

An Invitation to Retired Employees

This is an official invitation to all MANWEB retired employees to attend one of the Employees' Annual Meetings held in the Board's area.

The Secretaries of each of the Local Advisory Committees, who organise the conferences, have some difficulty in reaching all the retired people to whom they would like to send an invitation, so through 'Contact' we extend their invitation to you all.

Each District and Head Office have their own meeting, *dates and venues are given opposite*, and you are invited to attend the one nearest your former workplace or the one nearest your present home.

If you would like to take this opportunity to meet again with your former colleagues, fill in the coupon below and send it to the Secretary of the Local Advisory Committee whose meeting you wish to attend and he will send you a programme.

Some Districts may be organising some form of transport so if you want details of this, tick the square on the coupon.

Should you require any more information please telephone or write to the Editor of 'Contact.'

The dates for the Meetings are as follows:

Local Advisory Committees

No. 1 L.A.C., North Mersey District
Bridle Road
Bootle, Lancs L30 4XA

No. 2 L.A.C., Liverpool District
Lister Drive
Liverpool L13 7HJ

No. 3 L.A.C., Mid-Mersey District
Wilderspool Causeway
Warrington WA4 6QD

No. 4 L.A.C., Dee Valley District
Rhostyllen
Wrexham, Clwyd

No. 5 L.A.C., North Wirral District
Craven Street
Birkenhead L41 4TB

No. 6 L.A.C., Mid-Cheshire District
Macon Way
Crewe, Cheshire

No. 7 L.A.C., Clwyd District
Cefndy Road
Rhyl, Clwyd

No. 8 L.A.C., Gwynedd District
St. Helens Road
Caernarfon, Gwynedd

No. 9 L.A.C., Oswestry District
Maesbury Road
Oswestry, Salop SY10 8HA

No. 10 L.A.C., Aberystwyth District
Mill Street
Aberystwyth, Dyfed

No. 11 L.A.C., Head Office
Sealand Road
Chester CH1 4LR

Details of Meetings

October or November
Place to be
fixed later

14th October 1976
Dovedale Towers
Penny Lane, Allerton

8th October 1976
Wilderspool Leisure Centre
Warrington

14th October 1976
Memorial Hall
Wrexham

Date and time to be
fixed for the
New Year

22nd October 1976
Crewe Arms Hotel
Nantwich Road, Crewe

15th October 1976
The Queen's Hotel
Rhyl

26th November 1976
Venue to be
decided later

17th September 1976
Victoria Rooms
Pedigree Hotel, Oswestry

Date and time to be
arranged later with
the C.E.G.B.

Mid-November
Head Office
Restaurant

CUT HERE

NAME (BLOCK CAPITALS)

ADDRESS

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.....

Transport required ☐

I wish to attend the Meeting

being held at:

.....

.....

My former work place was:

.....

CONTACT

August 1976

Wirral's First Citizens (see page 164)



OUR ANNUAL REPORT

The Chairman Comments



1975/76 was another difficult year for the electricity supply industry. After several years of Government-imposed restraint the price of electricity to domestic customers is now reaching a more realistic level. The impact of sharp price increases, combined with continued industrial recession, has led to falling demand for electricity and to problems for many categories of MANWEB employees.

Large financial deficits, incurred through no fault of our own, have been bad for electricity's public image and not helpful to our own morale. During the past year falling demand and the need to make minimum payments to the Generating Board have led to a collective deficit for Area Boards. Overall, however, electricity supply recorded a small profit. We can hope that future years will see a return to full profitability.

Our future performance is still dependent, to a very large extent, on external factors. Control of inflation is essential to the financial health of electricity, while a general upturn in the economy, and a resurgence in industry in particular, are essential if we are to return to a pattern of expansion and progress.

The Board appreciate the way in which MANWEB staff have responded to the problems of recent years. Those qualities of loyalty and adaptability will serve us well in making the most of the opportunities which will come in the better economic times which must surely lie ahead.

Denis Dodds

(See pages 170 to 173)



THE STAFF MAGAZINE OF THE
MERSEYSIDE AND NORTH WALES ELECTRICITY BOARD

CONTACT

Vol. 28 No. 8

August 1976

Editorial

The Angry Majority

THE MILLION honest people who make up the overwhelming majority of MANWEB's domestic customers include many people of limited means—old age pensioners among them. Despite their difficulties in making ends meet, they pay their electricity bills promptly and fully.

All these people will be most interested to learn that they are subsidising a small dishonest minority of "meter-fiddlers" to the tune of about £1.50 a head per year. They will also be considerably annoyed.

They will quickly come to the conclusion that the word "fiddler" does not do justice to the small-time twisters who are currently abstracting £1,500,000-worth of free electricity from the system each year. They will regard the word "thieves" as a more accurate description, and they will be quick to recognise that it is their pockets which are being dipped into.

MANWEB's efforts to stamp out "meter-fiddling," including the prosecution of offenders, will secure the full support of all reasonable people, who naturally resent having to foot the bill.

The honest silent majority would not welcome the warning that an extra £6.5 million a year would have been added to their financial burden if MANWEB had been deprived of the power to disconnect supplies for non-payment.

They will welcome the Government's recent decision to relieve the winter fuel problems of needy people by subsidising the electricity bills of those receiving supplementary benefit or family income supplement, rather than by depriving fuel boards of their ultimate deterrent to dishonesty and irresponsibility.

(See pages 170 and 180)

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Editorial Staff

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

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.

PUBLIC SERVICE

EVERYONE who works for MANWEB, whether you are in direct contact with the public or not, is a public servant in his or her daily working life. A few members of our staff continue their service to the public into their lives away from the office or yard. They serve the public as members or officers on many of the varied local Councils throughout the Board's area.

Here we pay tribute to these colleagues who give so much of their time and energy to serving their fellow beings full time.

Head Office:

Mr. Keith Baldwin, Executive Officer, Press and Information. *Member of Delyn Borough Council.*
Mr. Bill Copeman, engineering draughtsman. *Clerk to Marton, Winsford, Parish Council.*
Mr. Brian Livesey, Work Study Officer. *Member of Weaverham Parish Council.*
Mr. John Myers, principal assistant—Revenue. *Member of Wrexham Maelor District Council.*
Mr. Don Roberts, admin. assistant—Revenue. *Vice-Chairman of Abebury Community Council.*
Mr. Ron B. Rose, admin. assistant, (Est. & Way.). *Member of Wrexham Maelor District Council.*
Mr. Cliff Shone, asst. storekeeper, Queensferry. *Member of Alyn and Deeside District Council.*
Mr. Malcolm Whalley, senior eng.—Industrial. *Chairman of Anderton Parish Council.*
Mr. Frank Williams, clerical assistant—Revenue. *Member of Cuddington Parish Council.*

Liverpool District:

Mrs. Lillian Denne, sales assistant, St. Johns shop. *Member of Lydiate Parish Council.*
Mr. Edward Bostock, 2nd engineer—Production. *Chairman of Lydiate Parish Council.*
Mr. Reg Cumpstey, 2nd engineer—System. *Member of Hale Parish Council.*

Mid-Mersey District:

Mr. Arthur Parr, meter reader, Runcorn area. *Member of Halton Borough Council.*

Dee Valley District:

Mr. Edward Peter Frost, ch/hand electrician. *Vice-Chairman East Saltney Community Council.*
Mr. John Jones, ch/hand meter reader/collector. *Chairman, Waverton Parish Council.*
Mr. Allan Pritchard, meter reader/collector. *Member of Flint Community Council.*
(all the above based at New Crane Street)
Mr. William Rhys Thomas, storekeeper, Legacy. *Member of Clwyd County Council.*

Clwyd District:

Mr. Ivan Cen Evans, jointer's mate. *Member of Rhuddlan Borough Council.*

Gwynedd District:

Mr. Gordon E. Barlow, ch/hand storekeeper, Llangefni. *Member of Llangefni Town Council.*
Mr. Emlyn Jones, shop supervisor, Bangor. *Clerk to Bethesda Community Council.*
Mr. Francis Jones, eng. foreman, Caernarfon. *Member of Arfon District Council.*
Mr. Ken Owen, mechanical fitter, Llangefni. *Member of Carrig Ceinwen Community Council.*
Mr. Robert H. Parry, storekeeper, Llangefni. *Member of Llanfair M.E. Community Council.*

Oswestry District:

Mr. Bill Morris, records draughtsman. *Mayor of Welshpool for a second term.*
Chairman of Oswestry Town Council.
Member of Montgomery District Council.
Mr. Owen Jones, meter reader/collector. *Member of Oswestry Borough Council.*
Mr. Don Wade, energy sales engineer. *Member of Pant and Llanymynech Parish Council.*
Mr. George Wild, material controller. *Member of Oswestry District Council.*

Aberystwyth District:

Mr. E. W. R. (Iuaen) Davies, driver. *Member of Mefenydd Community Council.*
Mr. Arthur Morgan, 3rd engineer—System. *Member of Ceredigion District Council, Dyfed.*
Mr. Alun Morris, storekeeper, Dolgellau. *Member of Llanelltyd Community Council.*

OUR COVER PICTURE shows Wirral's new Mayor and Mayoress, **Councillor John Evans** and his wife, **Iris**. John has served the public for over fifty years—in his working life first with the Birkenhead Corporation Electricity Department and later with MANWEB. He retired from his post as principal administrative officer for our North Wirral District four years ago.

In the proposal for his mayoralty it was said, "I doubt whether there is anyone in local government today who has had as lengthy or detailed knowledge of both sides of public service."

We are sure that John's many friends in MANWEB will join us in congratulating him on his achievements and wishing him every success during his year of office.

Picture by 'Birkenhead News'



TICKER STOPPED

A FEW weeks ago there was a strong rumour around that **Mr. Dave Jones**, supervisor at our shop in Shotton, had passed away. His tremendous popularity was proved by the number of friends who telephoned to the shop staff—to check and pass on their condolences—only to be happily surprised to hear Dave's familiar and cheerful voice at the other end of the line.



Both tickers going nicely. **Mr. Dave Jones** stands by the famous MANWEB clock outside our Shotton shop.

Having had prior warning of the rumour, Dave had plenty of laughs out of it although for a week, he was up early every morning in order to catch the mail at home before his wife could get to it, just in case there was a letter with a black border.

Coincidental with the rumour of Dave's demise, the well-known MANWEB clock outside the Shotton shop stopped ticking. This caused an immediate uproar from the 'locals' and from the press.

The Deeside Advertiser said... "Deesiders are missing a local landmark this week—the MANWEB clock at Shotton by which thousands of motorists time the minutes they spend in traffic jams."

A lady living across the way in an upstairs flat told Dave that she always used the MANWEB clock. Just a glance out of her window and there was the correct time. With our clock out of commission she now had to think of buying her own!

The MANWEB clock was once a star witness in a local murder trial when **Mr. Joe Forrester** (now Dee Valley District installation engineer) had

to go to court and testify to its accuracy on a certain date.

As all the hubbub was going on the clock itself was being renovated by the CEGB instrument department at Connah's Quay. Later our own Test House boffin, **Mr. Tom Owen** was called in to eliminate one or two 'gremlins' which had crept into the works.

Now, the clock is back in full service—just like Dave.

Incidentally, never try to talk to Dave outside his shop. Every car driver—even the Crosville 'bus drivers—give him a pip and a wave. It's so off-putting when trying to get a story!

Aye Aye Conger

A 25lb, six-foot conger eel was the catch of the day for **Mr. Ray Morgan** on a recent fishing trip organised by the MANWEB (Chester) Sports and Social Club's Fishing Section.

Ray, a clerical assistant in the Printing Section, landed the monster conger from the deep, some 11 miles out to sea off the Great Orme. Other Club members in the 30-foot boat nearly jumped overboard when Ray, helped by skipper Mr. John Roberts, hauled the catch aboard.

The huge mouth, with its snappy nasty teeth, induced a certain amount of caution into Ray's fellow anglers as they left the skipper to stun the creature.

Even though it was kept wet,



Ray Morgan finds that holding up a 25lb six-foot conger eel quite a strain while our photographer snaps his picture.

the conger began to lose weight and size visibly. Eventually, it was taken ashore and weighed at the Bridge Inn where Ray footed the bill for a round of drinks.

Quick Thinker

While working in the wilds of our Aberystwyth District a few weeks ago, Head Office engineering draughtsman **Mr. Tony Thakray** was faced with a scary situation when his colleague **Mr. Bill Copeman** after saying he felt poorly, slumped over the wheel of his car.

Suspecting a heart attack,

Tony had to act fast. Although a stranger to the area he remembered passing a fire station along the road.

As he drove into the station, the firemen were carrying out an exercise in the yard. Tony quickly explained the emergency and within minutes an ambulance was on the scene and whisking Bill safely to hospital.

We are pleased to report that Bill is now back home and well on the road to recovery.

Back to the Land

The pull of his first love—farming, has taken **Mr. Dylan Jones**, away from his job as a clerk in our Clwyd District consumers' accounts section.

A very popular young man since he first joined the Board just over two-and-a-half years ago, Dylan will be missed by his friends.

He has many 'outside' interests including membership of a Young Farmers Club, a local dramatic society and a folk dance team. He has participated as a folk dancer in the Welsh National Eisteddfod.

We also hear that he has a talent as a disc jockey and that he can push back a pint or two. With this in mind his friends at Cefndy Road office thought that a farewell gift of a tankard would be most appropriate, and this was presented to



Squash racket competition organiser, **Mr. Terry Keenan**, centre, looks on as finalist **Mr. Ian Ince**, left, congratulates **Mr. Phil Ramsey** on his win.



Popular young man at Clwyd District, **Mr. Dylan Jones**, left, is presented with farewell gifts from his colleagues by **Mr. George Cooksley**.

Dylan on their behalf by **Mr. George Cooksley** (District Administrative Officer).

Champion

The squash rackets champion of the first competition organised by **Mr. Terry Keenan**, secretary of the Squash Section of the MANWEB (Chester) Sports and Social Club was **Mr. Phil Ramsey** an engineer working in the Technical section.

In the early rounds held at the Christleton Leisure Centre, 19 players competed in a knockout contest of six rounds covering 18 matches in all.

The final match between Phil and **Mr. Ian Ince** of Estates and Wayleaves section, was played at the West Cheshire Squash Rackets Club. Phil won the title in three straight sets.

Riding on the success of this competition, Terry is now trying to organise an all-MANWEB Squash Rackets Championship. He would like to hear from players throughout the Board's area who would like to enter.

Contact him at Head Office, energy sales—Industrial section (2415) or Phil Ramsey on 2627.

New Man Takes Over

Recently appointed District Commercial Engineer for our Oswestry and Aberystwyth Districts is **Mr. Lyn Price**, who moves from his post as installation engineer in our Clwyd District.

Lyn began his working life as an apprentice electrician with the former Penmaenmawr UDC in February 1942. Six years later, on nationalisation of the industry, he transferred, as an electrician, to the former Cae'narfon District, later the Conway Valley District.

He then held various posts—sales representative, consumers engineer, etc, etc—until he moved to Rhyl as installation engineer with the merging of the former Conway Valley and Clwyd Districts in 1971.



On leaving Clwyd District to take up his new post at Oswestry, **Mr. Lyn Price**, right, is presented with a parting gift from the staff by **Mr. David Mellor**.

Lyn's interests are in boating—once yachts now power boats—and cricket—a former player with Llandudno and Conway.

Colleagues at Cefndy Road subscribed to present him with some farewell gifts including an electric shaver and a tankard. These were handed over on their behalf by **Mr. David Mellor** (District Commercial Engineer).

LIVERPOOL DISTRICT B.E.M.

Colleagues at Lister Drive, Liverpool, gather round as **Mr. Charlie Donovan** (District Engineer), left, congratulates **Mr. Charlie Davies** (chargehand labourer) on his award of the British Empire Medal (Civil) in the recent Birthday Honours List.



Senior Admin. Appointment

Following the recent retirement of **Mr. R. D. Thomas**, the man appointed to succeed him as Assistant Secretary (General Administration) is **Mr. Thomas D. Hamilton**.

A Scotsman, Mr. Hamilton holds a Classical Masters Degree from Glasgow University and he is a qualified accountant. Before joining MANWEB in 1960, he worked for the South of Scotland Electricity Board. Six years ago he was appointed as Liverpool District Administrative Officer.

In his spare time he works



Assistant Secretary, **Mr. Tom Hamilton**.

for the Trinity Claughton United Reform Church and he also enjoys gardening and wine-making.

Before leaving the many friends he has made in the Liverpool District, he was presented with a farewell gift and their best wishes for his success in his new post.

At the ceremony, Mr. Hamilton's successor as Liverpool District Administrative Officer,

Mr. Peter Falcon, was warmly welcomed.

Peter moves over from his post as Mid-Cheshire District Administrative Officer where **Mr. Dennis Hodgetts** returns to his old office at Macon Way.

Five-a-Side

North Mersey District Sports and Social Club's second annual Five-a-Side football tournament held a few weeks ago in the Vernon Sangster Sports Hall, was won by the "Service Men,"

They were easy and worthy winners, beating the "Linesmen" in the final by five goals to nil.

Nine teams competed in some very exciting and close games, many being decided on penalties.

The holders of the trophy, the "Meter Collectors" were beaten in the first round by the "Meter Readers." The surprise team of the evening were the "Linesmen," who reached the final by playing some good football and netting some great goals.

The boys from "Bootle Shop," although beaten in their first game, won all their remaining games to finish top of the losers league.

North Mersey District's Five-a-Side Champions—"The Service Men." From left to right, standing: Messrs. Roger Dutton, Paul Clare and Harry Mussell. Squatting: Messrs. Brian Murrow (captain) and his brother Kevin Murrow.



The two semi-finals were of a very high standard, both being decided on penalties. "Meter Readers" were beaten by the "Linesmen"—five goals to four, and "Service Men" beat "Dereks Dynamos" by eight goals to seven.

Stork Visit

Our congratulations to **Chris Kavanagh** and his wife Janet on the birth of their son, David Joseph, a short time ago.

Chris works as a 2nd engineer—Production, in our Liverpool District.

OF COARSE!

We thank all the angling enthusiasts who took the trouble to let us know that the art of fishing for finny specimens not otherwise classed as game fish or sea fish comes under the blanket description of "Coarse Fishing"—spelled like that and not "Course" as printed in error in the July Contact.

Single examples of bad spelling usually enable us to pass the buck to the printer, but as this howler was in the headline and also in the story which followed we can only put it down to the heatwave!

On the Mend

A popular member of our Estates and Wayleaves section, **Mr. Gordon Fraser** is now out of hospital following his coronary attack. Good wishes for a speedy recovery from his colleagues and ourselves.

Hole in One

In the Sid Barclay's Captain's Day competition held at Oswestry Golf Club a few weeks ago, **Mr. Trevor Edwards**, one



Guests of honour Mr. and Mrs. Ron Williams, centre, at the big night out organised for them by their friends in our Aberystwyth and Oswestry Districts on the occasion of Ron's departure to take over as District Commercial Engineer at Dee Valley.

of our Dee Valley District energy sales engineers, shot a hole in one at the 163 yard ninth.

*Dymuniadau Gorau R.A.

Before taking up his new duties as Dee Valley District Commercial Engineer, **Mr. Ron Williams** had to face farewell parties organised by his friends and colleagues in his former Districts—Oswestry and Aberystwyth.

At the final celebration held at an hotel in Aberystwyth, Ron was joined by his wife as guests of honour at a social evening.

Many friends from Oswestry District travelled to this party—to make sure that he didn't change his mind—and they heard **Mr. David Bennion** (Installation Engineer) sum up everyone's feelings at their

loss of a very popular D.C.E.

Ron received a number of parting gifts—both decorative and useful—from the staff in both Districts.

With such wonderful 'send-offs,' R.A. must know that he will be most welcome to pay a return visit to these Districts whenever he can make it.

* "Best Wishes R.A."

Cricket Challenge

Although rather late in the season, and with their match with the West Indies cancelled, a cricket team from our Liverpool District offer a challenge to teams from Head Office or any of our other Districts to a match—home or away. Contact **Phil Smith** on 722.

In order to sort out their run-getters from the 'rabbits,' two teams were formed, from Engineers and from Drawing

Office, to play in a match at Thingwall Road recently.

One cert for the District team will be **Phil Smith** (engineering clerical) who knocked-up 37 runs, and carried his bat.

At the end of a very good match, Engineers ran out worthy winners. But, take heart you lads from the Drawing Office, a return match is being organised.

For Sale

As new—June 1976. Vauxhall Cavalier GL. Metallic gold 480 miles, 20 days use only. Reason for selling—owner's sudden death. Cost on road £2,600. Reduced price £2,300 o.n.o. 'Phone Wrexham 54154.

Loft ladder in aluminium. Pull down type. Cost £20 plus. Will sell for £10. View anytime at 80 Clwyd Court, Prestatyn. 'Phone Prestatyn 5162.

FAREWELLS TO No. 4 L.A.C.

Our picture, below, was taken at a recent meeting of the No. 4 (Dee Valley) Local Advisory Committee when **Mr. Ken Helliwell** (then Group Manager) and **Mr. Joe Winchester** (then District Commercial Engineer) were making their last appearances before their respective retirement and new appointment.

From left to right are: **Mr. Doug Barnes**, **Mrs. Jackie Pemberton**, Messrs. **Tony Shell**, **John Morris** (Corwen), **Len Ridgway** (Chester), **Fred Huxley** (Chester), **Ron Graves** (Chester), **Ken Helliwell** (LAC Chairman), **Keith Griffiths** (LAC Secretary), **Len Walley**, **Gordon Harris** (Legacy) and **Noel Morris** (Legacy), **Mrs. Dorothy Wyatt** (Queensferry), Messrs. **E. T. Peters** (District Engineer) and **Joe Winchester**.

Another member of the Committee, **Mr. Max Cooksley** from Queensferry, was otherwise engaged in taking this picture.



Crackdown on 'Meter Fiddlers' Promised

VIGOROUS new measures to stamp out the increasing prevalence of electricity theft by "meter fiddling" were promised by MANWEB Chairman Mr. Denis Dodds, speaking at a Press Conference in Liverpool on July 28th. The occasion was the publication of the Board's Annual Report and Accounts for 1975/76.

A dozen or so meters, all tampered with in some way, to make them "under-record" the amount of electricity used, were available for inspection by representatives of the press and broadcasting organisations. Revelation of the fact that meter-fiddling is now estimated to be costing MANWEB's honest customers around £1,500,000 a year provoked widespread interest among the newsmen, and the Chairman was interviewed for both BBC and Granada television programmes, as well as by representatives of local radio and BBC Wales (in the "Good Morning Wales" programme).

The Chairman told the pressmen that over the past two or three years it was estimated that the proportion of consumers tampering with credit meters has risen from 1% to 3%. Some methods of interference were crude and easy to detect, while others were more sophisticated and indicated that those responsible had some degree of technical knowledge. All involved the breaking of seals and damage to meters—and all were dangerous!

Mr. Dodds pointed out that the losses sustained as a result of these dishonest activities had to be paid for by the vast majority of honest customers, including pensioners and people in other low-income groups. In view of this alarming trend special inspection teams were being set up in all MANWEB Districts, and every practicable step—including the prosecution of offenders—would be taken to stamp out these practices.

Answering questions, the Chairman said that "meter-fiddling" was not confined to any particular parts of the MANWEB area or to any particular classes of people.

Asked why these dishonest practices were increasing, the Chairman said that while sharply-increased electricity prices might have played some part there might have been a change in the attitudes of some people as a result of a belief in certain

quarters that fuel supplies were a "basic human right," rather than commodities which had to be paid for. Some people who might not dream of stealing a penny from a neighbour might adopt an entirely different standard of morality when dealing with large organisations—such as Electricity Boards.

Referring to recent pressures for Electricity Boards to be deprived of their powers to disconnect supplies for non-payment, the Chairman warned that if such a situation came about the general body of prompt-paying MANWEB customers would have to foot the bill for lost revenue, reduced cash-flow and increased interest charges, estimated to cost about £6.5 million a year.

Added Mr. Dodds: "We believe that the power to disconnect supplies for non-payment is a necessary protection for responsible consumers against the irresponsible, and that selective support for people in genuine need, through Government welfare agencies, is preferable to unselective measures which also benefit the irresponsible."

It had been suggested that the increased use of slot meters, or action in the courts to recover debt, were possible alternatives to disconnection action, said the Chairman.

He went on to warn that last year some 6,000 locks on MANWEB slot meters were broken, and the cash removed, while experience had shown that instalment orders by Courts were an utterly ineffective way of recovering debts while supplies of electricity were maintained.

OTHER POINTS FROM THE PRESS CONFERENCE

- * The Electricity Supply Industry as a whole made a small profit of £8.5 million last year. Area Boards collectively incurred losses, balanced by the profits of the CEBG.
- * Sharp price increases, following five years of restraint, might create the impression that electricity was more expensive than it really was. In fact between 1948 and 1976 the Retail Price Index had risen by 351% while the price of electricity to domestic consumers had risen by only 242%. Off-Peak prices were likely to remain substantially lower than ordinary prices. When capital and running costs were taken into account the annual cost of an all-electric home (with storage heaters) was about the same as a gas/electric home.
- * Most Boards do not favour proposals to tax gas.
- * Control of inflation, and especially of the prices of coal and oil, was essential if electricity prices were to be stabilised.

MANWEB's ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS 1975/76

Facts and Figures

- * The total number of consumers rose to 1,174,506, compared with 1,160,294 the previous year.
- * Income from electricity sales totalled £218-million.
- * The average home used 4,061 units of electricity—the lowest figure for five years.
- * 370 kilometres of new electricity mains and 468 transforming points were added to the distribution network.
- * MANWEB now has 532 employees per 100,000 customers, compared with 1,016 in 1948. Total staff at March 31st was 6,079.

SOME OF THE MAIN POINTS

Sales of Electricity

Electricity sales sustained "the first really substantial setback ever encountered." Overall sales totalled 13,561 million units, compared with 14,185 million the previous year—a fall of 4.4%.

Sales to industry fell by 4.5% and to homes and farms by 6.9%, reductions offset to some extent by an increase of 2.4% in sales to commercial and other users.

The reduced demand was due to declining industrial activity, a mild winter, prices increases, and the "Save It" campaign. The early part of this year saw "encouraging signs of some recovery in industrial output and in sales to industry."

Appliance Sales

Although the cash value of appliances sold at the Board's shops increased slightly, the real volume of sales fell by 10%. A long period of depression followed the imposition of a 25% rate of VAT on most electrical goods in May 1975. It is hoped that an improved trading year will follow the reduction of the VAT rate to 12½% in the last Budget.

Financial Matters

The Accounts show a deficit of £9.05 million on the year's working. Cost inflation, a 15% increase

in coal prices in the latter part of the year, higher Rates bills and some restraint in the electricity price increase of April 1975 all contributed to the deficit. Gale damage in January cost MANWEB £200,000.

Increases in fuel costs from 1974/75 to 1975/76 added more than £24 million to MANWEB's costs.

Off-Peak Electricity

The last Tariff increase did not include any rise in the basic price of Off-Peak electricity, and the lowest Off-Peak prices are now more than a penny per unit cheaper than the normal day-time rate. These prices are now relatively more favourable to the customer than previously.

Savings Stamps

£295,000-worth of MANWEB's 50p "Savings Stamps" were sold during the first six months of the scheme.

The Thrift Meter

35,000 customers opted to change from the ordinary prepayment meter to the "Thrift Meter" system. Several thousand others decided to change to quarterly credit meters.

Annual Report

LIVERPOOL DISTRICT

The District's 213,300 consumers bought 2,026 million units—a fall of 2%—considerably less than the figure for the Board as a whole. Capital expenditure on the system amounted to £629,000.

NORTH WIRRAL DISTRICT

In contrast to the normal trend, sales of electricity rose by 3% over the previous year. The 138,050 consumers used 988 million units of electricity. Capital expenditure on the system amounted to £429,000, and 17 kilometres of new mains and 10 new transforming points were added.

Throughout the District a total of 1,508 new services and 423 street lighting services were connected in the course of the year.

NORTH MERSEY DISTRICT

182,102 customers bought 1,488 million units—a decrease of 2%. £452,000 was spent on the network including the installation of 18 new transformers and increasing the main's network to 3,255 kilometres. The District's Commercial team are nearing their 2,000th Electricaire installation.

MID-MERSEY DISTRICT

The District's shops achieved a 20% increase in the cash value of appliance sales during the year, despite the adverse trading conditions. St. Helens and Widnes shops were modernised, and the Runcorn shop moved to a new home in the Shopping City—an instant success. New supplies were provided to 3,678 new homes, 27 new industrial firms and 340 commercial premises. 1,081 public lighting services were connected.

CLWYD DISTRICT

The District was particularly hard hit by falling demand—the 98,395 consumers used 735 million units, 6.7% less than in the previous year. Two big new developments point to a brighter future, however.

The distribution network now totals 4,849 kilometres, £674,900 being spent on the system during the year. 53 new transforming points, with a capacity of 7.565 MW, were added to the system.

DEE VALLEY DISTRICT

Units sold to the District's 150,000 customers totalled 2,815 million—a decrease of 5.6 per cent. Installation work expanded to an all-time record, exceeding last year's turnover by 30 per cent.

A million pounds was spent on providing new supplies, extending and reinforcing the network—169 kilometres of new distribution mains, 63 additional transforming points, and 3,131 new customers.

MID-CHESHIRE DISTRICT

Sales of electricity fell by 1.2%, the domestic sector being hardest hit with a drop of 9%. Signs of industrial recovery were apparent in the first quarter of 1976, with a 10% increase in sales over the same quarter of the previous year.

27 kilometres of new line were added to the network, capital expenditure amounting to £500,000. The District was particularly hard hit by the January gales when 11,000 consumers lost supply and District staff worked almost non-stop for several days.

Although appliance sales were up in cash value by only 5%—a fall in real terms—things were much brighter for the contracting department which had another record year with business worth 15% more than in the previous year.

GWYNEDD DISTRICT

42 kilometres of new mains and 111 new transforming points were added to the network, which now totals 4,339 kilometres and supplies over 69,000 consumers. Total consumption fell by 2.3% compared with the previous year.

Contracting and appliance repair business was maintained at a high level, including several large commercial and industrial contracts as well as many street lighting schemes.

Capital expenditure on the system amounted to £690,000.

ABERYSTWYTH DISTRICT

147 million units were sold to the District's 20,971 consumers—a drop of 1.2%. The growth of the tourist trade was reflected in an increase of 5.4% to commercial premises, while the increasing importance of tourism to North Wales was also reflected in an all-time record sale of commercial catering equipment, which showed an increase of 84%.

Supply was made available to 338 new homes—many of them all-electric—while £202,000 was spent in extending and reinforcing the network.

There were also increases in the cash value of installation and service work carried out, and in the value of appliances sold through the District's five shops. Total route length of the District network is now 1,802 km, and a further 52 transforming points were added.

OSWESTRY DISTRICT

Total unit sales amounted to 340 million to the District's 46,443 customers—a decrease of 3.9 per cent. No growth in industrial demand, but the expansion in the tourist trade brought record sales in commercial catering equipment. Installation and service work remained at last year's level but an interesting development was the installation of ceiling heating in many domestic and commercial premises in the District.

Extending, maintaining and reinforcing the network from Whitchurch to Llanidloes involved expending £660,000. A further 67 kilometres of new distribution network was constructed and transforming capacity was increased by 3.78 MVA.

Around the Districts

Walk-around at North Wirral

An area covering 75 square miles serving 138,050 consumers in the Wirral peninsular from Heswall and Eastham in the south to Hoylake and New Brighton in the north. District Office is at Craven Street, Birkenhead and shops are at Birkenhead, Heswall, Moreton, New Ferry, Upton, Wallasey and West Kirby.

Chairman of MANWEB, Mr. Denis Dodds, left, pictured here with Mr. Barry Williams (charge-hand storekeeper).

at Cleveland Street —

At the District's garage our Chairman chats with, from the left, Messrs. Ray Robinson (foreman — Transport) and Leslie Lindfield (mechanic).



— and at District Office

Left: Mr. Harry Litherland (principal assistant — Work Control) shows Mr. Dodds an aspect of the work carried out by his section.

Right: Our Chairman shares a joke with Liverpool football fan Mr. Johnny McAdam (jointer).



Mr. Dodds with Mrs. Margaret Brent of the Amendments section.



Still in happy mood, our Chairman has a few moments with Control Room attendants Messrs. Dougie Roberts and Frank Hardie.



Above: Messrs. Ken Corfield (principal assistant), left, and Charlie Bansor (foreman) talk over meter reading problems with Mr. Dodds.

Left: Our Chairman listens while Mr. Kevin Donnegan chats about his work in the Prepayment Amendments section.

Right: Miss Sandra Foster (clerk) presses on with her work as Mr. Dodds and Mr. Sid Fairclough (Group Manager), centre, chat with Mr. Colin Hough (Contracting foreman).



Some members of the North Wirral Local Advisory and Staff Committees photographed prior to their informal meeting with our Chairman. From left to right, seated: Messrs. Bob Lowry, Vic Henri and Barry Williams, Miss Edna Holroyd, Messrs. Ron Morley (District Engineer), Denis Dodds (Chairman), Sid Fairclough (Group Manager), Bob Evans (District Administrative Officer), Harry Stanley and Eric Allen, Mrs. Margaret Brent, Messrs. Bill McLachlan (by special invitation) and Ken Cambridge. Standing: Messrs. Jack Bradley (LAC Secretary), Bill Cussons and Johnny McAdam.



THE FUTURE'S ELECTRIC

Deputy Chairman

encourages first year apprentices



This year's prize for the Best All-Round Performance was awarded to apprentice electrician Simon Ulyat of Birkenhead. Our picture shows Simon being congratulated by Mr. Ben Hastings and Mrs. Hastings, centre, with Simon's father, James, on the left, and mother Shiela, on the right.

DESPITE the serious economic situation and the massive unemployment figures, Mr. Ben Hastings (Deputy Chairman) was most optimistic for the future in his remarks to the Hoylake craft apprentices on the occasion of their annual prize day ceremony recently.

"The days of cheap energy have gone, and reserves of fossil fuels are limited," he said. "In the years ahead, the only practical answer to our problems is nuclear power, ultimately fast breeder reactors. A prototype station in France is fully operational and we have our own prototype at Dounreay nearing the same stage."

He spoke of the limited reserves of oil, coal and gas while the demand for energy was increasing each year. He mentioned the fuel needs of the developing countries in the world and said that by the year 2000, oil would have reached its maximum production level and gas reserves would have reached their peak.

"Long before that, however, their prices will increase dramatically as their shortage is foreseen," he continued.

Looking to the future, Mr. Hastings said that nuclear energy would be the new source of world power. "Electricity will take a larger and larger share of the energy cake," he said. "The official EEC forecast is that we will have 50 per cent by the year 2000 compared to our 25 per cent today. We will have a bigger share of a bigger market."

He went on to mention that the EEC had plans for a 70 per cent nuclear power programme and he reminded his listeners that we in this country already

generated 15 per cent of electricity by nuclear power.

One of the problems—that of disposal of radioactive waste—was well on the way to being solved.

Mr. Hastings then referred to other sources of power—tidal, wave, solar, geothermal and wind—which many lobbies supported as solutions to the energy problem.

"None of these can be developed economically at this stage," he commented. "Compared to nuclear power all or any of these methods would be astronomically expensive."

Our Deputy Chairman emphasised that the development of nuclear power would fill the energy gap—"and we are not questioning whether the gap exists but when it will arrive!"

Turning briefly to the Commercial side of our industry, he said, "There is no doubt in my mind that electricity sales will increase again in the future like they did in the past."

Forecasting that all new houses would be all-electric he commented that today it is almost indecent to suggest that homes should be heated by electricity. "By the year 2000—not very far off," he said, "it won't be decent to have a home without electric central heating!"

Mr. Hastings concluded his inspiring and uplifting remarks—on this occasion directed in the main to the apprentices—by assuring them that they had a place in the future—this bright future for electricity he had talked about.

After wishing them all every success in their chosen careers now that they had passed this milestone in their lives, Mr. Hastings then watched

his wife, Mary, hand out the prizes to the top apprentices.

Then a young man from Oswestry, Robert Edwards, an apprentice electrician, took the floor to speak for everyone present in offering a vote of thanks to Mr. and Mrs. Hastings.

"As we are now about to join District working teams," he said, "it is very helpful to be able to hear what will be expected of us and what the future holds for our Industry."

"At Hoylake we have had an excellent start, and, on behalf of all the apprentices, I would like to thank all the members of the staff here who, in their various ways, have contributed to our training. We could

hardly have been set higher standards."

Following this, Mr. Lionel Ladner (Education and Training Officer) brought this 20th prizeday ceremony to a close. He thanked Mr. Sid Fairclough (Group Manager) and the many District officers for attending. He mentioned that all these men have started their successful careers as apprentices of one kind or another.

"So, there is opportunity for all you young men who leave here today," he commented.

A final word of thanks to the Training Centre and Education and Training staff and of course the famous Hoylake landladies brought the proceedings to a close.



MORE PRIZE GUYS

Above left: Apprentice electrician Philip Roskell of Liverpool (Mechanical Subjects) receives congratulations from Mr. Sid Fairclough (Group Manager), Mum, Barbara and Dad, George, complete the picture.

Above right: Top in Electrical Subjects, apprentice electrical fitter Tecwyn Evans from Caernarfon, seen here with, from left to right: Mr. Elias Evans, Mr. Ladner, Mrs. Mary Evans and girl friend Pauline. Right: The prize for the apprentice making Exceptional Progress during his first few months of training went to one of the Jackson twins, Philip, seen here with, from left to right: brother Malcolm, Mr. Normam Walsh (DCE Mid-Cheshire), Mr. Ivan and Mrs. Norma Jackson.



Selected for the West Highland School for Adventure, apprentice electrical fitter David McCann from Liverpool being congratulated by Hoylake 'Headmaster' Mr. Ron Slack. David's father John is on the left and mother Gladys on the right.



Apprentice electrician Robert Edwards, with his parents, Reg (Oswestry District installation engineer) and Ceredwen.



Mr. Dodds in our Liverpool District

Taking in the central and southern sections of the City of Liverpool and the surrounding areas bordering on our North Mersey and South Lancashire Districts. There are 213,300 consumers in the District's 68 square miles, administered from Lister Drive. We have shops at St. John's Precinct in the City centre, Allerton, Garston, Huyton, Old Swan, Prescott and Speke.



Above: A friendly greeting from Mr. Dodds (Chairman) to Mrs. Myra Jacobson (supervisor, consumer liaison).

Right: Production Engineer John Heaton chats with the Chairman.

Below: In the Stores, Mr. Jimmy Duvall seems to have said something to amuse Mr. Dodds.



With some of our meter reading staff at Lister Drive. From left to right: Messrs. Jim Calvert, Noel Kelly, Kenny Kendall, Denis Metcalf, Denis Dodds (Chairman), Joe McGlyn, Bill Whittingham, Joe Cotter, Teddy Cardin and Brian Wignall.



At our Pumpfields garage depot in Liverpool, staff join our Chairman for this picture. From left to right: Messrs. Stan Morgan (clerk), Joe Rohan (chargehand), John Turner (fitter), Ed Gibson (apprentice), Jim Hampton (labourer), Denis Dodds (Chairman), Jack Joynson (fitter), Jack Hill (Senior engineer—Transport), Pete Skelly (storeman), Tom Smith (fitter), Les Hilton (fitter), John Wooltorton (fitter), Jim Rooney (chargehand) and Frank Billam (foreman).



IN THE METER TEST SECTION

From left to right, near side: Messrs. Ken Little, John Langley, Harry Branigan and George Vose.

Far side: Messrs. Mark Ready, Peter Dean, Tommy Freeman and Walter Lonsdale.



Left: Our Chairman learns more of Liverpool's Commercial Supply from the department's number one, Mr. Bill Hewitt.

Right: In the Pre-Payments section, Mr. Dodds meets Mr. Sam Bennett.



IN THE CONSUMER ACCOUNTS SECTION

Left: Mr. Dodds spends a few moments chatting to Mrs. Gert Freeman, and right, has a quick word with Mr. Keith Jones.



Concluding his tour of the District, Mr. Dodds gets together with some of the members of the Local Advisory and Staff Committees for an informal chat. Our picture, below, shows, from left to right: Messrs. Bob Jowett (District Commercial Engineer), Charlie Davies, Tom Smith, Jack Stanley, Joe Rohan, F. Maher, Paul Wilkinson, Denis Dodds (Chairman), Sid Fairclough (Group Manager), Dave Hancock, Tom Hamilton (District Administrative Officer), and Charlie Donovan (District Engineer), Mrs. Margaret McKie, Mr. Ted Kelly, Mrs. Vicki Roberts, Messrs. Tony Owens and Norman Mitchell (LAC Secretary).



"Government intervention should be reduced"

Although medium-term considerations might require high rates of depletion of UK fossil fuel reserves—primarily to improve the balance of payments—nevertheless the Government should seek to reduce its direct intervention in energy decision-taking.

This view was expressed by the Electricity Council in the paper presented by its Chairman, Sir Peter Menzies, at the National Energy Conference.

To avoid such intervention, the Government should set ground rules as a framework for flexible planning.

In the long term, the aim within those rules should be to achieve adaptability in the production and consumption of energy at minimum cost, after having due regard for safety and the environment, allowing for a specified degree of freedom of choice of fuel by the final consumer.

In the Council's opinion, therefore, the most beneficial result of the conference would be agreement that ground rules—which the Government should take the lead on establishing, after due consultation—should be developed as a basis for the energy industries' planning.

The paper also referred to the vital need for staff, at all levels, in the large energy industries to increase the satisfaction to be gained from their work.

"To achieve such an important aim requires not only participation in a process of consultation but also, to the degree appropriate to each task, the power to take decisions and the duty to carry responsibility for them.

"To achieve this requires an agreed and settled framework

which the Government should take the lead in establishing; there should then be less need for Government to involve itself in detailed aspects of the industries' activities; and management would then be able to develop detailed plans more assuredly in consultation with staff," stated the paper.

The Council add: "Surprisingly

A Woman's Viewpoint

"Women have a vested interest in the use of electricity. Electricity has been one of the great liberating forces in the lives of women over the past half century.

We know from experience that all of us can learn to use electricity (and the other fuels) more wisely. We agree that social considerations especially the plight of the poverty-stricken, must be given deep thought leading to effective solutions for all in genuine hardship. Disconnections in such cases are inexcusable. All the same, we do not agree with the recent outcry for a total end to disconnections. We think this would be grossly unfair to the vast majority of honest and conscientious customers—many of them very hard-up though outside the scope of the social services.

We agree too that every household has a right to reasonable and safe means of heating and lighting. Those who are genuinely unable to pay must receive help. But such assistance must not give comfort to the 'able but unwilling' who are only too ready to jump on the welfare bandwagon. After all, if you don't pay for your coal you don't get another delivery, unless arrangements have been made for you to have some kind of statutory

enough, it seems necessary to remind ourselves of the need for integrity and responsibility on the part of the user of energy. If he does not pay for what he uses, someone else will and it is important that such transfers occur only when Government intends that they should.

"Hence Government needs to state a policy on this matter of fuel debt transfer and fuel subsidy."

Any ground rules set by Government should be accepted by representatives of the final consumers of energy as well as the energy industries.

or charitable help. It's a fact that the coalman does not bring you a few bags just to be going on with!

We believe that it should be possible to frame policies to identify and help genuine cases of need through co-operation with the social services and by better customer relations servicing right across the board of the fuel supply industries who should aim at continuing improvements in providing information to the public on payments, conservation and every aspect of use."—Mrs. Ann McMullan, recently appointed Director of the Electrical Association for Women, speaking at the Energy Conference.

EEIBA SUPPER DANCE

in Head Office Restaurant
on Friday, 22nd October.

8 p.m. to 1 a.m.

Dress informal

Buffet Supper

Tickets £2 each from
T. Dutton or J. G. Roberts
Welfare, Head Office.



From one Group Manager to another. At one of the many presentation ceremonies held on the occasion of the retirement of Mr. Ken Helliwell, centre right, new Group Manager Mr. Joe Winchester bids him a fond farewell surrounded by members of our Head Office staff.

RETIREMENTS

Mr. K. HELLIWELL

It was said by a colleague that if his mother had crossed the street when young Ken was born, he would have been a Lancastrian. As it was, he had the fortune, or misfortune, according to the colour of your rose, to be born a Yorkshireman.

Born in Eastwood, Ken crossed the border for his schooling and his first job—both in Darwen. He joined the industry as a pupil to the Darwen Electrical Engineer in 1929 after attending both Blackburn and Bolton Technical Colleges as a student. For a while, he continued at Bolton as a post-graduate tutor.

At the termination of his electrical training with Darwen Corporation he almost joined the millions of unemployed in the depression of the thirties. That was until he pointed out a clause in his terms of tuition—and he was kept on by the Corporation.

In the ten years starting in 1937, Ken worked at Bradford, Lincoln, Luton and Preston—each move another step up the promotion ladder. On the nationalisation of our industry in 1948 he joined MANWEB soon to become Engineer for the former Area 1 in Liverpool.

It was in 1964 that he began his association with North Wales when he was appointed Manager for the former Area 4 at Rhosyllen. In his six years at this job he gained a complete picture of all that was happening in his area. He knew the places and he knew the faces of all who worked with him. On the reorganisation of the Board in 1970, Ken continued his connection with North Wales as Group Manager for the Welsh Districts of the Board.

At ceremonies to mark his recent retirement after

nearly 50 years' in the industry, he was presented with many farewell gifts and the good wishes of all sections of the staff, to Ken and his wife Joan, for a long, and well-earned, happy retirement.

They both enjoy travelling and have recently acquired a motorised caravan to help them tour the odd corners and isolated spots around our country. Incidentally, he still has his famous Austin with 195,000 miles on the clock! Still going strong, just like Ken.

Mr. A. PERRY

On completion of 40 years' service in the electricity supply industry, Mr. Arthur Perry (Assistant Chief Engineer—Construction and Transport) retired a short time ago.

He started work in 1936 with his local electricity undertaking in Cannock where he was a mains

Chief Engineer, Mr. Frank Brown, right, says farewell to his colleague Mr. Arthur Perry after making the presentations of parting gifts from members of the staff. Also in the picture, centre, is Mr. Jim Fisher (Deputy Chief Engineer).



assistant until 1939 when he moved to Bingley for a couple of years. Then he went to Norwich, transferring later to the Eastern Electricity Board.

Arthur joined MANWEB as a senior assistant in the Planning section at Rhostyllen in 1949. Eleven years later he was appointed Area Engineer and in 1970, on reorganisation, became an Assistant Chief Engineer at Head Office.

He has a variety of interests outside the office including photography and wine-making.

Mr. and Mrs. F. OWEN

An unusual double retirement took place at Head Office recently with the departure of man and wife, Mr. Fred Owen, an administrative assistant with our Engineering department and his partner Joan, a clerk with Secretarial department.

Fred took an early retirement on the grounds of ill health and Joan's application to leave at the same time was granted. The couple's many friends at Head Office, Rhostyllen and other Districts of the Board wish them both many happy years ahead.

They met in 1937 at the North Wales Power Company's Sports and Social Club at Rhostyllen—both were keen table tennis players. Fred had worked for the Company for a couple of years and Joan, still at school, was a member of the Club through her father Henry Adkin, who was a draughtsman with the Company.

Following the outbreak of the war, Fred became a



Fred and Joan Owen, pictured 'at home.'

pilot instructor, doing his training in Canada. Joan also joined the RAF shortly afterwards and was a leading aircraftswoman in the accounts section.

They eventually got together again and married in 1942. After the war they both returned to work for the North Wales Power Company and later with MANWEB.

They have now retired to their beautiful home—*Bron Heulyn, Smithy Lane*—a few hundred yards from our Rhostyllen offices. Fred and Joan offer an open invitation to any of their friends and former colleagues to drop in anytime. If you want to ring before you go it's *Rhos, Wrexham* 840932.

Mr. R. D. THOMAS

The Head Office conference room was bursting at the seams with staff and management when they gathered to say farewell to Mr. Reg D. Thomas, the Assistant Secretary (Administration), on the occasion of his retirement.

The Board Secretary, Mr. M. M. Parker, made the presentation to the 'Admiral' on behalf of his many friends and colleagues in the Board, of a number of gifts. The reference to the nautical rank (while several rings too many), reflects Reg Thomas's

keen interest in the sea. He was, in fact, a Lieut.-Commander in the R.N.V.R., which he joined as an Ordinary Seaman during the war.

Although now retired from naval duties he still has associations with the cadets, and is a member of the 'Sea Urchins'—a sort of old sea dogs' club!

Mr. Thomas joined MANWEB on nationalisation as Area Secretary in Chester in 1948, a position he held until 1970, when with the amalgamation of the Areas with Head Office he became Assistant Secretary. His career prior to MANWEB was mainly with local Water Authorities.

He and his wife Susan have one married son Bruce. Judging by two of their gifts, plan to spend a considerable amount of time in their garden mowing the lawn or sitting in the shade of their new garden umbrella!

Secretary and Solicitor Mr. M. M. Parker, dark suit, says his farewells to Mr. R. D. Thomas.



NEWS FROM OUR PENSIONERS

Mersey River Cruise

Links between the Liverpool Retired Employees' group and pensioners from the Birmingham District of the Midlands Board were maintained on July 5th with a cruise on the River Mersey aboard the M.V. *Royal Iris*.

Embarking at Liverpool Landing Stage the merry mariners enjoyed lunch on board the ship followed by a cruise lasting nearly two hours taking in views of both sides of the Mersey estuary.

It was then a case of all aboard the coaches to the Thingwall Road premises of the Liverpool Electric Power and Lighting Sports Welfare Club for an enjoyable buffet tea, with the Birmingham contingent leaving for home in the early evening.

Crewe to Ffestiniog

A conducted tour of the Ffestiniog Pumped Storage generating station and a coach trip through Welsh beauty spots in-

cluding Betws-y-coed and the Conway Valley were the high-spots of a day out organised by the Mid-Cheshire Retired Employees' Association.

First stop after leaving Nantwich was for a "cuppa" at Bala. A picnic lunch was taken on the shores of a Welsh lake, followed by the visit to the power station. On the way home there were yet more refreshments at Queensferry—a most enjoyable day out.

The Association's next outing will be on September 1st with a circular trip including a two-hour conducted tour of the Royal Brierley Crystal Glassworks, Brierley Hill, Staffordshire. Any MANWEB pensioners at present living in the Mid-Cheshire area who would like to join the group should contact Mr. T. V. Walley, Clyde Cottage, Swanley Lane, near Nantwich, Cheshire.

Stourbridge Trip

July 20th saw the Mid-Mersey

Retirements - cont'd.

Mr. F. HANNATH

Gwynedd District Administrative Officer for the past six-and-a-half years, Mr. Fred Hannath, retired recently.

He joined the Board in 1950



Mr. Fred Hannath being presented with a parting gift from Miss Margaret Williams, a member of the Gwynedd District staff.

when he was appointed as Revenue Superintendent with our former Area 2. Following reorganisation in 1965 he became Assistant Secretary for the combined Areas 2 and 3.

Fred had previous service with the gas industry and in Local Government before spending a few years in the Royal Navy. After this he spent a short time with the Yorkshire Electricity Board before joining MANWEB.

In his spare time, Fred enjoys a good game of golf.

HELD OVER

Owing to pressure on space in this month's 'Contact,' a large number of recent retirements have been held over until the September issue.

pensioners off on yet another outing—this time to the famous Stuart Crystal factory at Stourbridge.

On a lovely day a coachful of pensioners, collected from St. Helens, Frodsham, Runcorn and Warrington set off along the motorway. After an excellent lunch at Worsley the party carried on to the factory, where the tour was preceded by an impromptu concert by the coach driver, singing to his own guitar accompaniment. A very interesting tour of the works ended with tea and biscuits and a leisurely run home again through beautiful Staffordshire and Cheshire countryside.

Clwyd Retired

The Annual General Meeting for members of the Clwyd District Retired Members Association will be held at Cefndy Road offices on Wednesday, 1st September at 2.30 p.m.

All retired employees from our industry who either worked in the Clwyd District or are now living in the District are invited to the meeting.

Obituary

We regret to report the deaths of the following of our former colleagues and extend our sympathy to their families and friends.

Mr. Jack Worthington, who was for many years a ganger at Pumpfields, Liverpool and later at Huyton as a watchman. He was 93.

Mr. Dennis Jones, an engineering draughtsman at Head Office, who died while on holiday in Majorca. Dennis had just completed 40 years service in the industry. During the war he served with the Royal Welch Fusiliers. He was 58.

Mr. Thomas H. Christian, who worked in the Stores at Lister Drive until his retirement some years ago. He was 73.