



Contact August 1978

"A Winner
at St. Helens"
(See page 167)

The Chairman writes . . .



BY now most of you will have gathered the main points of our Annual Report and Accounts, either from the newspapers or from our notice boards.

Our trading profit of £7.63 million—out of a total income of £319 million—is a satisfactory and sensible state of affairs. In view of the depressed state of industry and high unemployment in parts of the MANWEB area the very small reduction in sales of electricity is hardly surprising. The Board appreciate all the hard work and loyalty from staff which have made possible the achievements outlined in the Annual Report.

The electricity supply industry has always been a fundamentally sound business from the financial point of view. Losses sustained in some recent years were brought about by policies outside the industry's control. Everyone likes to work for a successful concern, and we should all be pleased that economic realism prevails once more.

The introduction of the new 'Economy 7' cheap night rate, explained more fully in the accompanying number of Circuit News, offers the first substantial electricity price reduction since the industry was nationalised in 1948. This heartening development can do much to boost the confidence of customers and employees alike.

Despite the problems with which we have had to contend in recent years the future of our industry remains as bright as it has ever been. The future will bring great challenges and opportunities.

In thanking you all for the year's work, I would also like to express my personal appreciation of the help and support extended to me by so many people since I took over the job of Chairman of the Board.

Ben Hastings

Contact

THE STAFF MAGAZINE
OF THE
MERSEYSIDE AND
NORTH WALES
ELECTRICITY BOARD

Vol. 30 No. 8

August 1978

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NO ROOM FOR ILLUSIONS

MOST people, at some time or other, get a bit of a kick out of 'beating the system'. Those who stroll nonchalantly through the Customs with that extra bottle burning a hole in the suitcase would probably deeply resent any suggestion that they were really dishonest people. It might even be that the overtaxed Briton feels quite justified in trying to get a bit of it back!

No-one—and especially no employee of the electricity industry—should be under any illusions that the theft of electricity falls into the same category. Electricity stolen by those who tamper with their meters represents a direct loss to our industry's finances, and an indirect burden on the rest of us who must make that loss good.

Presenting our Annual Report and Accounts recently, Chairman Ben Hastings told press representatives that losses through theft in the MANWEB area alone amounted last year to around £3 million. That staggering figure has to be met by all the honest people—including the poor, the sick, the elderly—and YOU.

Cash considerations apart, meter-tampering is dangerous. In other parts of the country serious accidents have already occurred, and it is only a matter of time before someone in the MANWEB area makes a fatal mistake.

The theft of electricity is crime on a massive scale. The interests of our customers, our industry and ourselves demand that it should be immediately checked and progressively stamped out.

Editorial Staff

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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.

Sound Economic Position

£7.63m TRADING SURPLUS

MANWEB recorded a trading surplus of £7.63 million during the year, on a turnover of £319 million—a margin of less than 2½%.

The Report describes this result as “modest in relation to turnover and net assets employed, but satisfactory in view of the depressed state of the economy which adversely affected sales of electricity, especially in the Winter period.”

Total sales, at 14,206 million units, were a marginal 0.5% down on the previous year, although for the country as a whole sales were 2.3% up. This contrast is attributed to the stagnant state of the economy and especially to worse-than-average unemployment on Merseyside and in parts of North Wales.

ELECTRICITY SALES

—to industry

Industrial sales fell by 1.9%, with the chemical, shipbuilding and engineering, textiles and other manufacturing industries worst affected. The Report warns that the situation is likely to get worse if plans for factory closures and large-scale redundancies on Merseyside are carried out.

—to commerce

Commercial and allied sales increased by 3.2%, with improvements in relation to commercial premises, farms, and public lighting authorities, but a fall in demand from combined small business/domestic premises.

—to the home

The amount of electricity used in the home was affected by the unofficial industrial action in some power stations during October and November, and the average home used 3,910 units—40 less than in the previous year.

There was, however, a slight increase in total sales to the domestic market, due to an increase in the number of customers.

APPLIANCE SALES

Sales of appliances were down in value by 1.5%. The Report says this was due to “a fall in real disposable incomes.” High unemployment on Merseyside is again blamed for a marked decline in credit and hire purchase sales. On the brighter side sales of storage heaters increased—an ‘encouraging’ development.

Two shops—at Speke and Middlewich—were closed when “the volume of trading could no longer justify the operating costs.” Both were within four miles of another MANWEB shop.

CUSTOMERS' ACCOUNTS

The Board continued to apply the industry's ‘Code of Practice’ and the number of payment arrangements in operation, including budget payments, flexible payment arrangements and direct deductions from benefit by the Department of Health and Social Security, doubled during the year.

In appropriate cases prepayment meters were installed in accordance with the Code. There were fewer disconnections for non-payment than in the previous year.

MANWEB Savings Stamps increased in popularity, and the

CONTRACTING WORK

There was a small decrease in the value of contracting work, but the drive to contain indirect costs and to increase contracting turnover was intensified. During the second half of the year contracting turnover improved in an encouraging way.

THE DISTRIBUTION NETWORK

Total capital expenditure on the distribution system was £11.9 million, and included a number of important reinforcement schemes. During the year 289 kilometres of main and 258 transforming points were added to the network.

Winter blizzards brought down many overhead lines, and the Report records appreciation of the way in which supplies were restored “so efficiently in difficult and sometimes hazardous conditions.”

Reference is also made to “the sterling work done by staff in all departments throughout the area” in minimising inconvenience to customers during the unofficial industrial action in some power stations.

value of stamps sold rose to £1.75 million. Customers can also use MANWEB stamps to pay water bills in Wales as a result of an arrangement with the Welsh National Water Development Authority.



Our visitors with members of the Local Advisory Committee at Head Office, *From left to right: Messrs. Harold Wilson (our Harold Wilson), David West, Richard Gales (Deputy Chairman) and Barry Jones M.P., Mrs. Margaret Jones, Mr. John Birch, Mrs Susan Stiff, Mr. Tom Jones (Board Member) and Mr. Ron Neil.*

A Visit to Head Office by East Flint M.P. Barry Jones

Parliamentary
Under-Secretary
of State for
Wales



Our V.I.P. shows keen interest as Mrs. Maureen Lloyd-Jones brings his electricity account to the screen of the V.D.U. Looking on are, *from left to right: Messrs. Len Walter (Principal Assistant-Revenue), Bob Evans (Assistant Chief Accountant), Tom Jones, Richard Gales and Mrs. Marie Jones (admin. assistant)*

In the Dee Valley District quarterly accounts section we see, *from left to right: Miss Judy Bailey (clerk), Mr. Geoff Barnes (Chief Accountant), Miss Noreen Downey (supervisor) Mrs. Barbara Hughes (clerk), Mr. Barry Jones M.P., Mr. Colin Lawson and Miss Annette Thomas (clerks)*



Appointments..

Management Services Controller

Mr. Colin W. Leonard, aged 38, our Management Services Officer has been appointed as a Chief Officer with the designation of Management Services Controller.

He will now have the responsibility for the Computer Services Unit (*previously an Accountancy function*) in addition to his existing Management Services duties.

Colin was previously employed in the financial and computer departments of the Cheshire and Leicestershire County Councils.

He is married with two young children.



Mr. Colin Leonard



Mr. Tony Shell

football and was a former captain of Caldby Rugby Football Club.

Administrative Officer (Audit)

Mr. T. P. Shell, who has been our Dee Valley District Administrative Officer since 1970, has recently taken up an appointment at Head Office as the Administrative Officer (Audit) with special responsibilities to counter illegal abstraction of electricity and unit losses from other causes.

A Fellow of the Chartered Institute of Accountants, Tony joined our industry after war service with the RAOC in Nigeria.

Later, he held appointments in the Audit and Financial Accounts sections before taking up the post as Assistant Accountant for our former Area 4.

His pastimes include gardening and photography. Tony and his wife Beryl have two daughters, Penny a civil servant and Karen, a schoolteacher who was recently married.

... Dee Valley

Mr. Arthur Ellinson, aged 33, who had been seconded to Oswestry as District Administrative Officer, moved to Rhostyllen in a similar capacity has now been appointed to that post for Dee Valley District.

Arthur, an engineer, gained his degree at Liverpool University where he was an electricity supply industry scholar. He joined MANWEB as a graduate trainee in 1966 and after a couple of years he became a 3rd assistant engineer in the M.S.U.

In 1974 he was appointed as Corporate Development Officer, and prior to his move to Oswestry he worked for a while in the Internal Audit section.

Arthur is married to Ann and they have three daughters. Most of his spare time is devoted to church activities.

District Administrative Officers

... Mid-Cheshire

Mr. Michael Metcalfe, aged 32, an executive officer in Revenue section at Head Office, has been appointed as our Mid-Cheshire District Administrative Officer. He succeeds Mr. John Roberts who has taken up a similar post in our North Wirral District.

A Wirral man, Mike was educated at Caldby Grange Grammar School and Aberystwyth University. He qualified as a chartered accountant in 1971.

Three years later he joined the Board and has worked in the audit, debt control and quarterly accounts sections.

He is married to Carol and they have two children, James (5) and Victoria (3). He is keen on rugby

... Oswestry

Mr. Tegwyn Williams, aged 46, an executive officer at Head Office prior to his secondment to Oswestry as District Administrative Officer, has now had his appointment confirmed.

He started his career with MANWEB in 1957 at Rhostyllen Office in our former Area 4. Shortly afterwards he became one of the Board's first Secretarial Trainees. Later, he held various posts in the general administrative section before joining the Personnel section at Head Office.

He is the present Chairman of the Chester and North Wales Branch of the Chartered Institute of Secretaries and Administrators.

His favourite sport is hockey although now he is confined to umpiring rather than playing. Brass bands play an important part in his choice of music.

Teg and his wife Irene have a son Gareth aged 11.



Mr. Mike Metcalfe



Mr. Tegwyn Williams



Mr. Arthur Ellinson



Mr. Ron Carter.

Energy Sales Engineer, Clwyd

Taking over the responsibility for the energy sales section in our Clwyd District is the former 1st engineer, Mr. Ronald Carter. He takes over from Mr. Bob Hodson who has been appointed

as Liverpool District Commercial Engineer.

Mr Carter served his apprenticeship as an electrician with the Yorkshire Electricity Board before coming to MANWEB in 1963 as a consumers engineer in the former Clwyd District. Later following the re-organisation of the Districts, he was appointed as

2nd engineer, energy sales.

Much of his spare time is taken up with charity work with the Rotarians. His expertise in organising special stage presentations has been used by our Commercial colleagues on numerous occasions to give a 'professional' touch at conferences etc.

Electricity Supply Superannuation Schemes (Staff) and (Industrial Staff)

Contracting Out

The Industry's intention to apply to the Occupational Pensions Board for Contracting-out Certificates in relation to employees who are members (other than special members) of the above-mentioned Schemes was publicised on notice boards on 13th April last year.

Members of the Schemes concerned may wish to note that the Certificates, having effect as from 6th April, 1978, have now been issued. These members are now to regard themselves officially as not participating in the earnings-related part of the new State Pensions Scheme introduced on 6th April and in consequence, as paying appropriately reduced State Scheme contributions.

Option Forms

Members who have not yet returned the option forms issued a few months ago are requested to do so as soon as possible. Duplicate forms may be obtained through District Administrative Officers or from the Superannuation Section at Head Office. Members are reminded that it is in their best interests to give careful consideration to the options available.

Female Members:

Female members are reminded that the option

to contribute at 6% of salary to provide for a widower's pension closes on 30th September 1978. Members who subsequently marry will have a further opportunity to exercise this option within six months of marriage.

Industrial Staff Scheme Membership

The small number of eligible industrial employees who have not yet joined the Industrial Staff Scheme are now contributing to the new state pension scheme in the form of additional National Insurance Contributions. However, it is still possible for these employees to join the Industrial Staff Scheme and contract-out of the new state scheme, provided that they are aged under 60 (males) or 55 (females). These employees are again advised to give serious consideration to joining the Industrial Staff Scheme and taking advantage of its superior benefits.

Notification of Changes in Particulars

Members are reminded that they are required to give notice of any change in marital status and details of any children who might become entitled to benefits.

Widows' Pension:

A recent amendment to the rule of both schemes provides that widow's pensions do not cease upon re-marriage.



AT THE SHOP . . .
 our staff from left to right: Mary Tomlinson, Kath Wilkinson, Alan Horrocks (*senior assistant*), Jean Smith, Norman Walsh (*District Commercial Engineer*), Doreen Owen (*Hoover Ltd.*) Betty Hoxworth (*sales representative*) and Deputy Chairman, Richard Gales.

Mr. Gales at Northwich Depot

—on ground he knows so well!



On his tour round the depot our Deputy Chairman was able to meet Dot Goulding, *far left*, the depot cleaner who also makes a fine cup of tea; Bob Scott, *left*, the charge-hand fitter in the garage and Tony Yarker, *right*, (*2nd engineer-Production*).



Here we see Mr. Gales chatting with depot men *left*—Vernon Smith (*1st engineer—Systems*) and *right*—Jim Foster (*general foreman*)



IN THE YARD . . .
 From left to right: Graham Zeiher (*District Engineer*), Tony Daniels, Bob Kettle, Richard Gales (*Deputy Chairman*), Jim Foster, Frank Limb, Albert Dickens, George Gibbons, Geoff Bolas and Arthur Ashbrook.

New shop at Colwyn Bay

Immediate Improvement in Business

JUST over a month ago, our new shop in Station Road, Colwyn Bay, was opened for business. Although only a few doors away from our old shop, the move was justified when business more than doubled during the first few weeks.

The new premises, a former jewellers shop, has been completely fitted out with a modern MANWEB-style fascia, well-planned lighting and interior fixtures maximising the use of available space. It has a ground floor sales area more than twice the size of the old shop offering improved facilities and service for our customers.

On a recent visit to the shop, our Chairman Ben Hastings, accompanied by Warwick Saunders (*Appliance Marketing Manager*) wished supervisor Tom Boardman and his staff continued success.

The move into the new shop began many months ago when Bill Wakelin (*Regional Sales Controller*), realising that in order to cope with an increase in Board business, larger premises in the Town had to be found. He was the first to spot the potential of the new site and after consultations with our Civil



The neat fascia and inviting entrance to our new shop at Colwyn Bay.

Engineer's department, the decision was made to go ahead with the plans.

A completely re-designed shop front and interior structural alterations were agreed and then executed. Our Clwyd District staff designed and carried out all the work on the electrical installation in the premises.

This move into larger premises is the latest in a series of developments in MANWEB shops over the past few years. During this time premises at Wallasey, St. Helens, Chester and Runcorn have been modernised or enlarged and a completely new shop is being constructed in Birkenhead's shopping precinct.

The Board have other sites under consideration if and when opportunities for development present themselves. All these moves are designed to keep MANWEB in the forefront as a leading electrical retailer in Merseyside and North Wales.



Our Chairman Ben Hastings, *centre*, wishes shop supervisor Tom Boardman continued success in the new shop. Also in the picture, *from left to right*, are, Lillian Evans, Warwick Saunders, Beryl Williams and Bill Wakelin.

News from Aberystwyth

by Maldwyn Evans

(*Contact*' correspondent)

FAREWELL TO JOHN . . .

A large group of friends and colleagues gathered recently to wish John Parry, District Engineer, the best of good fortune in his new appointment as District Engineer at Dee Valley. While in the District John had been very active in the sports and social club particularly as treasurer since 1972, and in appreciation of his services he was presented with an inscribed tankard.

His successor as District Engineer, Dewi Parry, presented John with a cheque on behalf of the staff. John said he would use the money to buy a world catalogue of postage stamps (one of his hobbies) when it was reprinted, and thanked all his friends for a very happy association.



Dewi left, presents a cheque, the staff's farewell gift, to John.

. . . and congratulations to Dewi

A native of Llanfairfechan and completing his formal education at the University College of North Wales, Bangor, Dewi spent three years on Armaments Research and two years with H.M. Forces during the last war.

He joined MANWEB in 1952 as a graduate trainee and later worked at our Welshpool depot. In 1966 he moved to Aberystwyth District.

The summit party! From left to right: Eleanor Evans, Geraint Howells, George and Chris. Fleming, Maldwyn Evans and Gordon Smith.



MOUNTAINEERS!

On a glorious day in June a small party of sports and social club members from Aberystwyth and Machynlleth travelled by mini-bus to the Tallyllyn side of Cader Idris to scale the mountain from that side and walk over the top to the Dolgellau side.

Lunch was taken by the calm deep waters of Llyn Cau, where some of the party were glad of the chance to bathe aching feet before taking the steep and rocky route to the summit. Although not all the party managed to reach the highest point, everyone who did agreed that the magnificent views and flawless weather were adequate compensation for the long grind to the top.

After the equally long descent of the Dolgellau side of the mountain via the pony track the Aberystwyth District mountaineers were relieved to find the mini-bus waiting to carry the weary wanderers back home.

Talking Notes

ST. HELENS BEAUTY

HAVING recently reached the magic age of 18 and so becoming eligible to enter for our 'Girl from MANWEB' competition, the attractive **Barbara Joan Davies**, a part-time sales assistant at our St. Helens shop, has been getting in a bit of practice . . . and being successful at it too!

A couple of weeks ago, encouraged, and in the final rounds, vocally supported by colleagues in the shop, Barbara entered for the "Miss St. Helens" competition, and walked off with the top prize.

This meant £200 in her pocket plus a host of other valuable prizes including a holiday for two in Lloret del Mar, a dress of her choice, a modelling course in Liverpool and gift vouchers galore. To celebrate

her victory, her MANWEB 'sponsors' presented the delighted Barbara with a beautiful bouquet of flowers.

She now qualifies to enter for another 'Personality Girl' contest against the winners from other Towns.

OUR COVER PICTURE

shows Barbara surrounded by her colleagues at the St. Helens shop. They are, from left to right, back row: Dorothy Rhoden, Molly Bridge, Geraldine Roberts and Barbara Narayanan. Front, Margaret Knapton and Jean Peel. Shop supervisor Bill Royden is a lucky man to be surrounded by such talent..and he gets paid too!



MANWEB's Barbara Davies being crowned as "Miss St. Helens 1978" by the Mayor and Mayoress of St. Helens, Cllr. and Mrs. R. Halisall.

The competition was organised by the "St. Helens Reporter" and in their account of the final judging wrote—"It was her poise, personality and beauty which had the electrifying effect on the VIP panel of judges in the grand final"

They went on to report that Barbara's immediate reaction on being told she had won was "total shock"

Born in St. Helens, Barbara is the youngest in a family of two brothers and two sisters. She left Notre Dame school to work in a travel agency for twelve months before joining

the Board at St. Helens shop on a part-time basis . . . which she hopes may become full-time.

Her hobbies are keeping fit, playing squash and learning to drive—she intends using some of her prize money to pay for lessons!

Off Again!

Our much travelled group of pensioners from the Mid-Mersey District have been off on yet another jaunt—this time to London.

On their first night in town they went along to the Adelphi Theatre to enjoy the musical show "Irene".

On the following morning—with the weather still fine—they took a coach ride through the City ending up with a conducted tour of the Lords and the Commons.

Councillor **Arthur Parr**, the Mayor of Halton and a Mid-Mersey Pensioners Committee-man, introduced the party to Cyril Smith M.P. during the visit.

An excellent lunch at Bank-side House, headquarters of the South Eastern Region of the CEEB (this Mid-Mersey lot certainly have their connections) set the seal on a couple of excellent days in the Capital.

The next trip is to York.

One Man and His Dog

Endeavouring to improve his understanding and relationship with his best friend is **Ron Sand** our shop design and layout



Ron and Ben

supervisor at Head Office.

In this particular case, the best friend is Ben, a beautiful golden retriever who, along with Ron, attends weekly sessions at the Clwyd Dog Training Club at Cymau.

Here, Ron is learning how to gently control and give confidence to Ben with correct calls and commands. And, being a most intelligent animal, Ben immediately responds so giving Ron great pride and satisfaction—proving once again the new adage—"Man can be dog's best friend!"

Bridge Championship

The fourth annual electricity supply industry Bridge Championship will this year be held on Saturday, 14th October, at the Midlands Region Headquarters of the Generating

Board at Solihull, West Midlands.

The Championship will be a Swiss teams-of-four event of six 8-board matches and further details and entry forms may be obtained from H. M. Webber, Central Electricity Research Laboratories, Kelvin Avenue, Leatherhead, Surrey KT22 7SE. Telephone Leatherhead 74488.

Treasure Hunt

The response from members of our Clwyd District Sports and Social Club to compete in the recent Treasure Hunt was so great that two routes had to be organised. These were expertly devised by **John Hesketh** and **Tony England**, last year's winners. They had the valuable assistance of their wives of course!

After an exciting run, the eventual winners of the respective sections were **Denise Bailey** and crew and **Brian Owen** and his navigator. Just half-a-mark enabled Denise to take the Hunt Shield.

Runners-up in each section were **Mr. and Mrs. Dennis Jones** and **Cyril Jones**—with commiserations to **Wynn Owen** on his losing the tie-break for second place.

The booby prize went, once again, to the Flint shop team!

Leading the World

"Although Britain cannot claim to have invented the electric vehicle we can claim to have far more experience than any other country in the world at this time," said Mr. Godfrey Messervy, managing director of Lucas Industries, speaking at the recent annual lunch of the Electric Vehicle Association.

"We are better placed than any other nation today to draw on this experience and ensure that battery electric vehicles designed and manufac-

tured in the UK continue to lead the world. The competition is likely to become fierce as a result of the very large investments being made by Governments and companies overseas, and we cannot afford to slacken our present efforts," he added.

"The commercial opportunities, both in the domestic market and in exports, are very real and offer exciting prospects. My company's conviction in the future of electric vehicles is matched by our investment, (£7,000,000) and I feel sure that the EVA of Great Britain is also preparing itself for the major role it certainly will be called upon to play as the representative of this country's advanced electric vehicle industry."

DEE VALLEY DISTRICT RETIRED STAFF ASSOCIATION

Monday, 25th Sept.

Illuminated Lecture
"Scotland in Colour"
7.30 p.m. in the Canteen
at Rhostyllen.

Wednesday, 27th Sept.

General Knowledge Quiz
Team Competition.
7.30 p.m. in the Wynnstay
Hotel, Ruabon.

League Chairman

A draughtsman based at our North Mersey District office, **Jim Bell**, has been elected as vice-President of the Lancashire Amateur Football League.

Jim is the present Chairman of Hesketh Casuals Football, Sports and Social Club at Southport.

His new appointment recognises his services to sport in general and football in par-

ticular, initially with Ainsdale Hesketh and now with his present club.

Coarse Fishing

This year, the Midlands Electricity Board are to organise the Electricity Council sponsored Coarse Fishing Championship. The venue is the River Trent at Hoveringham and the date is Wednesday, 4th October.

It is intended that MAN-WEB should be represented with the best team we can muster. So, any coarse fishermen interested in competing should contact **Sam Doughty**, chairman of the Fishing Section at Head Office (2166).

In 1977 a scratch team from our Board turned in a creditable performance with captain **John Tyreman** finishing third overall.

This year there are some excellent prizes to be won including portable TV's, radios etc. Each team will have up to 15 anglers with the top twelve counting towards the team prizes.

Active in Retirement

Former colleagues who are members of the Clwyd District Retired Employees Association have been getting out and about during the past few weeks—despite the poor weather.

There was a coach tour with the first port of call at Caernarfon where, thanks to **Denis Hughes** (District Administrative Officer) and the canteen staff at St. Helens Road offices, the party were able to enjoy a splendid lunch.

They then journeyed on to Criccieth staying for a while before making their way home via Llanrwst.

On another occasion, members went along to Theatr Clwyd at Mold to see a performance of Emlyn Williams' play "The Druids Rest." After the

show they all enjoyed a chicken and chips meal to round off a most successful night out.

Plans are now in hand for a visit to Erddig Hall, Wrexham and already many members are showing keen interest in the trip.

Man on the Run

Prior to leaving St. Dominic's school in Liverpool five years ago, young **John Woods**, now a records draughtsman at Lister Drive, was a keen and active footballer.

Then, one of his teachers encouraged him to take up long distance running. The advice was very sound as he experienced the loneliness of being 'out in front' in many cross country championship races.

As a 'Junior', John won the Liverpool & District, West Lancashire and Lancashire championships, was second in the Northern Counties and seventh in the English championships.

Now, as a 'Senior' he has won the Liverpool & District Cross Country Championship.

Each race is normally run over six or seven miles with the National over nine miles. John told us that he trains every day with a stint before coming to work and again in the evening. At week-ends he puts in around 16 to 20 miles and when in hard training for a race, he runs for eight or nine miles at a time. "I average about 80 to 90 miles every week", he said.

Some time ago, he was chosen as a Junior to represent England. Then it was discovered that when the event was to be held, John was just three weeks over the age limit. So near!

Recently, he has found out that he has dual qualifications. This is not painful—it simply means that through birth he is eligible to represent Eire and, as a resident in this country,

he is qualified to run for England!

He was offered the opportunity to take up an athletics scholarship at a University in Nevada in the U.S.A., but romance took precedence and he married Pamela a short time ago. She too was an athlete winning a silver medal as a sprinter in the European Catholic Schools Championships.

We take this opportunity to wish them both lots of happiness in their marriage partnership and every success to John in his cross country endeavours.

Long distance runner John Woods in action.

(Liverpool Daily Post & Echo photograph)





Arm in arm with beaming smiles are Percy and Alice Sunshine—the 84-years-young couple. The beautiful bouquet of flowers were from the Board, arranged by their 'visitor' Alf Kinrade, left. Good work Alf.

Long Time Wed

One of the Board's oldest pensioners in Liverpool—he retired nearly 20 years ago—**Mr. Percival Sunshine**, recently celebrated with his wife **Alice**, their 65th wedding anniversary.

This very happy couple, most appropriately named, are both 84 years of age.

In his early married life, Percy was a dock labourer and in the first world war he was in the Merchant Navy.

Then followed experience at various jobs until the last war when he worked in a munitions factory.

In 1947 he joined the former Liverpool Corporation Electric Supply department, transferring to MANWEB shortly afterwards. Until his retirement, Percy was a popular figure around the Pumpfields depot where he did his job as a mains labourer.

Over the past few years he has had trouble with his eyes which necessitated two operations. Now, even with glasses, he has some difficulty in defining objects clearly and is still attending St. Paul's Eye Hospital as an out patient.

True to type, Percy is full of praise for the specialist and hospital staff who treat him.

The sun shines out of the Sunshine's spotlessly clean home in Old Swan—a terrific tribute to Alice. In fact, on the day before we called, she had done a line of washing, including sheets!

She too was born in Liverpool and in addition to her energy and activity, she has a keen memory—especially of her wedding day so many years ago.

Percy and Alice have successfully brought up four sons and four daughters—all now married.

Very soon, there will be a most unusual sight of father, mother, son and daughter all trooping off to draw their old-age pensions! And we sincerely hope they will all go on doing so for many more years!!

Incidentally, the way in which we got hold of this story proves the worthiness of the scheme whereby a team of Liverpool pensioners make regular visits to their colleagues. It was on one such visit that pensioner **Alf Kinrade** found out that Percy and Alice were to celebrate this great milestone in their lives.

Marketing Adviser

The Electricity Council have recently announced the appointment of Dr. Colin Gronow, PhD, MSc, as Marketing Adviser to the Council in succession to Mr. Charles George who retires on 30th September.

Dr. Gronow, who is 49, is at present Chief Commercial Officer of the South of Scotland Electricity Board.

He has previously worked for the UK Atomic Energy Authority and the CEGB.

Day Out

Members of our North Mersey District Sports and Social Club took over 80 children on a day-out to Stanley Park, Blackpool recently. They were blessed with a day full of glorious sunshine.

Sports events were organised and prizes awarded to winners.

A vote of thanks from the Committee goes to all the helpers and those who organised the trip.

Golden Jubilee

The Wrexham Branch of the Electrical Association for Women—the town's most long-established organisation for women—held their 50th birthday dinner recently at a Marchwiel hotel.

Among the guests were the Mayor and Mayoress of Wrexham, MANWEB Chairman **Ben Hastings** and his wife, and the Chairman of the EAW's national executive, Mrs. A. Carson.

The branch was originally known as the North Wales Branch until 1958, when it was re-named "Wrexham" as the Association grew in North Wales.

Flying High

The culmination of three years' painstaking work by a team of five model-makers

came when their massive 747 Jumbo Jet model aircraft took to the skies for the first time in public at the Model Flying World's Championships at RAF Woodvale near Southport earlier this month.

A BBC television crew featured the model on the "Nation-wide" programme and many hundreds of model aircraft enthusiasts at Woodvale showed their appreciation of the joint effort made to produce such a magnificent model.

One very active member of the team was **Roy Palin**, a meter mechanic based at Lister Drive in Liverpool.

A model 'plane man for many years, Roy's first success was with a rubber-powered 'Spitfire'—the famous fighter aircraft from the last war. The biggest job he has tackled by himself in his current model of a Sabre Jet—with a six feet wingspan.

His interest in remote-control model aircraft came through a friend. Now, in this joint effort, the Jumbo Jet, possibly the largest model aircraft ever

made, takes pride of place among his endeavours.

The aircraft, built to one-twentieth scale, has a wingspan of 11½ feet and is 12½ feet long. The model stands about 3½ feet high and is powered by four 10 c.c. motors—each costing about £50.

Another expensive item is the dual radio-control equipment which is valued at £400.

The fuselage frame is made from plywood and balsawood then covered with polystyrene foam prior to veneering. The wings are simply balsa spruce ribs covered with a skin of plywood.

The cash cost, purely of materials in making the model, is well over £1,200. However, no price can be put on the 6,000 plus man-hours involved over the three years it has taken to construct the model.

Roy became a MANWEB man seven years ago when he went to Hoylake as an apprentice. After a spell at Bridle Rd., he moved over to Lister Drive about two-and-a-half years ago. In addition to his interest in

making model aircraft, Roy is also a keen motorcyclist.

Working with Roy at Lister Drive is another meter mechanic, **Stephen Hennessey** who is also in the model aircraft business.

He took up the hobby seriously about twelve months ago and at the moment he is working on a powered Mustang.

Stephen too joined the Board as an apprentice at Hoylake at the same time as Roy. Now, they are together again, doing the same job of work and both enjoying similar hobbies.



Model-men—Roy Palin, front and Stephen Hennessey.

The magnificent model of the Jumbo Jet which stole the show at Southport



Deputy Meets North Wirral District Staff

—Mr. Gales at Birkenhead



Above: In the Engineering section Mr. Gales, left, with Mr. Ron Morley (District Engineer) and Mrs. Georgina Hodrien (clerk)

Below: Mr. Ken Cambridge (Material Controller), left, at the Cleveland Street depot with Messrs. Gales and Bob Evans (former D.A.O.)



Deputy Chairman Richard Gales recently visited our North Wirral District as part of his planned programme to tour each of the Board's offices to meet as many of our staff as possible.

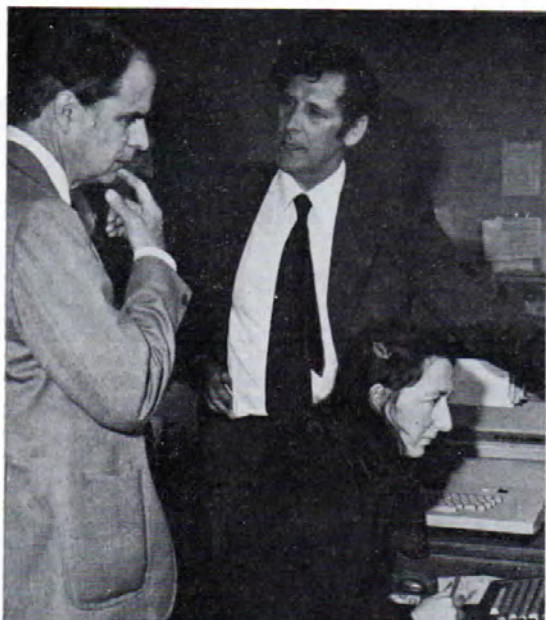
On his North Wirral 'walk around' he met and talked with each of the District Officers before looking round their respective departments.

After lunch in the staff canteen, Mr. Gales called in at the Board's existing shop in Grange Road West and then went on to inspect the site for new premises in the Shopping Precinct.

A brief call in at the Cleveland Street depot followed before de-touring via Landican to see the site of the proposed new District Office complex en-route for his return to Head Office in Chester.



District Commercial Engineer Mr. George Bowers, second from the left, introduces Mr. Gales to staff members Mr. Alan Edwards (Commercial Supply Engineer), left, and Mr. Bob Lowry (2nd engineer-Commercial Supply), right.



Our Deputy Chairman at the Craven Street offices—above, with Bob Evans and Mrs. Heather Rankin (clerk); above right, with our 'Girl from MANWEB' Miss Geraldine Leake (energy sales demonstrator); right, with Mrs. Jean Olivares (draughtswoman); below, with Mr. Alan Jones (3rd engineer-Installation) and Frank Kay (Installation Engineer); below right, with Mr. Harry Litherland (admin assist. Work Control), and below left, ready for lunch served by Mrs. Iris Williams, Mrs. Elsie Criggall and Mrs. Ruth Jackson. (Sorry about the photo girls)



Health & Safety at Work

Another group of Board staff chosen as safety representatives have recently had a course of instruction introducing them to the possible hazards and dangers in their place of work.

This was the second in a series of three training sessions held at Sealand Road.

Our two top pictures show MANWEB staff and colleagues from the Electricity Council at Capenhurst, under instruction.



Safety representatives, from left to right: Allen Carr (Aberystwyth), Susan Stiff (Head Office) and Arthur Jones (Gwynedd) with Norman Barr of the E & EPTU.

MANWEB Safety Officer, Vic Heard, standing right, with his assistant Bernard Scott, centre, and safety representatives John Kirkby (Capenhurst), standing left, and seated, left to right: Rita Tomlin (North Mersey), Neil Morris (North Mersey), Ron Ball (Dee Valley), Brian Rose (Capenhurst), Prue Buckley (Clwyd) and Roy Fallows (North Mersey).



MOUTH TO MOUTH

In the light of recent legislation regarding health and safety at work, the Board have initiated regular first-aid training for all personnel working in situations of possible hazard and for the supervisors of such staff.

Our picture, left, shows Dave Laverick (1st engineer), using a dummy to demonstrate mouth to mouth resuscitation. He is watched by fellow engineers, from left to right: Tom Fox, Gareth Owen, Arthur Booth, Bill Daniels, Gordon Jones and, in front, Arnold Haughton.

"MEETING WITH MANWEB"

Good Business at West Kirby

The unprecedented response for tickets following a mailout invitation to Commercial customers in our North Wirral District, brought about a full house of 130 people at a "Meet with MANWEB" presentation held at West Kirby Concourse Leisure Centre a short time ago.

After a welcome from George Bowers (*District Commercial Engineer*), the programme went on with a most interesting talk in which Bill Hatton (*2nd engineer*), aided by the Electricity Council film, 'A breath of Spring' and a very smart display unit, gave his audience an insight into the need for, and the application of, air conditioning in business premises.

Further interest was aroused by the comprehensive display of



Former energy sales engineer Doug Willacy, left, with George Bowers.

various types of lighting fittings designed for commercial establishments.

Then, our 'Girl from MANWEB', Geraldine Leake, prepared and cooked a wide variety of dishes to show off the speed, control, versatility and cleanliness of electric cooking. She utilised the fan-assisted oven, freezer and micro-wave cooker to prove how even the busiest business woman



Our 'Girl' Geraldine, left, with Margaret Scregg (*senior sales representative*).

could prepare attractive and appetising meals in a matter of minutes.

A buffet supper followed and, some measure of the success of the evening could be judged by the many people who stayed on to look around the exhibits and to talk 'business' with the Board's staff.

The attractive and informative display stand featuring electric air-conditioning equipment. Our men on duty at the presentation were, from left to right: Clive Garner (*senior sales representative*), Bill Hatton and Allan Littler (*2nd engineers-Energy Sales*).



== RETIREMENTS ==

Mr. L. HARTLEY

A member of our staff, well-known at many of the Board's shops, especially on Merseyside, Mr. Leslie Hartley retired recently through ill-health from his post as stockchecker based at Head Office.

Les joined MANWEB in 1954 after service with the RAF where he attained the rank of sergeant. He was appointed as assistant storekeeper at Birkenhead in our North Wirral District and two years later was promoted to storekeeper clerk.

Unfortunately he has had to spend many months in hospital and is now convalescing at his home. Friends and colleagues have subscribed to present him with a transistor radio and we join with them in wishing for Les an improvement in his health for the future.

Mr. P. McNORTON

Past and present colleagues gathered at Warrington to say their farewells to Mr. Percy McNorton when he retired from his job as material control assistant in our Mid-Mersey District. Welcoming him to the ranks of the retired was former Chief Accountant, Mr. Edward Lollar.

Percy joined the former Mersey Power Company in 1932 as an 18-year-old stores clerk. A few years later, at the outbreak of the last war, he became a soldier in

the RAOC. On 'D' Day he was one of the first on the Normandy beaches.

Returning to civilian life, he took up his storekeeping occupation at Runcorn, later joining MANWEB as a senior storekeeper. He worked at several locations around the Widnes and Frodsham areas before moving to Warrington in 1970.

Percy and his wife have four sons—including twins—and seven grandchildren for him to spoil in his retirement.

Mr. F. R. ELLIS

Starting his working life as a van lad with a Liverpool firm, Mr. Frederick R. Ellis soon left '*owing to some misunderstanding with his foreman!*' He then joined the electricity supply industry and in his 44 years with us Fred has not had '*any misunderstandings*' with foremen or anyone else for he has been a great friend and helper to everyone with whom he has worked.

A former Liverpool Corporation Electric Supply man, Fred has been in 'transport' all his working life, most of his time spent at the Pumpfields depot prior to his move to Lister Drive. During the last war he served for six years as a driving instructor with the RAF. On his return to civilian life he soon became a chargehand driving instructor with MANWEB, then foreman and latterly, Liverpool District's transport supervisor.

Hundreds of people on the Board's staff—and elsewhere—are indebted to Fred for his teaching

Friends at Warrington say their farewells to Mr. Percy McNorton, centre in dark suit, on the occasion of his retirement.



Even though Mr. Fred Ellis wanted a 'no fuss' farewell, our friendship with Fred (3rd from left) was used to persuade him to have this picture taken with a few of his many friends on his last day at work.



them to drive. An excellent instructor, patient and very knowledgeable.

Typical of the man, he asked for a quiet farewell from his friends and colleagues. This was granted but we did manage to persuade him to have his picture taken for 'Contact' when he received his retirement gifts of a digital alarm clock and a super socket-set. "The socket-set is something I have always wanted", he said, "but never got round to buying." He will obviously make many more friends in retirement when he puts the socket-set to use repairing cars!

However, for some time to come, Fred will be devoting all his attention to his wife Janet who has had a spell in hospital. We wish her improved health so that she and Fred can enjoy many happy years in retirement.

Mr. J. OWEN

Nearly 50 years ago when acute industrial depression and vast unemployment hit Merseyside, a

young Joe Owen managed to get a job as an apprentice with the former Liverpool Corporation Electric Supply Department.

For five years he was on 'changeover' before being seconded to work on the first Mersey Tunnel. Later he moved on to 'substations'.

During the war years he worked in industry and on his return to the Corporation he became an H.Volt Inspector—Joe was the last man to hold this title!

In 1948 he became an assistant engineer with the former Liverpool South District, then section engineer at Hatton Garden. On the re-organisation of our District set-up, he moved to Lister Drive as 1st engineer—Production then Systems.

His hobbies are reading and attending at the Philharmonic. His many friends in the Liverpool area wished him the best of health for a long and happy retirement at his farewell ceremony when he was presented with a set of binoculars as a parting gift.

After a lifetime in the industry, Mr. Joe Owen, *centre right*, had a great send-off from his friends at Lister Drive a short time ago.



Some of the friends and colleagues in the Revenue section at Head Office surround Mrs. Joan Antrobus (with bouquet) on the occasion of her recent retirement. She left with a host of gifts and cards of good wishes.



Mrs. E. L. J. ANTROBUS

Starting work with MANWEB as a temporary clerk at Runcorn 16 years ago, Mrs. Joan Antrobus has now retired from her post in the Revenue section at Head Office.

During this period she has worked at Warrington, Eversley and with the former Area 2/3 staff at Sealand Road.

Joan leaves behind two members of her family, husband Jim, who is a principal assistant in the Salaries section, and her son Graham an administrative assistant in the H.P. section.

In retirement, we hope that Joan will be able to spend more time to pursue her interests—sewing and reading.

Mr. J. BOWYER

Since his appointment in 1972 as the principal assistant in charge of the Board's printing and stationery section, Mr. John Bowyer has been responsible for the production of 85 million forms.

He joined MANWEB 28 years ago as a stationery clerk at Rhostyllen then moved to Head Office in 1970.

John is an avid reader with a keen interest in history. "He could tell you the exact date when

Oliver Cromwell first sneezed," joked one of his colleagues. His reading covers a wide range of subjects with a leaning towards Welsh literature. This is possibly why he is always ready with an apt quotation to fit the situation.

Music too features high on his list of interests. He is one of the original patrons of the Rhos Orpheus Male Voice Choir.

John and his wife Wena enjoy motoring and they do say that their car can find its own way to Anglesey!

In the home, he is a 'do-it-yourself' enthusiast although this hobby rarely extends outside the house. This probably explains why he always calls on volunteers to mow the lawn!

Mr. D. ELLAMS

After almost 48 years of working in the electricity supply industry, Mr. Dennis Ellams, an administrative assistant in Secretarial section at Head Office, retired a short time ago.

Dennis joined the former Mersey Power Company in 1930 and worked at Roche House, Runcorn for the next ten years until he joined the army, serving first in the RASC and later the RAOC.

On his return, he worked for MANWEB at Eversley holding a succession of appointments until

A triple farewell at Head Office saw Board Secretary Mr. John Scudamore, front left, with a parting handshake for Mr. John Bowyer with colleagues Messrs. Harold Maddock and Dennis Ellams between them.



At a highly successful and well attended retirement party at a Chester Club, 50-year man Mr. Del Hall received many tributes and a variety of farewell gifts from his friends. Our picture shows Del, centre right, receiving a parting handshake from Mr. Ron Williams. In between are Del's wife Dolly and daughter Anne.



he became senior assistant-Administration on the merging of the former Areas 2 and 3.

A very active man, Dennis has danced with a formation team for the past four years, and, with his wife Marjorie, is a capable and enthusiastic golfer. They also enjoy long walks and camping.

Mr. H. MADDOCK

A very quiet man, now retired, is Mr. Harold Maddock who did his job as maintenance electrician at Head Office very efficiently.

Harold served his apprenticeship with a Chester firm, later going to work at John Summer's Steel Works. He joined MANWEB 17 years ago and worked as a service electrician based at Crane Street before taking on the job as maintenance electrician at Head Office.

A bachelor, Harold lives in Chester with his sister.

Mr. D. HALL

The very popular chargehand installation inspector based at New Crane Street in our Dee Valley District, Mr. Del Hall, retired recently after completing nearly 50 years in the electricity supply industry.

To mark the retirement of Mr. Bill Hewitt of our Liverpool District, colleagues gathered round as Mr. Bob Jowett (Energy Sales Manager) returned to make the staff presentation. Bob, centre left, has a farewell handshake for Bill.



In 1929 he joined the former Chester Corporation as a lamp bot proceeding through his apprenticeship to become an electrician.

At a farewell party held in a Chester Club, friends and colleagues gathered to pay their tributes to Del. Many stories were recounted—quite a few from Del himself—which had everyone rocking with laughter.

Then he was presented with a cardboard cut-out of a greenhouse—the real thing, a farewell gift from colleagues, was too big to bring along. Among other gifts presented to him, Del received a huge leek from Mr. Ron Williams (*District Commercial Engineer*) which he said made Del an 'Honorary Welshman!'

Among Del's family at the party was his daughter Anne, who was our first 'Girl from MANWEB' back in 1968. She still is a most attractive young lady!

Mr. W. K. HEWITT

The Commercial Supply Engineer in our Liverpool District, Mr. William K Hewitt, took advantage of early retirement after completing 43 years' service in the industry.

He joined the former St. Helens Corporation as an apprentice in 1935 and qualified as an electrician

just before the outbreak of the last war. Then, for a number of years he served in the Forces as a radio mechanic.

Back in civilian life Bill studied for his HNC and became assistant charge engineer at the St. Helens power station. He transferred to MANWEB in 1949 as contracting engineer at Warrington.

He was appointed as 1st assistant District Commercial Engineer in 1960 and moved over to Liverpool District ten years later to take up the post as Commercial Supply Engineer.

Bill and his wife Bette have a married son. We understand that Bette has a few ideas on how Bill should spend his retirement . . . one idea involves a paint brush, another a spade and yet another a lawnmower.

Mr. J. CURRAN

Friends and colleagues in the Meter Stores section at Lister Drive, subscribed to present a radio/cassette recorder—a gift of his choice—to Mr. James Curran (Clerical 3 assistant) on the occasion of his recent retirement after 20 years service with the board.

With the gift went the best wishes for Jim and his wife Margaret to enjoy a long and happy retirement.

Mr. C. GIBSON

One of our team of engineers who man the Network Reporting Centre at Head Office has retired after completing 48 years service in the electricity supply industry.

He is Mr. Cyril Gibson, who, as a former Sheriff and Councillor of the City of Chester, was also very active in public affairs.

He joined the former Chester Corporation Electricity Department and through his apprenticeship learned a variety of skills, working for some time on the D.C. to A.C. changeover programme.

He then worked as an installation inspector and later in the meter test section before joining

the Royal Navy, serving from 1942 to 1946 on tank landing craft in the Far East.

He returned to Chester and in 1948 to MANWEB. He was a shop steward and served on LAC and Works Committees.

Away from his work, he first served as a member of Chester City Council as a Labour Party representative and later as an Independent. In 1972 ill health forced him to withdraw from local politics.

While on the Council, Cyril gained a reputation for getting things done. He served on a variety of committees, was a Governor of four schools, and represented Chester City Council on several outside committees.

As a Sheriff, he met and entertained members of the Royal Family on their visits to the City and he himself was present at the Investiture of the Prince of Wales at Caernarfon Castle. He has also been entertained at a Buckingham Palace garden party.

We join with his many friends in wishing Cyril and his wife many years of happy retirement.

Mr. R. ROGERS

The good wishes from friends and colleagues in our Mid-Mersey District for an improvement in health and a long and happy retirement went to Mr. Robert Rogers (*2nd engineer-Systems*) on the occasion of his leaving the industry after 48 year's service.

Bob served his apprenticeship with the former Mersey Power Company and continued working for them until he was drafted on to essential war work from 1942 to 1946.

Very active in the Scout movement, Bob became a King's Scout some years ago.

In retirement he hopes to spend more time in his garden and caravanning in North Wales. At both pursuits he will no doubt be able to listen to the radio which was presented to him as a farewell gift.

Many members of our Engineering staff at Head Office gathered to pay their tributes to Mr. Cyril Gibson, seen in our picture with his wife, centre on the occasion of his recent retirement.

