not know any names, I would be grateful if you would convey my sincere thanks to all concerned."

Our kind and helpful people were Valerie Fell (telephonist), Dot Lamb (clerical) and Ron Jones (energy sales)."

.. helpful ways ..

From a grateful customer in our Mid-Cheshire District, who writes:

"We would like to thank the gentleman at Crewe who answered our call for assistance, for the very helpful way he dealt with the matter."

The shift electrician who so promptly attended to this call was Eric Benyon.

Talking Notes

TO SUNNIER CLIMES

LEAVING behind the rain, the cold winds and the uncertain climate of Britain for the sun and warmth of Zambia, was the choice made by **Eifion Williams**, an erstwhile instrument inspector in the Meter Test section at New Crane Street in Chester.

Eifion began his apprenticeship with the Board at Hoylake. Later, he worked as an electrician on the conversion of the Stores at New Crane Street into the polyphase test room and then he transferred to the VHF unit for a while before going into Meter Test.

Incidentally, we did hear that it was Eifion who started the flexitime system at the depot!

His new appointment in Zambia is for a three year period and, to send him on his way, colleagues subscribed to buy him a large leather suitcase which was formally presented to him by **John Jump** (1st engineer-Technical).

Golden Days

Just over 50 years ago, a young man walked down the aisle of Mornington Methodist

BBC WEATHER



"... and the high pressure from the East will help continue the hot spell we ... er ... forecast last night!"



Friends and colleagues in the Meter Test section at New Crane Street give a rousing send-off to Eifion Williams, second from left, seen here receiving a farewell handshake from John Jump.

Church in Southport to be joined in holy matrimony with his lovely bride Mona.

Last month, **Jimmy Nicholson** celebrated with Mona, the golden anniversary of the occasion and friends in MANWEB wished the couple many more years of good health and happiness.

Jimmy Nick, as he was affectionately called, began his working life as a joiner's mate with the former Southport Corporation on Boxing Day 1924. He retired from the Board's former Southport District on the last day of 1962. As a very young man, he was a member of the team which erected the fairy lights along the world-famous Lord Street.

He was an active member of the District's Sports and Social Club and served his colleagues as the ETU shop steward for a number of years.

S.S. Course!

Members of our Education and Training staff, **Dick Storer** and **Eric Richardson** recently organised a five-day Senior Supervisors Course for selected staff in our engineering and administrative sections.

Gerry Haughan (Deputy Chief Engineer) introduced the Course by explaining the aims of promoting a wider appreciation of supervisory skills.

The delegates were encour-

aged to enter into discussions on a variety of subjects, which included the legal obligations of the Board, industrial relations, interviewing techniques, computer appreciation and planning, budgeting and costing.

Weight For It!

Salad days arrived for 63 members of staff at Head Office



Nurse Dorothy Davis 'weighs in' Fred Owen of our Legal Section.

who were sponsored by colleagues to shed a few pounds in the interests of charity.

The slimmers were promised more than one pound sterling for every one pound in weight

shed. One lady managed to get a promise of £12 per pound!

MANWEB Head Office (Chester) Sports and Social Club Secretary **Gren Roberts**, who, with **Nurse Dorothy Davis** has organised the 'Sponsored Slim' aimed to raise over £500 for local charities.

At the weigh-in, top contender was over 17 stone while at the bottom (no pun intended) was a slight eight stoner.

The four-week period allowed for the 'Slim' included Easter with all those tempting chocolate eggs!

We are pleased to report however, that the successful 'loss' made a very nice 'profit'.

Collecting Silver

Putting up a very creditable performance our highly talented ladies of the MANWEB Head Office first-aid team came in a close second place to the favourites South East London Ladies in the National Final Competition of the Electricity Supply Ambulance Centre.

Only seven-and-a-half points separated the two top teams when the final results were announced.

Held for the very first time in Scotland — at Musselborough, near Edinburgh—the competition was very well organised and, in the words of our team— " . . . the Scottish hospitality was simply terrific."

Senior Supervisors, from left to right: **Haydn Evans** (Systems Engineer), **Len Cornah** (principal assistant), **Harold Mayhew** (senior engineer), **Dave Tinsley** (1st engineer), **Brian Griffiths** (Supply Engineer), **Eddie Edwards** (principal assistant), **Alan Evans** (executive officer), **Don Hinsley** (energy sales engineer), **Dave Price** (senior engineer), **Bob McMahon** (senior executive officer), **Tom Jones** (Installation Engineer), **Roy Osborne** (Production Engineer) and **Ray Hall** (principal assistant).





Quiz League and Knockout Handicap Cup winning teams, with the organisers and Sports Club chairman, pictured left to right, standing: George Harrison (organiser), Mike Edwards and Joe Caldwell ('Random Access'), Steve Dodds and John Roach ('University Lobsters') and Fred Owen (organiser). Seated: Viv Pitcher, Chris Shimmin and John Bruce ('Random Access'), Harry Foreman (Club Chairman), Ray Gambell and Carol Booth ('University Lobsters').

All thanks go to our friends in the South of Scotland Electricity Board and their Chairman, Mr. Roy Berridge who presented the prizes.

Team captain **Sybil Cooper** has taken part in the National Finals on 22 occasions and has succeeded in winning five first prizes, three seconds and five thirds. She also has the Grand Prior Silver Award, gained in competition against all the top teams throughout the country.

This year's competition was in the nature of a 'last fling' for another member of the team, **Sybil Timmins**, who retires in October. She too has been a first-aid-er for many years and has collected her own set of trophies.

Sybil went out in style for when she was mounting the steps to the platform to collect her award, she slipped and fell. It was curious that with so many doctors present and a room full of first-aiders, no-one rushed to her assistance. Maybe everyone thought that this was Sybil's way of making an impressive entrance.

However, it was discovered later that she had a cut on her shin and had badly bruised her ankle. But, the bandages and ointments had been packed away after the competition and all that they could come up with was a small piece of sticky plaster to carry out a patch-up job!

Other members of our silver award team were, **Elizabeth Jones** and **Pauline White** along with reserve, **John Shallcross**.

Congratulations to you all—
you certainly did well!

Quiz Winners

There were eight teams competing in the Head Office Quiz League and Knock-out Handicap Quiz. Each team was allowed a squad of seven competitors, of whom four played in any one contest.

The league winners were a team from the Computer Section calling themselves 'Random Access', and second were an Estates and Wayleaves team, 'Wayleave Wise'.

In the knock-out competition the teams were handicapped according to their league points average, with the wooden spoonists from the league, 'University Lobsters', a team from Power Accounts, beating the league winners in the final.

The contests were organised by **George Harrison** and **Fred Owen**, who with **John Gorman** and **Paul Dolan** set the quiz papers.

Electricity Supply (Staff)
Superannuation Scheme
Copies of the Minutes of the 30th Annual General Meeting of members of the above Scheme held on 13th December 1979 are available to all members (including pensioners) on request from:

Mr. S. F. Gordon,
Personnel Section
Room 5S1 Head Office.

Wedding Bells

Our congratulations go to Head Office clerical assistant from Stores Accounts, **Lynne Hutton**, on the occasion of her wedding to Mark Worrall, a fitter at British Nuclear Fuels.



Mr. and Mrs. Mark Worrall
(Picture by Ray Rowland)

Lynne and Mark, who are both 22, were married at St. Mark's Church, Connah's Quay. After the reception at the Civic Hall, the happy couple left for a honeymoon in York.

Indoor Games

To while away long Winter evenings, committee members of the Clwyd District Sports and Social Club devised an indoor league competition.

Clwyd District Sports and Social Club Chairperson presents the 'Workers' with their winner's shield. *Left to right: Alan Jones (organiser), Steve Walkden, Jim Weston, Maria Howes, Eddie Garnet and Dave Miller (organiser).*



The click of a table tennis ball hitting the bat, the thud of the dart as its flight ended in the board and the gentle kiss as billiard balls met were sound proof of the interest and competition from the eight teams masquerading under names like "The Bus Bar Benders" and "The Super Subs".

The eventual winners were "The Workers", a team from the Contracting section, who were presented with the Indoor League Shield by **Maria Howes**, the Chairperson of the Sports and Social Club.

All Light For Some!

Browsing around book shops and market stalls searching for old volumes pertaining to our industry is one of the pastimes of **Keith Herniman** (2nd engineer-System), Dee Valley District.

He recently came across one entitled "Electricity for Everybody", published in 1912.

A section headed "Servant's Quarters" imparts the following information:

"The lighting of servant's bedrooms is a debatable point, as it encourages reading there, and consequent long hour burning. Servants are also apt to learn a little electrical engineering, just

sufficient to be able to change the low for high candle-power lamps from other parts of the house. Still, the fire risk is greatly reduced if electric light is installed in these rooms, and therefore it may be wise to do so on this account. In some houses the lights in the servants' bedrooms are so wired that they can be controlled by a switch in the dressing-room or similar place, so that the consumer can extinguish their lights when he goes to bed himself."

Putt It There

In the annual putting tournament held last month at the Plas Madoc Leisure Centre near Wrexham, two members of our Dee Valley District golfing fraternity **Trevor Edwards** (1st engineer—Energy Sales) and **Ieuan Evans** (1st engineer-System), took first and third places respectively in the Men's Individual event.

Dennis Jones from Material Control, organised the entry of four MANWEB teams, one of these finishing in third place.

Pools Syndicate

Thanks to the pensioners and members of our staff who showed an interest in joining a proposed 'Pools Syndicate'.

Unfortunately, only half the



Oswestry District First-Aiders with their instructor, left to right: Dennis Morgan, Alison Bibby, Tony Conde, Judith Williams, Chris Pritchard, Dorothy Davis (instructor), Paul Manhire, Graham and David Jones.

required number of subscribers applied so, **Peter Meadows**, the organiser at Head Office, regrets that he is unable to form the syndicate at this time.

Maybe he will try again at a later date.

First-Aiders

Our ever-active first-aiders in Oswestry District have again proved their dedication to the training given under the supervision of **Nurse Dorothy Davies** from Head Office.

This time, all nine of the candidates successfully passed their final examinations. Of these, six

took the test for the very first time.

Our congratulations to all the Oswestry District first-aiders and to their class secretary, **Sid Warburton** (administrative assistant).

New Board Member

Chairman and senior managing director of Robertson Research International Ltd, **Dr. Robert Henry Cummings** of Llandudno is the new part-time member of our Board. His appointment is for a period of three years from January 1980.

After war service with the Royal Engineers, Dr. Cummings worked for the Shell Petroleum Corporation in the West Indies and South America.

He then spent some time at the University of Glasgow and Birbeck College, University of London before taking up his present appointment.

NORTH MERSEY DISTRICT RETIRED EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION

It is proposed to establish an Association for social activities and the welfare of retired members of the Staff in the North Mersey District.

If you would like to join the Association please drop a line to Mr. George Shoesmith, District Administrative Officer, MANWEB District Office, Bridle Road, Bootle L30 4XA.

Should you wish to actively help in the initial organisation and setting up of the Association, please indicate in your letter.



New Member, Dr. R. H. Cummings.



Pictured at the C.I.B.S. Annual Luncheon, from left to right: Messrs. J. R. Ellis (Chairman, N.W. Region, C.I.B.S.), W. N. Shires (MANWEB Chief Commercial Officer), Dr. M. Marsden (President, C.I.B.S.), Dr. G. W. Brundrett (Chairman, Merseyside and North West Region of C.I.B.S.), Councillor Mrs. Doreen Jones (Lord Mayor of Liverpool), Professor J. A. M. Bell (Director, Manchester School of Architecture), Messrs. V. Basil (President of Liverpool Architectural Society) and G. D. Worthington (MANWEB Lighting Development Engineer).

CIBS Get-Together

At the annual luncheon held in Liverpool for members of the North West Region of the Chartered Institute of Building Services, guest of honour was the Lord Mayor of Liverpool, Councillor Doreen Jones.

The luncheon presented an invaluable opportunity for architects and building services engineers to meet and discuss business problems in informal surroundings.

Guest speaker on this occasion was Professor J. A. M. Bell, who is Director of the School of Architecture at the University of Manchester.

Once again, the mainstay in organising the event was **Gerry Worthington**, our lighting specialist in the Energy Sales section at Head Office.

Dinner Dance

Another successful event in our Aberystwyth District was the annual dinner dance held at

the Seabank Hotel.

Some 90 members, including retired staff, and guests sat down to an excellent dinner and later, all enjoyed dancing to the music of the Shiver Show Band.

Voted as the best annual 'do' for a long time, thanks go to the organising committee members **Glenda Jones, Lesley Miller, Geoff and Marion Thomson.**

Golf Challenge

It is hoped that in the near future, interested golfers in our Mid-Cheshire District will be able to get together and form their own Golf Society.

To help the idea along, two keen enthusiasts, **Malcolm Cooper** (Mid-Cheshire energy sales engineer) and **Les Butterworth** (Mid-Mersey draughtsman) arranged a District challenge match at the Crewe Golf Club a short time ago.

After an excellent day's golf played in ideal weather conditions, Mid-Mersey ran out winners by seven points to five.

The trophy—the *Glyn Norbury Shield*—was presented to the winners by the donor himself.

The Mid-Mersey Golf Society have invited their colleagues in Mid-Cheshire to participate in any of their future events. Any

ELECTRICITY SUPPLY (STAFF) and ELECTRICITY SUPPLY (INDUSTRIAL STAFF) SUPERANNUATION SCHEMES

Refund of Contributions

The statutory restrictions which prevents refunds of contributions to members of the Schemes who leave service **having received salaries in excess of £5,000 per annum** is to be removed as and from and including 6th April, 1980.

Regardless of salary, any member who leaves service after 5th April, 1980 may take a refund of his/her own contributions in respect:

- (a) of all service where at the time of leaving the person had completed **less than five years reckonable super-annuable service;**
- (b) of any service prior to 6th April, 1975 where the person, up to the time of leaving, **had remained in service since 5th April, 1975.**

In noting this changed position, members should consider the advantages, on leaving service, of frozen benefits or a transfer value payment (to a new employer) as an alternative to any refund of contributions.

golfers in the District interested in taking part in matches and in helping form a Mid-Cheshire Golf Society, please get in touch with Malcolm Cooper at Crewe.

Men of Brass

At a recent competition held by the Llanrug Silver Band, two members of our Gwynedd District staff were awarded prizes for blowing their own trumpets.

Gareth W. Hughes, a clerk in the General Services section, teamed up with three other musicians to win the first Prize in the quartet section.

Merfyn L. Jones, a linesman, also gained a prize in the solo trumpet section.

Seminar

There are twelve junior administrative trainees at present undergoing a course of training with MANWEB. A recent one-day seminar was the first time all twelve had been together.

It was a day for decision-making as the dozen divided into groups to solve industrial

relations problems which might arise in their future careers.

The tolerance of these prospective managers proved sound, as, none of their decisions would have provoked strike action.

The one-day seminar was organised and run by **Dick Storer** and **Eric Richardson**, of Education and Training section.

New Born

Congratulations on the birth of their first child, daughter named Lowri, go to **Heulwen Huws** a former clerk in the General Service section in Gwynedd District and husband John, who is a teacher.

He won't have any difficulty in remembering his daughter's birthday for it is the same as his own!

Choose Electric

In this year's Ideal Homes Exhibition held in London all last month, the Electricity Council's "Choose Electric Show" put the emphasis on British products.

Microwave ovens, with their amazing speed, versatility, cleanliness and energy-saving features were on show together with the first public exhibition of another marvel of British technology—the induction hob.

This seemingly magic method of cooking heats the contents of a pan without the hob itself getting hot.

Good looking and very easy to clean, the completely flat, tough polished surface of the ceramic-topped hob has the heating areas marked with a distinctive pattern.

Another feature of the Council's exhibit provided information on methods and techniques on an efficient and economic heating system backed by an adequate supply of hot water for personal and household needs.

A wide selection of small electrical appliances for use in the kitchen was on display and illustrated the wise use of energy in addition to making the housewife's daily work a little easier.

Junior administrative trainees with Seminar organisers, **Eric Richardson**, *extreme left*, and **Dick Storer**, *extreme right*. *From the left, standing: Kevin Hoffman, Cyril Jones, Chris Williams, Gary Williams, Andrew Sutton, Michael Crangle and David Rees. Seated: Andrew Ford, Vicky Brown, Karen Lewis, Leigh Chapman and Russell Haughan.*





North Mersey's recipients of 40-year long-service awards with their guests and District Officers, pictured from left to right: Mr. Bill Spedding, Mrs. and Mr. Albert Briscoe, Mr. Dennis Noad (D.C.E.), Mr. and Mrs. William Owen, Miss Barbara Black, Mrs. Eddie Capp, Mrs. George Shoesmith (D.A.O.) and Mr. Eddie Capp.

Long Service Certificates for North Mersey, Liverpool and North Wirral Staff

At a special luncheon given for staff in the North Mersey and Liverpool Districts who, in recent months, had completed 40 years of work in our industry, Mr. Richard Gales (*Deputy Chairman*) paid tribute to their long and loyal service prior to presenting them with commemorative Certificates.

Staff qualifying for 30-year and 20-year awards in the two Districts, together with colleagues from North Wirral District, were invited to their own presentation ceremony in Liverpool.

Before presenting their Long Service Certificates, Mr. Jim Barraclough (*Group Manager*) had a few words to say. He pointed to some of the changes which had taken place on Merseyside during the time



Our pictures show the Deputy Chairman and the Group Manager each with a number of recipients of 40-year long-service awards with their guests and District Officers. Above, left to right: Mrs. and Mr. Thomas Dobb, Mr. Dave Crangle (*1st engineer, Meter Test*), Mrs. and Mr. Edward Bryans, Mr. Jim Barraclough (*Group Manager*), Mr. and Mrs. Roy Hughes and Mr. Charles Donovan (D.E.).

Below, left to right: Mr. Dennis Hughes (D.A.O.), Mrs. and Mr. Kenneth Kendall, Mr. Sidney Lowry, Mr. Richard Gales (*Deputy Chairman*), Mrs. and Mr. Bill Butterworth, Miss Lowry, Mr. Bob Hodson (D.C.E.) and Mr. William Whittingham.





North Mersey District 20- and 30-years' service award recipients with the Group Manager and District Officers. Left to right: Messrs. George Shoemith (D.A.O.), John Williams, Albert Eyres (D.E.), John Leatherbarrow, Ronnie Mosses, Derek Pitman, Roy Fallows (Vice-Chairman No. 1 L.A.C.) and Dennis Noad (D.C.E.). Seated: Messrs. Peter Guppy, Gwyn Williams, Jim Barraclough (Group Manager), Bob Charnock and John Mayers.

given to the electricity supply industry by many of those present.

He spoke of Clarence Dock—once a modern oil-fired power station, but now obsolete—and of the once busy and bustling Port of Liverpool. He said that there had been large social changes and wide urban development in the area.

"Through all these changes," he went on, "Electricity supply has been able to meet all demands and has provided a good and reliable service. This is a tribute to all the Board's staff, especially you present today who, during your years of service, have helped MANWEB achieve this proud record."

Liverpool's long-service recipients of 20- and 30-year awards pictured with the Group Manager and District Officers, left to right: Messrs. Dave Crangle (1st engineer, Meter Test), Bob Hodson (D.C.E.), Len Riley, Ken Roberts, Brian Fisher-Jones, Arthur Berrington, Charles Donovan (D.E.), and Dennis Hughes (D.A.O.). Seated are Messrs. Ron Sands, Norman Mitchell, Jim Barraclough (Group Manager), Dick Goodman and John Atkinson.



RECIPIENTS

40 YEARS

North Mersey District Miss N. Barbara Black (clerk-retired), Messrs. Albert W. Briscoe (foreman, Installation), Edward C. Capp (Admin. assistant) and William S. Owen (electrician).

Liverpool District Messrs. Edward J. Bryans (meter mechanic), William H. Butterfield (electrician), Thomas Dobb (meter mechanic), Roy Hughes (foreman, Meter Test), Kenneth Kendall (chargehand meter reader/collector-retired), Sidney



The North Wirral District 20- and 30-year service award recipients with their District Officers and the Group Manager, left to right, standing: Messrs. John Roberts (D.A.O.), Tom Blythe, Peter Hunt, Terry Gibson, Dennis Virgin, Frank Holme, Ron Jones, Roy Smith and John Foster (D.E.). Seated: Mr. Ken Corfield, Mrs. Betty Haslett, Mrs. Doreen Salter, Mr. Jim Barraclough (Group Manager), Miss Kathleen Davies, Mrs. Kathleen Doran and Mr. Jen Williams.

LONG SERVICE (continued)

Lowry (clerical assistant) and William C. Whittingham (chargehand meter reader).

30 YEARS

North Mersey District Messrs. Robert A. Charnock (executive officer, Admin.), Herbert F. Davies (shop supervisor), Joseph J. Jones (labourer), Leslie Rigby (chargehand meter reader/collector) and John G. Williams (1st engineer, System).

Liverpool District Mr. Richard G. Goodwin (p.a. Admin.), Miss Janet Hancock (clerical assistant), Messrs. Kenneth W. Horrobin (2nd engineer-retired) and Norman Mitchell (p.a. Admin.).

North Wirral District Messrs. John C. Bagnall (labourer), Kenneth Corfield (Admin. assistant) and George Davies (meter reader/collector). Miss Kathleen Davies (Admin. assistant-retired). Messrs. Kenneth Hardcastle (1st engineer, System), James F. Holme (driver), Elwyn Jones (Production Engineer), Ronald H. Jones (1st engineer, Industrial) and Frederick Murphy (assistant storekeeper). Mrs. Doreen Salter (Admin. assistant). Messrs. Roy A. Smith (clerical assistant) and Kenneth Williams (senior salesman).

20 YEARS

North Mersey District Messrs. Peter Guppy (joiner), John Leatherbarrow (electrician), Patrick J. Lee (meter fixer), John E. Mayers (joiner), Leonard J. Morris (joiner's mate), Ronald Mosses (switchboard attendant), Derek Pittman (p.a. Accounts), Terance J. Robertson (chargehand labourer) and John P. Williams (installation inspector).

Liverpool District Messrs. Douglas W. Allen (meter reader), John G. Atkinson (2nd engineer-Commercial Supply), Arthur Berrington (courier/driver-retired), Brian Fisher-Jones (clerical assistant), John Reilley (clerical assistant), Leonard Riley (meter reader), Kenneth D. Roberts (electrician), Alan Sandells (2nd engineer, at present on secondment in Saudi Arabia), and Roland S. Sands (meter mechanic).

North Wirral District Mr. Thomas Blythe (foreman storekeeper), Mrs. Kathleen Doran (Admin. assistant-retired), Mr. Anthony R. Gibson (electrical fitter), Mrs. Elizabeth Haslett (clerical assistant), Messrs. John K. Holden (chargehand electrician), Peter Hunt (senior salesman), Edgar Knight (labourer), Joseph Lee (joiner's mate) and Dennis Virgin (driver).

Obituary

It is with deep regret that we record the deaths of our former colleagues.

Mr. W. H. Beech, aged 83, a former driver at Runcorn depot prior to his retirement.

Mr. J. Mervyn Dodd, aged 67, a former member of the Vauxhall Construction staff.

Mr. L. G. Hanley who, until his retirement in January 1968,

was a consumers' engineer in the former Crewe District.

Mr. J. W. Kempster, aged 76, a former fitter's mate based at Vauxhall depot.

Mr. Noel W. Lewis, aged 67, a former driver in our Oswestry District prior to his retirement in 1977.

Mr. C. J. McEwen, aged 71, a former assistant consumers' engi-

neer at St. Helens prior to his retirement in 1971.

Mr. George Whitlow, aged 60, whose sudden tragic death occurred on the day following his retirement from his post as a chargehand installation inspector in our Mid-Mersey District.

Mr. John A. Williams, aged 77, a former electrician at Wrexham until his retirement.

We extend to their families and friends our sincere sympathy.

THEN — AND NOW

Way back in 1943, while serving with the British Army in Italy, Mr. George Wells, supervisor of our Garston shop, wrote the following lines of verse:—

Italy — 1943

The Soldier

*I used to sit and think of home,
The place I loved so well;
Of happiness and joys I'd known
That only home can tell.*

*Instead of peace and star-drenched
night,
'Neath hallowed England's sky;
Our lot was linked with hell in flight
And men that were—just lie.*

*Remote from those who loved them,
Sleeping safe and sure;
The price they paid we'll never
know,
That England might endure.*

*And that is why I thought of home,
Restful, proud and grand;
Secure in strength her sons had
sown,
In every distant land.*

*Lovely, leafy England,
Strewn with memories fair;
Our hearts would watch o'er
England
Till Peace shone softly there.*

Looking back through the old soldier's eyes, he recently added the following lines:—

*But what has happened to the years
That life so dearly bought;
The promised goal of happiness
For which the soldier fought?*

*The precious gold of Peace has
gone
Along the road of dust;
And men forget the priceless gift
The soldier gave in trust.*

*The twisted time that promised
much,
And tango turned to 'rock';
When men could walk the silver
moon—
But couldn't fix the clock!*

*Our soldier boy who bought it all,
And made his peace with God,
Would look askance at this new
world—
And find it very odd!*

George's sentiments may well find an echo in the heart of many an ex-serviceman—or woman—who can remember that the rate of pay for risking your life was about three shillings a day!

“What am I?”

I am more powerful than all combined armies of the world. I have destroyed more than all the wars of the nations

I steal millions of dollars each year. I spare no-one, and I find my victims among the rich and poor alike, the young and the old, the strong and the weak.

I loom up in such proportions that I cast my shadow over every field of labour, from the turning of a grind-stone to the moving of every railway train and ocean-going ship. I bring sickness, degradation and death, and yet few seek to avoid me.

I give nothing, and take all. I am your worst enemy. I am not drink, hatred or selfishness.

“What am I?”

“I am Carelessness”

Inspired lines from Mr. Bill Boylin (Head Office)

Car damaged
windscreen shattered
anonymous child vandal
bleeding
transfusion needed
transfusion given
life saved
blood donor anonymously
examining
his vandalised car . . .

RETIREMENTS

Mr. T. BOARDMAN

A very popular member of our Commercial staff, Mr. Thomas Boardman, shop supervisor at Colwyn Bay, retired recently on health grounds.

He joined the electricity supply industry in 1938 as an apprentice electrician with the former Hazel Grove and Bramhall UDC. He subsequently worked for Norweb, first as an electrician and later as a showroom assistant, before moving into the private sector in 1956 as a sales representative with electrical appliance manufacturers. In 1968 he moved out of the industry—or nearly—when he became a branch manager and then sales training manager with Telefusion Ltd.

Seeing the error of his ways, he joined MANWEB in 1973 as supervisor of the Colwyn Bay shop.

At a very pleasant informal ceremony, Mr. David Mellor (*Clwyd District Commercial Engineer*) presented Mr. Boardman with a TV set as a farewell gift from friends and colleagues.

We join with them in wishing many years of happy retirement to Mr. and Mrs. Boardman—and Tom... *may your bowling arm remain strong!*

Mr. C. F. WALMSLEY

Friends and colleagues gathered at Lister Drive to say their farewells to Mr. Charles F. Walmsley (*3rd engineer—Commercial Supply*) who had completed 48 years' service in the electricity supply industry.

A farewell handshake from Mr. Bob Jowett, left, to Mr. Charles Walmsley

He started his working life with the former Liverpool Corporation Electric Supply Department and served his apprenticeship as an electrician.

During the last war he served with the Royal Corps of Signals in such faraway places as Abyssinia, Ceylon and Burma.

He returned to his civilian work in Liverpool and, in 1949, with MANWEB, he joined the Sales and Service section, where he has been involved with installation and supply problems ever since.

Now, in retirement, he is looking forward to devoting much more time to his leisure pursuits of dancing, walking and caravanning with his wife and young daughter. Mr. Walmsley also enjoys reading, gardening and a spot of 'do-it-yourself'.

Among the farewell gifts from his colleagues was a lawnmower—electric of course—and a bottle of whisky. In making the presentation, Mr. Bob Jowett (*Energy Sales Manager and former Liverpool District Commercial Engineer*) commented: "*The whisky is not really for drinking. You save it just in case the lawnmower breaks down, then you pour the whisky over the lawn and the grass comes up half-cut!*"

Mr. B. STURLEY

The first Commercial chargehand storekeeper on site at our main stores in Queensferry, Mr. Benjamin Sturley who retired recently from his job as a clerk in the Stores Accounts section at Head Office.

Mr. Sturley, who lives in Chester in the same house in which he was born, has worked for nearly 25 years in the Board's stores section except for a short period spent as an engineering clerk.

He is a widower and has two sons. In retirement he





Ben Sturley, centre left, receives his retirement gift subscribed to by his colleagues from Assistant Chief Accountant Peter Falcon.

intends to spend as much time as possible in travelling around our country. He has already booked up four tours with a local coach company and will visit many places between Exmouth and the Scottish Highlands during the coming year.

Friends and colleagues subscribed to a retirement gift of a camera which was presented by Mr. Peter Falcon (*Assisant Chief Accountant—Finance & Stores*) who, in acknowledging Mr. Sturley's keen interest in cricket, wished him a long innings to come, with the prospect of making a century.

Mr. T. LOWRIE

"A gentleman who has been practicing 'Customer Care' ever since he started working for the Board in 1961," were the words expressed by Mr. John Roberts (*energy sales engineer*) when paying his tribute to the loyal service given by Mr. Tom Lowrie when he retired from his job as meter reader in our North Wirral District.

"We are sorry to see him go but he has earned his

District Administrative Officer John Roberts bids farewell to Tom Lowrie, centre left, who was retiring from North Wirral District.

retirement," went on Mr. Roberts. Other fine tributes were paid to Mr. Lowrie's friendship and helpfulness towards his colleagues before the presentation of a tankard and some gardening books.

Born in Liverpool, Mr. Lowrie worked in a factory before going to London where he was employed at a number of hotels and clubs. He joined the army and served in North Africa and Italy during the last war. On his return to civilian life he went to work in a steel foundry and a tobacco factory before joining the Board as a meter reader.

His particular choice of gardening books among his farewell gifts points to his keen interest in horticulture as a hobby. As a self-confessed home handyman, Mr. Lowrie tells us that he has plenty of work waiting for him now that he has retired.

His daughter Carole carries on the family name in our North Wirral District. She works in the accounts section, and no doubt will keep Dad in touch with the happenings at Craven Street!





Don't join the train until you know where it's going.

Deciding where to place your sympathies in the nuclear power debate can be a bit like catching a train—consulting the indicator board saves a lot of confusion.

And so many people say so much about nuclear power these days that even the most astute observers can end up puzzled.

So to help you judge whether you are on the right lines, we have available a wide range of

booklets on nuclear power. Quite simply, we want our critics—and our supporters—to be fully informed.

For a set of these booklets—free—write to:—

THE NUCLEAR POWER INFORMATION GROUP,
30 MILLBANK,
LONDON
SW1P 4RD.