

## THE "CONTACT" PHOTOGRAPHIC COMPETITION 1957

As announced initially in the May edition of *Contact*, a Photographic Competition has been organised, open to all members of the Manweb staff. It is hoped as many members as possible will decide to send in original photographs as entries.

### Competition Rules

1. There will be two separate classes for black and white prints, or enlargements:

**Class A**—Photographs of Manweb activities and events, including general photographs of an electricity interest, which need not necessarily feature Manweb.

**Class B**—For general photographs on any subject of choice.

2. All photographs submitted for competition must be the original work, and the copyright property of the member of staff who enters them.

3. There will be prizes of Premium Bonds for the first, second and third best entries in each of the two classes:

1st Prize will be THREE Premium Bonds;

2nd Prize will be TWO Premium Bonds;

3rd Prize will be ONE Premium Bond.

4. Competitors must state clearly the Class they wish to enter.

5. Any number of entries may be submitted by one individual.

6. Competitors must enclose a note with entries stating, clearly, name, address (either office or home) and the title of each picture.

7. The Competition will be judged by three independent judges whose names will be announced in due course.

8. Last date for entries will be 30th September, 1957.

9. The greatest care will be taken of entries, all of which will be returned.

10. Entries to be sent to The Editor, *Contact*, M.A.N.W.E.B., Love Lane, Liverpool 3.

*Below: Mr. G. Hickling, of the Central Council of Physical Recreation, demonstrating at Warrington the correct method of "cutting" a cable drum.*



# Contact



PHONE TAPPING SCARE? (see page 250)

*The Staff Magazine of the Merseyside  
and North Wales Electricity Board*

AUGUST, 1957

MANWEB

THREEPENCE

## News from Nantwich

Mr. J. D. Mottram, Section Engineer, Nantwich, did not seek re-election in the May elections for the Nantwich Urban District Council. So successful had he been, however, as Chairman of the Nantwich Road Safety Committee, that the newly-formed Council invited him to sit as a co-opted member on the Road Safety Committee and at its first meeting he was re-elected Chairman. This is a complete break from tradition as the Committee Chairman is normally nominated from Council members and it is a tribute to Mr. Mottram's energetic work for road safety that he finds himself still at the wheel.

\* \* \*

Mr. J. R. Jenkins, Consumer's Engineer at Nantwich in the Crewe District, is a man of many outdoor interests and talents. Whenever motor cyclists gather, he is generally to be seen on the site and his voice is known to thousands of sports enthusiasts as he has been official announcer to Nantwich Motor Club for 21 years and has also been the official broadcaster at Oulton Park Race Track.

Other kinds of shows from which Mr. Jenkins is rarely absent are agricultural and trade exhibitions and he has been Chairman of the Nantwich Carnival for

many years as well as Chairman of the Nantwich C.P. School Parent-Teachers Association and Press Secretary for the Cheshire Centre of the A.C.U. for five years.

Mr. Jenkins was born in Wallasey and moved to Nantwich in 1936. He served in the R.A.F. as wireless operator during the war in South East Asia and African countries and is married with one son.

\* \* \*

His deputy at Nantwich, Mr. Norman Davenport, is also a well-known figure in the social life of Nantwich and currently he is appearing in the Acton Amateur Operatic Society's production of "The Vagabond King" in which he takes the part of Tristan, the King's bodyguard.

"Norman", as he is affectionately called, has a light-hearted approach to life and is a popular figure on the Manweb stand at various agricultural shows in No. 4 Sub-Area.

Photography is one of his hobbies and he is the keen operator of a small cine camera seen at many Board functions in the Crewe District. During the last war he served with the Cheshire Yeomanry and has played for the Crewe and Nantwich Rugby Union Club.

### LOVE LANE TO HATTON GARDEN

The presentation of a Morphy-Richards Convector Heater, was made to Mr. J. Critchley, B.Sc.(Eng.), A.M.I.E.E., A.M.Amer.I.E.E., F.S.S., F.R.Econ.S., on Wednesday, July 17th, 1957, to mark the occasion of his departure from his present appointment of Second Assistant Engineer (Construction) in the Chief Engineer's Department at Love Lane, to take up an appointment in No. 1 Sub-Area on August 1st, 1957 as Second Assistant Engineer (Planning). Before coming to Headquarters in September 1955, he was the First Assistant District Engineer at Southport. We wish him good fortune in his new appointment.

Mr. Norman E. Jones is now Honorary Secretary of the E.I.B.A. Social Committee, having succeeded Mr. A. Nuttall.



# Contact

THE OFFICIAL STAFF MAGAZINE OF THE  
MERSEYSIDE AND NORTH WALES ELECTRICITY BOARD

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No. 8

## EDITORIAL

### Freedom of Choice

THE policy of freedom of choice of fuel for cooking in the home has been accepted for a long time in government circles and by many of the more enlightened public authorities. There are, however, still some local authorities who take a shortsighted view on the tenant's right of adopting a freedom of choice between electricity and gas, and decide for him what fuel he shall use. Some local councils appear to be dogmatic in deciding that only gas is popularly demanded for cooking, whilst it is forgotten, conveniently perhaps, that in this modern age, more and more housewives prefer the cleaner and more economical form of cooking provided by electricity.

The industry has repeatedly protested against the action of certain Authorities who appear to discriminate in favour of

providing gas cookers only, so that the electrically-minded housewife has no option but to accept one in her new council house. This is contrary to the freedom of choice intended by the terms of the recently evolved working formula which has been generally accepted. Tenants on new housing estates should be given complete freedom of choice by local authorities to use electric cookers if they so desire.

The councils should remember that the cleanliness of electric cooking will in all probability save them expenditure on re-decoration and that freedom of choice will give deeper satisfaction to their tenants. Tenants also have the advantage that all their fuel costs, with the exception of coal, are presented in one bill, bringing economy.



By W. GILCHRIST (Chief Commercial Officer)

## Article 8—The Growth of the Board, Past and Future

One of the first things we did in 1948/49 was to estimate the growth of the load on the Board's distribution system, and the increase in the number of units to be sold for a period ten years ahead. From the evidence of the statistics relating to the undertakings which had been combined into the Board, they purchased in 1947/8 approximately 540 MWs and 2,466 million units, and it appeared that by the year 1957/8 we should have a load of 1,000 MWs, and would be selling 4,000 million units in that year.

How has this forecast turned out? To use a modern slang expression, the Board "hit the jackpot" in 1955/6—two years ahead of the estimate—for in that year we sold 4,151 million units, and the load required was 1,008 MWs.

This rapid growth of the Board's sales of electricity beyond what was anticipated is encouraging, and while we have been favoured by circumstances, much has been achieved by our own efforts. Some of the things which have favoured the increase of sales are—the growing awareness of the public that electricity is good, clean and cheap to use; the continued industrial prosperity and the large industrial developments in the Area; the extended rationing of solid fuel and at times its scarcity; the greater increases in the price of other fuels compared with that of electricity. On our part, by increasing the efficiency of the Board, we have been able to keep down the price of electricity; we have and continue to give better and quicker consumer service; we are selling increasing numbers of the large current consuming appliances, such as cookers and water-heaters; and we are endeavouring to continue to improve our relations with our consumers, so that they are becoming confident of our ability to give them what they want at the right price, and that the service we offer is second to none.

### Growth of Load and Sales

The following table shows the growth of load, units purchased, units sold and the average prices paid and received for electricity since 1948/9.

Year	Simultaneous Max. Demand	Units Purchased	Units Sold	Losses in Distribution	Price per Unit Purchased	Price per Unit Sold
	Megawatts	Millions	Millions	%	d.	d.
1948/49	601	2,770	2,485	10.30	0.650	1.080
1949/50	650	2,953	2,686	9.01	0.640	1.090
1950/51	679	3,361	3,050	9.25	0.656	1.089
1951/52	717	3,468	3,168	8.67	0.724	1.158
1952/53	743	3,349	3,052	8.86	0.770	1.277
1953/54	834	3,575	3,251	9.08	0.817	1.366
1954/55	915	4,112	3,766	8.42	0.837	1.306
1955/56	1,008	4,523	4,151	8.23	0.881	1.331
1956/57	1,032	4,764	4,430	7.01	0.943	1.373
Percentage increase since 1948/49						
	72%	72%	78%		45%	27%

From this table it will be seen that while our purchases have increased by 72%, our sales have increased by 78%, and this is one indication that the Board's efficiency has increased. It is also of interest to note that while the Board is paying 45% more for the energy they purchase, the price per unit sold has increased by only 27%.

### Increase in efficiency

Are we justified in claiming that the efficiency of the Board has increased? Let us look at a few of the facts which it is felt justify the claim.

From the table it will be seen that the losses in distribution have steadily declined since 1948/9, this has been achieved by reinforcing, extending and strengthening the Board's distribution system, and the monetary value of the savings achieved, in reducing the number of units lost, is now in the order of £300,000 per annum.

The Board are now selling 78% more units than in 1948/9, but the staff to deal with these has increased by only 26%. Sales of units per member of the employees of the Board was 387,000 in 1948/9, today it is 586,000. Again the number of consumers has risen by 37%, or for each employee the Board had 98 consumers connected in 1948/9, today the figure is 106.

Another indication of improved efficiency is the Board's costs per unit sold, other than for the purchase of energy; in 1948/9 these costs worked out at 0.332d. per unit sold, in 1956/7 they were still only 0.340d. per unit—a rise of 2.4%—despite increased costs of wages and salaries, materials, interest on capital, and all the other items which the Board has to pay for.

Many other factors have helped to improve our efficiency, e.g., printing a very large proportion of our own stationery, central purchasing of the main stock items, the use of standard materials and standard procedures throughout the Area. These and others all help to keep down costs, speed up the work and thus give the consumer more efficient and reasonably-priced service.

### Consumer Service

The Board are providing a better and fuller service to the consumer than ever before. The number of Electricity Service Centres has risen from 46 which vested in the Board, to 70 at the end of 1956/7, and there are very few consumers who are not within reasonable distance of one of these Centres, where they may obtain advice and guidance on all matters electrical. Many of the older Service Centres have been completely redecorated and modernised, and in particular, the Chairman, Mr. D. H. Kendon, has introduced a standard, modern, well designed shop front, which makes the Centres attractive and personal to the Board.

Local V.H.F. radio communication has been successfully introduced in all Sub-Areas, and today a consumer's complaint is dealt with in a matter of hours, sometimes even minutes, as against day or days in the earlier years of the Board.

With the reinforcing of the Board's distribution system, the voltage conditions at the consumer's premises has generally been much improved, and we can normally supply the consumer with as much power as he may require, though there are still a few places where this is not possible, notably in some rural areas and in small areas where D.C. supplies still exist.

For farmers we have a specialised staff who will advise on all the most up-to-date electrical methods for use on the farm, and this staff is being increased as the number of farms connected to the Board's system increases.

The Board have recently opened an Electrical Industrial Development Centre at Liverpool, where industrialists may see the very latest equipment

(concluded at foot of next page)

## Electronics for Everybody

### Further Success at the Industrial Development Centre

Manweb's new Electrical Industrial Development Centre staged its third specialised exhibition in June. This was run concurrently with the Liverpool Charter Exhibition 'Industry Advances', where the Board had a stand devised by No. 1 Sub-Area.

The theme of the demonstration at the Centre was "Electronics in Industry". Continuous demonstrations of industrial processes, such as hardening tools, brazing, plastic seam welding and electronic balancing were staged. In this way, visitors could see actual manufacture in progress.

Other exhibits featured closed loop television equipment, by which visitors were astonished (and disillusioned) to see themselves on a television screen, a 5 kW vibrator and associated equipment arranged to test a tape recorder chassis, and a wide range of electronic instruments.

The exhibition proved highly successful and during the three weeks it was open, more than 1,000 members of the general public and over 300 representatives of industrial firms attended, many coming from outside the Board's area. Parties of students from six local technical colleges and representatives of the North

(See the photograph opposite)

### Commercial Commentary—concluded

and applications of electricity to the processes of industry. This is a completely new service to a class representing the Board's most important consumers, and the Centre is the first of its kind in the North of England.

In the previous articles in this series we have dealt with various aspects of the Board's Commercial activities, but some of it will bear reiteration while we follow the development of the Board during its nine years of existence, and try to look into the future. We hope to cover this general field of development in the second part of the subject, which will be published in September.

Western, Midlands, South Wales and the Yorkshire Electricity Boards and the North Western Gas Board also visited the exhibition. The visiting guests from other Boards registered their appreciation of the enterprise shown.

The equipment shown in the demonstration was lent by Messrs. Radio Heaters Ltd., and Messrs. E.M.I. Ltd. through the good offices of their agents Messrs. West Lancs. Radio and Television Laboratories Ltd., who also supplied demonstration staff and whose help in this venture is very much appreciated. Our thanks are also due to Messrs. Wilkinsons Tools Ltd., who provided pliers for hardening, and an operator; Messrs. Clark Bros. Ltd. who provided plastic novelties for seam welding and several operators; Messrs. Langdons Ltd. who provided plastic raincoats for finishing by seam welding and several operators; to the Royal Ordnance Factory, Fazakerley, who provided parts of Stirling machine guns for brazing and an operator; and Messrs. Wolfe Tools Ltd., who provided armatures for balancing.

The co-operation of these firms greatly contributed to the success of the demonstration.



An operator hardening the cutting edge of pliers—a demonstration at the Industrial Development Centre. *Left to right*:— Mr. W. B. Parkinson (Assistant Chief Commercial Officer, Industrial Development); Mr. R. Northmoor and Mr. K. J. North of the West Lancs. Radio and Television Laboratories Limited; Mr. D. H. Kendon (Chairman of the Board) and Mr. W. Gilchrist (Chief Commercial Officer).

Mrs. J. A. Bevan, No. 1 Sub-Area Display Department, receiving the prize for a "Coldrator" window display at Whitechapel Service Centre from Mr. J. S. Porter, Sales Manager, Hotpoint Ltd. *Left to right*:— Mr. W. H. Lee (Display Dept.); Mr. O. G. Oliver (Whitechapel Service Centre); Mrs. Bevan; Mr. W. J. Forster (No. 1 Sub-Area Commercial Officer); Mr. H. J. Fraser (District Commercial Engineer) and Mr. Porter.



## The Oswestry District

The Board's Oswestry District, which covers the major part of Montgomeryshire and parts of Shropshire, Flintshire and Denbighshire, extends from north to south a distance of 65 miles and is approximately 45 miles across at its widest point. This area, geographically, is nearly one and a half times the total area covered by Nos. 1, 2 and 3 Sub-Areas put together!

The District Office is located at Oswestry, with Sub-District Offices and Service Centres at Whitchurch, Oswestry, Welshpool and Newtown. Each of these depots is over fifteen miles apart, and are in charge of a Section Engineer and Consumers' Engineer with the relative Sub-District Staff.

When the Board was formed in 1948 a great deal of the area was undeveloped. In June 1948 for example, the number of transformer points in the District was 193 with 10,805 consumers on supply. As the result of development, these numbers have been increased to 1,916 transformer points, supplying 27,508 consumers at the end of April 1957. The circuit lines have been increased since Vesting Date from 343 miles to 1,237 miles at the 30th April 1957.

Since the Nationalisation of the Industry, eleven Non-Statutory Supply Companies have been taken over on the Board's mains and the work in connection with the take-over of the last five companies at Llansantffraid, Overton-on-Dee, Llangynog, Penybontfawr and Llanrhaiadr was carried out and completed during the twelve months ended the 31st March last.

### A Happy Group at the Oswestry Office including some of the District and Sub-District Technical and Administrative Staff.

Left to right:  
Front Row: J. S. Evans, Asst. Cons. Engineer; B. Hughes, Sect. Engineer; R. J. Lewis, Clerk; F. O. Harber, District Engineer; W. Gandy, Clerk; K. Edwards, Asst. Sect. Engineer (Ops.); W. A. Williams, District Manager.

Second Row: J. G. Norbury, Asst. Cons. Engineer; H. G. Finchett, First Asst. Dist. Engineer; T. N. Farmer, First Asst. District Comm. Engineer; C. R. Pickavance, Clerk; G. Warburton, Dist. Senior Clerk.

Back Row: H. W. Gwilliam, Clerk; A. Hallam, Clerk; R. L. Howell, Records Draughtsman; D. P. Brooks, Asst. Sect. Engineer.



With regard to the North Wales development programme, up to date thirty-five sections have been selected, out of which work on sixteen sections has now been completed and work is now proceeding in five development sections, two of which are in Montgomeryshire, two in Flintshire and one in Shropshire. The construction staff in the District operate from two depots, located at Welshpool and Vauxhall, near Ruabon, with Assistant Construction Engineer, Mr. R. H. Woodall in charge at Welshpool and Mr. E. Corfield in charge of the Vauxhall staff.

The District is predominantly agricultural and important weekly markets are held at Oswestry, Whitchurch, Welshpool and Newtown. Amongst the larger consumers in the District is Ifton Colliery, Criggion Post Office Radio Station (which is mainly used for radio telephony service to the United States, Canada and other Dominions), and the famous Robert Jones and Agnes Hunt Orthopaedic Hospital at Gobowen. Lake Vyrnwy, from which Liverpool's fresh water supply is obtained, is also within the District boundaries.

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## "GETTING DOWN TO IT"

The Mold Sub-District Commercial Staff visit Llay Main Colliery, and prepare to "go down". Left to right:— Front Row: G. Williams, Mrs. M. Harrison, J. R. Cotgreave, D. Singleton. Second Row: J. Griffiths, N. S. Williams, G. K. Ellis, J. R. Evans, R. E. Williams, I. W. Griffiths. Back Row: K. Pritchard, G. Bowers and E. S. Wright.



## The South District of No. 1 Sub-Area

THE South District, which is one of the three districts into which Liverpool was divided in 1951, comprises the southern part of the City, and includes the towns of Prescot and Huyton and the intervening rural areas.

The area contains a great diversity of industrial load, ranging from the manufacture of glass bottles at Garston to numerous industrial enterprises on the Liverpool Corporation Industrial Estate at Speke, which is some 341 acres in extent and provides employment for a population equal to that of an average sized County Borough. A few miles away at Prescot is one of the world's largest manufacturers of electric cables, namely, British Insulated Callender's Cables Ltd., and at Speke the huge installation of the Dunlop Rubber Co. Ltd. is a familiar landmark.

The load of the industrial area is well balanced by extensive housing estates. Speke has houses and flats totalling over 5,250, with a population of over 22,000 persons which is a completely self-contained unit.

When the division into districts took place in April 1951, the number of consumers in the South District was approximately 79,000; today the figure is 91,000. The increase in consumers is due to normal servicing of existing property and the steady housing development in the area. Further development is scheduled in the Lee Park, Childwall Valley Road

and Halewood Districts and a gradual development in Huyton, Prescot and the Whiston Rural District.

There are Service Centres at Prescot, Huyton, Allerton, Old Swan, Garston and Speke, with a temporary Centre on the housing development site at Lee Park, Childwall.

Lister Drive Generating Station was the site chosen from which to administer the South District because this station was being replaced by a station of more modern design, and the last extension of the generating capacity of the station was completed in July 1926, when it was known as No. 3 Station. The No. 1 Station was under construction in 1900, and the No. 2 in 1904; both these Stations were dismantled and sold in July, 1938. Because of the four chimneys which originally graced this Station it became known as the "Four Sisters"; two of the chimneys were taken down during the war, two only now remaining.

### PHOTOGRAPHS OPPOSITE →

#### THE COMMERCIAL DEPT.

*Top.* Mr. G. J. Bulmer, the District Commercial Engineer, with his Secretary, Miss C. Southward, and First Assistant, Mr. A. Millington.

*Centre.* Another view of the South District's Commercial Clerical Dept. which deals with hundreds of diverse queries each day.

*Below.* In the foreground *left to right:* Messrs. N. J. Helsby, L. Hird, and W. Gregory.



# ***The Liverpool South District Engineering Department at Work***



**Pushing out the cable. Messrs. S. Barrow, M. J. Dunne, T. J. Stanton, H. C. McCarthy, and J. Milhench, working as a team somewhere in the wilds of the District. Phew! Warm work!**

**Mr. W. Doodson, Installations Inspection Engineer, poses with ladies of the clerical staff, Miss D. Hagan, Miss Lowe, Mrs. Blamire.**



**Mr. Ivor Davies, the South District Engineer, holding the telephone, and his Chief Clerk, Mr. H. L. Paterson, sorting out a knotty problem with the customary speed.**

**Left to right: Messrs. J. W. Jones (Jointer), O. McDermott, W. Littlemore and R. W. Brooks, setting out on a jointing expedition in the wilds of Prescot.**



**In the centre is Mr. S. Brownless (Jointer) with Left to right: Messrs. H. Cropper (Foreman), J. Sharpe, J. Simpson and G. Beckett.**



## A Sylvan District

Prior to the war, the workshops which normally operated from Pumpfields, Vauxhall Road, in the centre of the City, were transferred to Lister Drive. In addition a portion of the Lister Drive Station was used by Rootes Securities Ltd. for aircraft production and the present office floor formed the roof protecting Rootes.

Some of Liverpool's finest suburbs are situated in the South District. It is well wooded and contains vast open spaces with parks, woods and the Airport. Speke Hall, a beautiful example of period architecture, the grounds of which are the property of the National Trust, and run down to the river, is at the southernmost point of the District.

### Recent Developments

During the last three years 45 new brick-type sub-stations and about 35 miles of mains have been commissioned in addition to a programme of step up from 6 kV to 11 kV of 30 brick-type and 30 pole-type sub-stations and associated mains. During the same period a scheme for replacing the 22 kV supplies to the Prescott area by 33 kV with new primary sub-stations and with inter-connections to No. 2 Sub-Area was carried out. As part of this work, the first length of "oil-static" 33-kV cable (manufactured by B.I.C.C. in the South District area) to be put into use in this country was laid and is now in commission.

The Prescott area, incidentally, had until recently an extensive supply system with some rather

unusual features, using 2-kV single phase distribution feeding small sub-stations buried beneath the pavements. Although their placement of this system by the standard methods of supply is essential for present day loads, one cannot help feeling a certain regret at the ending of pioneer systems of this kind, which in the past have given such good service.

For the future, the increases in demand during the past few years have been such that a great deal of work will be necessary in the way of strengthening the supply network at all levels including injection at two or three points from the 132-kV system.

The senior positions in the District are held by Mr. I. Davies (District Engineer), who took over from Mr. A. R. Cooper, now Central District Engineer, on the 1st September, 1955; Mr. G. J. Bulmer (District Commercial Engineer), and Mr. E. Taylor (District Senior Clerk). There are 70 technical, clerical and administrative staff and 270 manual employees.

### PHOTOGRAPHS OPPOSITE →

*Top.* The ladies of the Typing Section: Miss Hales, Miss Houghton, Miss Jones and Mrs. Wareing.

*Centre.* A general view of the South District Commercial Clerical Section.

*Below.* The Records Section at work with left to right: Messrs. R. Kennedy, C. Kinrade, W. H. Smallwood (senior assistant) and J. Jevons.





## SOME SUPERSTITIONS AND MISCONCEPTIONS ABOUT ELECTRICITY

When the Board was faced, some time ago, by the threatened "go slow" in the generating stations of the C.E.A. during certain wage negotiations, a young journalist working on a well-known weekly newspaper in the Board's area telephoned to ask what would be the eventual effect of a "work to rule" decision on the supply of power to consumers. When she was told that the effect would be partial even if supply had to be restricted, her retort was nothing short of surprising—"Well, I suppose you have enough electricity *in stock* to last a few days"!! A happy thought but strongly indicative of an abysmal ignorance of electricity.

Then there was the housewife who was under the impression that every time you switched on, a unit of current was used automatically.

Another superstition (and a good one from a safety viewpoint) was held by the lady who believed that electricity "leaked" from exposed wires and who had carefully wrapped up the "leads" to fires, radio, television and iron with precisely cut lengths of cloth!

Mr. B. W. Alcock, 3rd Assistant Engineer (Planning) of No. 3 Sub-Area has sent us some amusing examples of the ideas that are held by people.

Due to a defective spring in the lighting switch of an attic room, the light was always delayed for a second or two before coming on. The maid of the house assured the electrician who went to investigate that the delay was due to the time taken for the electricity to come up from the cellar.

On another occasion on a Liverpool building site an electrician went to the general foreman's office hut to get a motor starter and a switch. These were found lying on the floor under the table and as they were rather cumbersome the electrician asked the office boy to give him a hand. He agreed readily enough until he saw what it was. Although there was not a cable in sight he refused to touch the material saying "If it's anything to do with the 'lecky' I'm not touching it".

A new cable was being laid to supply a pair of semi-detached houses. Whilst the jointer was down the hole preparing to connect the supply the Foreman called round and the jointer asked him "What phase shall I put it on?". The Foreman replied "The blue phase", whereupon the lady of the house, who was leaning out of a window, said, "I don't want blue lights".

Several householders have thought that if they hear the meters "humming" they are using current; and they have worried about this when all switches in the house have been off. There are thousands of people who believe that a radio set or a 40-watt lamp consume as much current as a 2 kW fire. And if they include the immersion water heater in their thoughts they must be slightly optimistic.

Of course, one of the most conspicuous and fallacious beliefs about 'electricity' is that if you arrange for a piece of metal chain to trail behind your car as you drive, you, and your fellow passengers, will be rendered immune from car sickness. The idea is supposed to be that the chain 'earths' any static electricity in the car. The best test for this fallacy is to surreptitiously remove the chain just before people who claim to be allergic to car sickness start the journey. They will travel equally well, or unwell, whether the car is 'earthed' or not. In any case many chains we have seen recently only barely touch the ground when a car is stationary; as soon as the car moves they trail "en plein air". A pretty illusion which seems to satisfy thousands of people. If you are worried about the effect of static electricity it's just as important to earth the cat or wear rubber boots while you stroke it! Stroking fur produces static electricity.

Not quite a superstition, but a mark of respect, was displayed by the lady in North Wales who only had one lighting point installed in the house. This was in the "parlour" and was only used on Sundays "and special occasions" whilst she continued to use oil lamps during the week!

Then there was the lady who kept all her electric lamps in the cupboard under the stairs because the local nurseryman had told her bulbs should be kept in a dark place!

The lady who went to the village shop to buy candles so that she could light the "electric globes" with them was obviously governed by a sense of tradition as, also, was the dear lady who boasted that the "new electric is wonderful: it hasn't gone out yet although I lit it four days ago!"

Then, there is the established belief that the electric main switch should be switched "off" during a thunderstorm to avoid "bringing the lightning in!"

It is probable that modern technical education and knowledge will soon disperse some of the ignorance that has prevailed for so long about electricity. Yet, it would seem remarkable that some of the fears that existed about electricity over half a century ago, should persist in this atomic age. The explanation may be that there is still a widespread ignorance of science as a whole; ignorance is a basis of mistrust.

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### ABOUT MARRIAGE

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"For in what stupid age or nation  
Was marriage ever out of fashion?"—*Samuel Butler*.

"Advice to those about to get married—'Don't!'"—*Punch*.

"A young man married is a man that's marred."—*Shakespeare*.

"Hanging and marriage go by destiny."—*Smollett*.

"Marriage has many thorns, but celibacy has no roses."—*Spanish Proverb*.

"Strange to say what delight we married people have to see these poor fools decoyed into our condition."—*Pepys*.

"Even if we take marriage at its lowest, even if we regard it as no more than a sort of friendship recognised by the police . . ."—*R. L. Stevenson*.

"Marriage is a desperate thing"—*Delden*

"Grief still treads upon the heels of pleasure,  
Married in haste, we repent at leisure."—*Congreve*.

"Though women are angels, yet wedlock's the devil."—*Byron*.

"Marriage is a wonderful institution—no family should be without it."—*Anon*.

"Getting married is like jumping into a river when you're thirsty."

"What is there in the vale of life  
Half so delightful as a wife."—*Cowper*.

Whatever you may think about this highly controversial subject, it is apparently here to stay, and the point we stress is—please let us have photographs or details of your wedding. Someone may be interested even if you are not!

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### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

If you feel inspired to release your inhibitions and irritations in the form of a letter, the Editor will be pleased to receive your outbursts. After scrutinising them carefully, with a view to removing libellous hints, defamatory statements and other dangers, they will be considered for publication in *Contact*. Any letters

submitted to the Editor will always receive sympathetic consideration.

\* \* \*  
A report of the Royal Welsh Show at Aberystwyth, with pictures, will appear in the September *Contact*.  
\* \* \*

For Sale. Pembroke Corgi Puppies, beautifully bred—red/white. Apply: Evans, Costs, Rhostyllen.



Mr. J. L. W. Ladner, Education and Training Officer (centre) and the instructors Mr. D. W. Foster and Mr. W. K. Appleton, at the Apprentices Training School, get down to some practical work with a drilling machine.



The hard-working ladies of No. 2 Sub-Area Headquarters Typing Pool. From left to right: Miss A. Ardern, Mrs. J. Powdrell, Miss J. Shufflebottom, Mrs. I. E. Owen, Mrs. G. Darlington and Mrs. J. Andrews.

## ***Hard at Work at Hoylake Training Centre***



*Above:* An intricate piece of jointing being demonstrated at the Jointing School.



*Left:* Mr. G. Gidman (Instructor) and two pupils in action on a demonstration pole.

The front cover picture is a close-up view of this photograph in case you thought we used a helicopter to get that picture!

## ***Behind the Scenes at Sandiway House***



Two modest 'Back-room Boys'—Mr. E. Hillidge and Mr. J. Wilson whose efforts in the Display Dept. are well-known throughout No. 2 Sub-Area and beyond!

# WIRES AND CABLES

FROM CORRESPONDENTS

## International Eisteddfod

The great international eisteddfod which was held at Llangollen during the week commencing 8th July was the eleventh and most successful ever held. This colourful and animated annual festival of music and dance drew thousands of visitors from most parts of Europe and the world. Manweb helped to promote the spirit of the event by floodlighting public buildings and monuments in the town.

\* \* \*

Congratulations to Mr. George Bryan (Board H.Q. Drawing Office) on becoming the proud father of a daughter, on 1st July, 1957.

\* \* \*

Mr. Frank Spence, who will be remembered as a member of No. 1 Sub-Area Headquarters Secretarial staff and a popular member of the Electron Players, has completed a three-year degree course at Liverpool University and been awarded the degree of Bachelor of Commerce. Frank has now returned to his desk at Hatton Garden—he was given leave of absence by the Board for his studies—and we offer our heartiest congratulations on his achievement.

*A full report with pictures of the International Eisteddfod held at Llangollen will appear in September. A report of the National Eisteddfod at Llangefni will be included in the next edition, also.*

Congratulations to the No. 1 Sub-Area Display Department which was successful in winning second prize in the recent Hotpoint—"Coldrator" window display competition.

The winning display (which was designed by Mrs. J. A. Bevan, and completely constructed and painted by the No. 1 Sub-Area Display Department) was installed at Whitechapel Service Centre where it attracted much public attention.

The presentation was made to Mrs. J. A. Bevan by Mr. J. S. Porter, Sales Manager, N.W. District, for Hotpoint Limited, and a photograph of the ceremony is published on page 239.

\* \* \*

Congratulations to Mr. T. Dutton, Senior District Clerk, Southport, who has been appointed Senior Assistant in the Establishments Department at Headquarters to succeed Mr. A. Nuttall.

\* \* \*

Welcome to Miss M. Tamlin, who joined Headquarters staff as a shorthand typist at the end of June.

\* \* \*

A revised list of *Contact* correspondents will be published in the September number. Several new correspondents have been appointed in various districts and the list published in September will be up to date.

Mrs. I. Dallow visited Chester and Headquarters in July to renew contact with her many friends on the Board staff. She was secretary to Mr. Parker prior to leaving the Board in 1952 to go to Singapore. She is now living in Bristol.

\* \* \*

Craft Apprentice, Mr. M. L. Hughes, Commercial Department, St. Helens, has been selected to take part in an Industrial Educational Tour of the Ruhr, organised by Messrs. Rubery Owen (Warrington) Ltd.

The tour takes place from the 20th July to 4th August 1957 and provides an opportunity for representatives of British youth employed in industry to meet their German counterparts and learn something of German industry and German youth activities.

\* \* \*

At Cilcain, near Mold, a switch-on ceremony and exhibition was held on the morning of Thursday, 11th July, when the electricity supply was made available to parts of Holywell rural district and Cilcain parish. The ceremony was performed by Councillor E. E. Worthington, Chairman of Cilcain Parish Council, supported by Councillor E. K. Turnour, Chairman, No. 4 Consultative Committee, Mrs. A. I. Roberts, Local Member, No. 4 Consultative Committee, Councillor R. C. Gwynfryn Jones, Chairman, Holywell R.D.C., Mr. N. Williams, Clerk, Holywell R.D.C., and Mr. R. Tyson, Clerk, Cilcain Parish Council.

\* \* \*

We extend congratulations to Colonel J. F. Williams-Wynne, a member of the Board, who has

been appointed Lord Lieutenant of Merioneth, to succeed Lord Harlech.

\* \* \*

The press, in reporting violent thunderstorms which occurred during the night of Wednesday, 3rd July, extended warm praise to Manweb engineers and men who were engaged during the night in restoring interrupted supplies. The press said "the prompt action of the Manweb engineering teams in parts of North Wales limited interruption of supplies to very short periods, in many cases as little as fifteen minutes. This is a creditable piece of work".

\* \* \*

Mr. Norman Browne who is a Messenger in the North Wirral District of the No. 3 Sub-Area, is now a teacher of singing at Wallasey. He also teaches at Wigan and one of his pupils achieved fame in June by winning the Howard Keel Singing Contest. This was Freddie Shaw of Ashton-in-Makerfield. Mr. Browne was responsible for Mr. Shaw's training and he also taught him Italian. Mr. Browne himself has been a professional operatic singer and his wife was one time a soprano in the Carl Rosa Opera Company.

\* \* \*

New forms for the use of *Contact* correspondents will be available shortly through Area Managers. These forms are designed to assist our hardworking correspondents to keep the Editor fully informed of the "goings on" in the various districts of the Board. If correspondents have any observations which they wish to make, on the usefulness of the forms, the Editor will be pleased to hear from them.

## CRICKET

### A CLOSE FINISH

The annual cricket match of the Southport District, between "Lords" and "Grand", took place on the 4th July and produced an exciting game.

Outstanding performers were, T. Dutton with a score of 23 and a bowling analysis of 7 wickets for 25 runs. Other scorers were T. Broughton (19), H. Howard (22) and W. Mawdsley (14).

Mrs. H. Davies, wife of the District Manager, made the presentation of the "Cinders" Trophy to skipper T. Dutton of the "Lords" team and there were light refreshments and a social evening to follow.

#### "LORDS"

Bell c. Rimmer b. Mellor	...	2
Pace b. Mellor	...	0
Smith b. Ashby	...	1
Foulkes c. Rigby b. Ashby	...	3
Osbaldeston c. Rigby b. Mellor	...	5
Taylor, b. Rigby	...	9
Dutton b. Ashby	...	23
Broughton run-out	...	19
Davies b. Mellor	...	0
Webb Jones not out	...	1
Marsh c. and b. Ormerod	...	0
Extras	...	13
Total	...	76

Mellor 4 for 21; Ashby 2 for 11; Rigby 1 for 25; Mawdsley 0 for 13; Ormerod 1 for 6.

#### "GRAND"

Bolton b. Broughton	...	0
Ormerod b. Dutton	...	1
Howard b. Dutton	...	22
Ashby b. Dutton	...	4
Aspinall b. Broughton	...	2
Mellor b. Dutton	...	11
Mawdsley c. Osbaldeston	...	14
b. Dutton	...	1
Wrigley b. Dutton	...	0
Rigby b. Dutton	...	0
Rimmer b. Broughton	...	3
Dickinson not out	...	2
Extras	...	10
Total	...	70

Broughton 3 for 35; Dutton 7 for 25.

## LIVERPOOL NALGO

The Liverpool Electricity Branch of Nalgo were narrowly beaten in the North Western Knock-out Competition by Cheshire County Council Branch, at Hoole, on 26th June, 1957.

Batting first in a 20-over game, Liverpool made 80, E. V. Owen (Love Lane) being top scorer with 24. Other run-getters were T. Jones (Lister Drive) 20, and J. Thompson (Love Lane) 16 not out.

The result was in doubt until the last ball of the match, as there were five Cheshire County wickets down for 30 runs, but a sixth wicket stand saw the runs knocked off with only one ball to spare. M. Caird (Marsh Lane) and T. Jones were the wicket takers.

\* \* \*

### RETIREMENT OF MR. J. G. CORRIGAN

Mr. J. G. Corrigan, Section Engineer, Southport District, has retired and last month Mr. P. Bregazzi presented him with two electric blankets from his colleagues in the District and Sub-Area.

Mr. Corrigan was formerly with the Formby Urban District Council, with whom he had served since 1930, joining the Southport District Engineering staff in 1948.

At the presentation, Mr. H. Davies (District Manager), Mr. F. S. Boddington (District Engineer) and Mr. W. T. Gann (former Southport District Manager) spoke in appreciation of Mr. Corrigan's services to the Electricity Supply Industry.



Mr. and Mrs. B. Griffiths

Mr. and Mrs. L. Griffiths

## Weddings in No. 4 Sub-Area

Miss Doreen Morris, of the Cost Department, and Mr. Brian Griffiths, of the Commercial Department, No. 4 Sub-Area Office, were married at St. Tudfil's Church, Coedpoeth, near Wrexham on 22nd June, 1957. On behalf of her colleagues Miss Morris was presented with a pressure cooker and door chimes by Mr. Tolson, Cost Accountant. Mr. Griffiths was presented with an electric kettle by Mr. O. L.

Ritchie, Sub-Area Commercial Officer.

Miss Beryl Fitzgerald of the Cost Department Machine Room, No. 4 Sub-Area Office, was married to Mr. Leslie Griffiths, B.A., of Brynteg, Wrexham, at St. Mary's Pro-Cathedral, Wrexham, on 22nd April, 1957. On behalf of her colleagues, Mr. Tolson, the Cost Accountant, presented her with an electric steam iron.

### ELECTRICITY TO THE RESCUE

Manweb came to the rescue of the Llangollen police on the evening before the opening of last month's International Musical Eisteddfod. An urgent message to Mr. K. Griffiths, Section Engineer, requested the fixing of a spotlight beamed on the constable on point duty who was directing the continuous flow of vehicles over the Dee Bridge. Traffic was dense and the traffic police on duty had

been in danger of extermination from lack of illumination.

\* \* \*

### NEW GLASS FACTORY

The new glass factory built by the Chance-Pilkington organisation at St. Asaph came into operation early in July and is now producing a fine quality glass and using a large input of electricity which has been supplied by No. 4 Sub-Area. This factory is one of the most up-to-date high-grade glass factories in Europe.

## THE "CONTACT" PHOTOGRAPHIC COMPETITION 1957

As announced initially in the May edition of *Contact*, a Photographic Competition has been organised, open to all members of the Manweb staff. It is hoped as many members as possible will decide to send in original photographs as entries.

### Competition Rules

1. There will be two separate classes for black and white prints, or enlargements:

**Class A**—Photographs of Manweb activities and events, including general photographs of an electricity interest, which need not necessarily feature Manweb.

**Class B**—For general photographs on any subject of choice.

2. All photographs submitted for competition must be the original work, and the copyright property of the member of staff who enters them.

3. There will be prizes of Premium Bonds for the first, second and third best entries in each of the two classes:

1st Prize will be THREE Premium Bonds;

2nd Prize will be TWO Premium Bonds;

3rd Prize will be ONE Premium Bond.

4. Competitors must state clearly the Class they wish to enter.

5. Any number of entries may be submitted by one individual.

6. Competitors must enclose a note with entries stating, clearly, name, address (either office or home) and the title of each picture.

7. The Competition will be judged by three independent judges whose names will be announced in due course.

8. Last date for entries will be 30th September, 1957.

9. The greatest care will be taken of entries, all of which will be returned.

10. Entries to be sent to The Editor, *Contact*, M.A.N.W.E.B., Love Lane, Liverpool 3.

*Below: Mr. G. Hickling, of the Central Council of Physical Recreation, demonstrating at Warrington the correct method of "cutting" a cable drum.*



# Contact



PHONE TAPPING SCARE? (see page 250)

*The Staff Magazine of the Merseyside  
and North Wales Electricity Board*

AUGUST, 1957



THREEPENCE