



# CONTACT

August 1974

Clearing the Way  
(See page 163)



## The Chairman's Press Conference



Mr. M. R. Cowan (*Chief Commercial Officer*), in answer to a question, made the point that in the average home the use of electricity—in all its forms—cost less than the expenditure involved in renting a colour TV set. Electricity was still one of the cheapest commodities available, when compared with what people were willing to spend on other things.

Dealing with off-peak tariffs, the Chairman said that the decision to cut the proposed increase would cost about £40 million a year on a national scale, whereas if 'hardship' cases had been dealt with through the social security machinery the cost would have been only £2 million.

COMMENTING on our Annual Report and Accounts at a press conference held in Liverpool on July 30th, our Chairman said they made "sad reading, due to the financial facts of life as they are today."

Questions to the Chairman, and to our chief officers who supported him, flowed thick and fast, especially following the Minister of Energy's announcement (made the previous day), that price increases to off-peak and white-meter consumers were to be cut.

The Chairman said that if MANWEB's finances were to be restored to a reasonably healthy state, further tariff increases of about 15% would be necessary for domestic consumers. Such an increase would be necessary if inflationary external costs—other than those related to power station fuel—were to be recovered.

### The Chairman's Thanks . . .

"I wish to thank all members of the staff who contributed towards keeping management and administrative arrangements on an even keel during a difficult period. Your morale generally during the State of Emergency and the cheerful way in which you carried out your duties, often in cold and gloomy conditions, was most commendable."

## THE YEAR'S PROBLEMS — ON A NATIONAL SCALE

The factors which affected MANWEB, multiplied throughout the entire national economy, meant a total loss for the whole electricity supply industry of £176 million during 1973/74, said the Electricity Council's Annual Report.

The Council Chairman, Sir Peter Menzies, warned that "losses will continue to mount, in spite of the Boards' efforts to improve efficiency, for so long as the industry is prevented from adopting a realistic approach to pricing within a settled financial framework."

The Council's Annual Report says:

"During the periods of statutory price control the electricity supply industry has been treated more harshly than industries in the private sector, and permitted increases have been subject to long delays.

"There are many uncertainties, but if nothing is done the deficit for the year 1974/75 must be in the

range of £175 million to £225 million . . . the absence of correct pricing policies must impede the pursuit of a sound energy policy and result in serious misallocation of national resources."

### C.E.G.B. Report

The Report of the Central Electricity Generating Board, stressing the importance of "secure and economic supplies of primary fuel," says that the CEGB already has sufficient coal-burning capacity to burn far more coal than it has ever consumed before, and more than the National Coal Board is likely to be able to produce."

It adds that the necessary flexibility in the 1980's is more likely to be achieved if the limited number of new fossil-fuelled stations are oil-fired, rather than coal fired, and that the more encouraging view of the prospects for North Sea oil points in the same direction.





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## EDITORIAL

### A Re-appraisal

**T**HE TRAUMATIC effects of last winter's fuel crisis, underlined so clearly and painfully in our Annual Report and Accounts, included another factor which, as yet, is being accepted only by gradual stages.

Those who sit on the oilfields of the Middle East have shown quite clearly that they realise the strength of their position by stepping up the price of their precious 'black gold' until the pips in the oil-users' lemon are audibly squeaking. Our own coalminers, seeing the wheel of fortune tilting in their favour, have proved equally determined to improve their lot.

**The lesson is clear, and everyone in Britain must by now have learned it—the days of relatively 'cheap fuel' have passed into the history books. All classes of fuel user have been forced to look again at their policies toward energy consumption, to seek ways of squeezing more heat and energy from every drop of oil, lump of coal, and kilowatt of electricity.**

The demand for fuel is certainly unlikely to fall. In many fields there is no substitute for electricity, and our industry has always been active in seeking more efficient methods of electricity use, and indeed, of primary fuel use, as exemplified by the steadily rising thermal efficiency of our power stations.

Future emphasis, to an increasing extent, is likely to be laid on helping our consumers to make the maximum possible effective use of our essential product, in their own interests and in the interests of society as a whole. In this new situation there is little doubt that our industry, serving society as always, will be in the forefront of the campaign to build a better and more civilised future.

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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.



# MANWEB to the Rescue at Llangollen International Eisteddfod

On the day before the opening of the 28th International Eisteddfod at Llangollen recently, gale force winds did extensive damage to the main 6,000-seater marquee and to the electrical installations throughout the site.

Our two men from MANWEB on the scene, Mr. Frank Jones (*installation foreman*) and Mr. Edward Webb (*stand-by electrician*), quickly went to work and began by providing supply to the electric sewing machines used by the crew for repairing the ripped roof canvasses from the main marquee. They also laid on supply to portable floodlights so that the contractors, with new canvas, could continue on the repair work throughout the night.

In the early hours of the following morning, Frank and Ted went to work again and did a normal three-days work in a matter of hours to instal about four miles of cable for lighting, power, broadcasting and TV requirements in readiness for the opening ceremony that evening.

*Frank has a special interest in the Eisteddfod for it is held on property once owned by his father, Mr. Baden Powell Jones. The farm and field was sold to the Eisteddfod Committee some 15 years ago as Frank and his brother were not interested in carrying on the family tradition of farming.*

*The land today is estimated to be worth about £250,000!*



*Top:*  
The men  
from  
MANWEB,  
Edward  
Webb (*left*)  
and Frank  
Jones.

*Above:*  
The electric  
sewing  
machine  
in use  
repairing  
the gale-  
damaged  
canvasses.

*Left:*  
The main  
marquee  
shown here  
ripped from  
its  
supports and  
moorings.



# THE COST OF THE FUEL CRISIS - OUR ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS, 1973/74

"The serious effects of last Winter's fuel crisis, combined with Government restraint of electricity tariffs, led to MANWEB's biggest ever loss of £7,880,000" says the Board's Annual Report and Accounts for the year ended on March 31st, 1974, published on July 30th.

The Report says that the events of last Winter:

- \* Doubled the cost of coal and oil burned in power stations, adding £600,000,000 a year to the electricity industry's fuel bill. MANWEB's share of this increase amounts to £47,000,000.
- \* Reduced the real standard of living of the population.
- \* Brought to an abrupt halt encouraging trends in the fields of industrial production and manufacturing investment. Those trends, prior to the crisis, had led to a 6% increase in electricity sales.
- \* Deprived MANWEB of electricity sales totaling 700 million units.

## The Evils of Inflation

Referring to the "distructive social forces which inflation unleashes" the Report forecasts that a sustained recovery is unlikely until inflation has been brought under control.

## The Industry's Finances

The Report says that electricity is now being sold at less than the cost of its production and distribution. It urges that the electricity industry should be allowed to balance its books by charging economic prices, adding that "under pricing" tends to induce uneconomic capital investment on a considerable scale.

"The road back to reality is undoubtedly hard for consumers in the short term" says the Report. It adds that in the long term, however, it is in the consumer interest for the industry itself to be able to finance the continued reliability of present electricity supplies and to meet the demand for new and increased supplies.

## Electricity Tariffs

The Report warns that the higher charges for domestic electricity, recently introduced, are designed to recover only the increased cost of power station fuel and take no account of other cost

increases (plant, equipment, wages and Rates). As a result, the Board's loss in 1974/75 is likely to be even greater than the £7.88 million lost during 1973/74.

"Until electricity boards are permitted by the Government to recover other inflation-increased costs, MANWEB will still be selling electricity at a loss, and that loss is likely to be very substantial," says the Report.

## Marginal Expansion During 1973/74

Despite the problems created by the crisis, the emergency regulations and the three-day week, taking the year as a whole there were marginal increases in overall electricity sales (0.3%—the lowest increase during the past 20 years); sales to industry (0.2%) and sales to homes and farms (2.5%). Sales to commercial customers—hardest hit by the restrictions—fell by 4.9%.

## Improving Efficiency

Although beset by external troubles, MANWEB's efforts to improve efficiency and service continued. These ranged from the rationalisation of appliance spares to the increasing use of a new and more economic type of underground cable.

Staff employed, per 100,000 consumers, fell in number from 579 to 563. In 1948, the figure was 1,016 employees per 100,000 consumers.

## Some Facts and Figures

- \* The total number of customers increased from 1,127,047 to 1,144,939.
- \* Distribution mains in service increased from 38,914 to 39,349 kilometres.
- \* The value of domestic appliances sold fell by 14.2% to £6,040,000.
- \* A profit of £635,000 on appliance sales and contracting work helped reduce the overall loss.

## Appreciation

The Report expresses the Board's thanks to all MANWEB staff for the way in which they responded to the many problems posed by the winter's emergency and to the press and broadcasting organisations for their co-operation in keeping the public informed of the Board's contingency plans.





Mr. Gerry Worthington addresses delegates to the Street Lighting Seminar at Warrington. Superintendent Gibson is seated left and Mr. Roger Monk is third from the left.

## Lighten Our Darkness

**UNCOVERING** the tip of an iceberg was an opinion expressed following some lively discussion at the Street Lighting Seminar organised by our Commercial colleagues in the South Lancashire District a short time ago.

A large proportion of the top technical officers and engineers from the recently re-organised local government authorities attended the Seminar. They were welcomed by Mr. Roger Monk (*District Commercial Engineer*) who then went on to introduce the first guest speaker, Mr. Gerry Worthington, the Board's lighting expert from Head Office.

His theme was the advantages offered by light-activated controls in the operation of street lighting.

The prevention or reduction of traffic accidents, and the prevention and detection of crime, were the main benefits produced by road lighting, he said. The fact that lighting had to serve police and pedestrians, as well as motorists, was a strong argument in favour of all-night lighting.

The popularity and use of light-activated controls had increased enormously in recent years, and MAN-WEB had concluded that the provision of dusk-to-dawn lighting was both economical and in the best interests of community safety and welfare.

Photo-control equipment never required re-setting, whenever daylight was fading it turned lights on, regardless of the time of day, reducing accidents



*Some of the delegates who attended the Seminar*





involving both pedestrians and vehicles. Crime and vandalism flourished in conditions of darkness, and there was documented evidence of startling reductions in the incidence of crime when lighting standards were improved.

"Vandalism today can be very persistent, and is usually pursued with a frighteningly energetic determination," said Mr. Worthington. "The best deterrent is the high probability of the vandal being seen in the act, and of being caught."

He referred also to the civic advantages of providing suitable floodlighting for architectural features of interest.

Light-operated controls, he said, eliminated the chaos produced when time-operated systems were interfered with by failures or disconnections of supply.

"I feel we have reached the stage where the installation of photo-control on all new street lighting installations should be an automatic choice," added Mr. Worthington.

He illustrated points made during his talk with a number of detailed slides. The whole presentation was well received by the audience.

Mr. Worthington was followed by Superintendent Brian Gibson of the Cheshire County Constabulary who, in speaking on security and safety offered by all-night lighting, echoed Gerry's comments regarding effective street lighting being a deterrent to thieves and vandals.

*Superintendent Gibson spoke of the economics of good street lighting which helped to reduce the number of accidents and helped to keep the crime rate down. He provided plenty of food for thought for all the local authority officials responsible for street lighting.*

Then followed a session during which the Board's street lighting procedures were explained. Ideas were exchanged in an endeavour to establish better communications and more efficient working arrange-



Photo-electric controlled street lighting on the A41 Chester by-pass.

ments for the planning, programming, installation, connection, maintenance, charges and tariffs for street lighting services.

There is no doubt that the Seminar, held at the Wilderspool Leisure Centre adjacent to our District Office block, was highly productive and therefore successful in its aims. A very packed programme helped both guests and Board staff gain a little more understanding of each others problems and with this knowledge, pointed to improved relations in the future.

## LIVERPOOL BABIES

Congratulations to:

Mr. Ken Rigby (*2nd assistant engineer*) and his wife Sandra on the birth of a daughter, Louise.

Mr. Alan Sandells (*2nd assistant engineer*) and his wife Susan on the birth of a daughter Claire Louise—a sister for Nicola.

Grandparents for the first time, Mr. C. E. Donovan (*District Engineer*) and his wife Marion. Their daughter Janice and her husband Gary became the proud parents of a baby girl.

## Stop Press

### DEPUTY CHAIRMAN

The Secretary of State for Energy has authorised the appointment of Mr. Bernard Ratcliffe Hastings, B.Sc. (HONS), as the Deputy Chairman of MANWEB. He succeeds Mr. D. G. Gwyn who retired at the end of July.

Mr. Hastings is 44 and comes to us from the South of Scotland Electricity Board where he has been Management Services Controller since 1967.

Married, he has a daughter (15) and a son (13).







Mr. Fairclough congratulates the successful apprentices, from left to right: Anthony Niedzwieki, Neil Griffiths, Anthony Hignett and William Pierce.

## Prize Day at Hoylake

“JOB SATISFACTION IS VITAL”

— Advice to Apprentices

AT THE 18th annual prize distribution ceremony for MANWEB craft apprentices held at our Hoylake Training Centre a few weeks ago, Mr. J. L. W. Ladner (*Education and Training Officer*) opened the proceedings by warmly welcoming everyone—District Officers, parents and landladies—before he introduced the special guest speaker Mr. Sidney Fairclough, the Board's Installation and Service Manager, “a man hardly better qualified to speak to apprentices.”

Mr. Fairclough said that often when he saw the apprentice reports, he remembered from personal experience the hard work and slog which went into this early training. He reminded the young men that although this initial part of their training programme had come to an end, it would not be ‘goodbye’ to

Hoylake for they would be returning from time to time for specialised training.

“Next Monday, however,” he went on, “you will be joining your respective Districts and in a very short time you will be engaged on duties in homes, commercial premises and factories. For the next three years of your training you will be faced with lots of hard work, and most important, you will be meeting our customers.

“We think a lot of them,” he emphasised, “they pay our wages. Give them a satisfactory job and you will get a lot of personal satisfaction out of it. Technical knowledge is not enough to make a good tradesman, behaviour and enthusiasm are also very important and job satisfaction is vital to us all.”

He urged the apprentices to put distractions aside



## THE GUEST SPEAKER

for a short time—"the girls can wait"—and to keep up with their studies at college.

"Everyone is different," continued Mr. Fairclough, and not all here today will become chartered engineers with University degrees. But whatever you become—craftsmen, technicians or engineers—it is essential that you do your job well.

"Your work with the Board will have a variety of interest and will test your skills and ability. Your future prospects depend entirely upon yourselves, but remember, the future of this great industry depends very much upon people like you."

He then pointed to the District Officers present saying that every one of them had started their working lives as apprentices.

Bringing his brief and interesting remarks to a close, he encouraged the young men to try and fit

Mr. Sidney Fairclough started his working life as an apprentice electrician with the Liverpool Corporation Electric Supply Department in 1930. After becoming qualified as a craftsman, he worked for a while as an electrical inspector until he joined the Royal Engineers, serving from 1939 to 1945 rising to the rank of captain.

On his return to civilian life he held various posts in Liverpool, St. Helens and Southport before becoming Commercial Officer with the former Area 3 in 1960.

Nine years later with the re-organisation of the Board, Mr. Fairclough was appointed to his present post as Installation and Service Manager.



Mrs. Fairclough presents the 'Best All-Round Apprentice' Anthony Niedzwiecki from Bootle with his prize. In the background is Mr. J. L. W. Ladner (Education and Training Officer). The other prizewinners were:

Electrical Subjects:

Neil Griffiths from Crewe.

Mechanical Subjects:

William J. Pierce from Mold.

The prize of a place on a Course at the West Highland School of Adventure went to Anthony J. Hignett of St. Helens.

into their District team saying, "You can be a loner, or you can fit in." He cited the example of World Cup football teams with perhaps one or two brilliant solo players, but it was the team with co-ordinated skills and played as a unit who would win through.

"But before you can fit into the MANWEB team," concluded Mr. Fairclough, "you must first qualify for a place."

On behalf of all present, Mr. Ladner then thanked Mr. Fairclough for his inspiring words and supported

his remarks by saying that three former apprentices, who six years ago had sat in on such a prizeday, had just gained their degrees at Salford University.

He then announced the names of this year's prize-winners and the awards were graciously presented by Mrs. Fairclough.

A vote of thanks to Mr. and Mrs. Fairclough was proposed by apprentice David Jacobsen from Presatyn, and bouquets were presented to Mrs. Fairclough and special guests, Mrs. Sybil Cooper and Miss Sybil Timmins, for their efforts in training the successful apprentice first-aid team.

## WEDDING

Best wishes for a happy future go to two members of our North Wirral District staff, Mr. Michael J. Whitenburgh (senior assistant—work control) and Miss Maureen E. Joyce (clerk—meter records), on the occasion of the recent marriage which took place at the English Martyrs Church in Wallasey Village.

Maureen joined the Board in 1973 and met Michael at Craven Street. They became engaged last May.

Friends in the District subscribed to present them with a coffee table as a wedding gift.



Mr. and Mrs.  
Whitenburgh





## MANWEB ENGINEERING SCHEMES

Plans to extend, reinforce, and alter the MANWEB distribution network, at a cost of £1,140,000, were approved by the Board at their July meeting.

Brief details of major projects authorised are as follows:

### Network Reinforcement

- (1) The establishment of a Supergrid supply point at Fiddler's Ferry Power Station, the erection of 17 km of 132,000-Volt overhead line, and the laying of 1.4 km of 132,000-Volt underground cable, to reinforce security of supply and cater for increasing demand in Warrington and North Cheshire. This is a major project which will cost MANWEB £723,000.
- (2) Reinforcement of the 11,000-Volt network at Penmaen Head (Colwyn Bay). This network is heavily loaded, residential development is expanding, and an industrial estate is planned for the near future.  
A new 33,000/11,000-Volt substation will be provided, with 100 metres of 33,000-Volt cable and 1,000 metres of 11,000-Volt cable.

- (3) Construction of a new 33,000/11,000-Volt substation to provide power to the main site of operation for the CEGB's new Pumped Storage Scheme at Llanberis. This substation will be linked to the main network by 2,100 metres of overhead line.

### Diversion of Lines and Cables

- (1) Additional cable diversion work in connection with the construction of the M62 Motorway at Broadgreen, Liverpool.
- (2) Diversion of 33,000-Volt cable to permit housing development at the Sefton Estate, Bootle.
- (3) The 'undergrounding' of 600 metres of high-voltage cable to allow factory units to be built at Pum Rhyd Industrial Estate, Wrexham.
- (4) Diversion of high-voltage cables and lines to allow development of the Kerry Road Industrial Site at Newtown.
- (5) Diversion of 33,000-Volt overhead line away from the site of a proposed playing field and Sports Complex at Cae Glas, Machynlleth.

### Housing

Provision of supply to 172 new houses at Sontley Road, Wrexham.

### Smaller Schemes

A large number of smaller schemes in all parts of the MANWEB area were also approved.

## NEW EQUIPMENT IN SUBSTATIONS

New safety control equipment known as "Solkor R" is now being installed in all new 6.6 kV and 11 kV substations on the Board's network.

This supercedes the old "Solkor A" which is now obsolete and it has been found advantageous due to this change to adopt new commissioning techniques which allows for tests to be done simply, yet comprehensively, in three stages.

Specialist engineers from our Head Office Tech-

nical Section are at present visiting their engineering colleagues in the Districts to demonstrate the equipment and explain procedures for installing and carrying out tests on the new equipment.

To date, the Head Office team have been to North Mersey, Liverpool, North Wirral and South Lancashire Districts.

Next on the programme are the Dee Valley and Mid-Cheshire Districts.

Head Office Technical team with their colleagues in the South Lancashire District. *From left to right, standing: Messrs. W. Jones, J. Acklam, G. Range, G. Coulton, T. Gopsill, H. Sudworth, G. Williams (these last three from Head Office), A. R. Cooper (District Engineer), V. Flanagan, M. Powell, W. Davies and R. Zimmerman. Seated: Messrs. G. Lamb, B. Fitton, D. Tomlinson and L. Pickering.*







## OTHER PEOPLE'S HOBBIES — SEA ANGLING

Above: The fishermen from South Lancashire District aboard the "Skylark."

# All Aboard the Skylark!

IT WAS 6.30 a.m. on a fine Saturday morning as the motor vessel 'Skylark' (no kidding, that was the real name) chugged away from its mooring at Deganwy on the North Wales Coast.

On board were six fishermen from MANWEB, members of the sea angling section of the South Lancs District Sports and Social Club, plus your intrepid 'Contact' reporter.

As we passed the Great Orme the mist shrouding the summit slowly cleared. The warm sun shone through the slightly hazy sky, and I was assured the conditions were just right for a good days fishing.

Away from the shelter of the Orme the rolling swell from Conwy Bay rocked our 32 feet craft. I had swallowed a sea-sickness pill so I met the undulating sea without apprehension.

From the tiny galley came the aroma of a fry-up! Eggs, bacon,

tomatoes and of course that Lancastrian delicacy black puddings, sizzled in the pan. Two of the larger members of the expedition were preparing their breakfast, whilst the rest of us tucked into our sandwiches or prepared the rods for the forthcoming tussle.

Up and down, side to side, *Skylark* pitched and rolled her way out to sea.

The fry-up lads were having difficulty in disposing of their giant nosh-up, and were offering black-pudding butties around.

With the bobbing of the boat and the greasy appearance of the gastronomic nightmare, they only found one taker!

After half-an-hour's steaming, skipper Meurig Davies dropped anchor and suggested we try our luck. The rods had been prepared with mackerel feathers, for the uninitiated that is a length of nylon containing six separate hooks, each having a number of coloured feathers tied to them. These are suspended on the line with a 1lb weight attached and



Gary Williams, left, enjoys a 'cuppa' while Lew Carter, right, prepares his tackle. These two were not affected by "Mal de Mer" and managed to hold on to their breakfasts!







*Above: Gary Williams lands a gurnard. Top right: Roy Osborne reels in a skate. Below: Lew Carter unhooks a whiting.*



*Below: The skipper and fishermen, from the left, Reg Bramhall, Gary Williams, Tony Standing, Roy Osborne, skipper Meurig Davies, Wally Atherton and Lew Carter.*

*Bottom left: Wally Atherton, wearing hat, hooks a skate and Tony Standing gaffs it.*



*Bottom right: Tony Standing gaffs yet another skate.*



*Below: A dog fish fights to the last on the end of a line.*





jiggled up and down. This is supposed to deceive mackerel that it is a shoal of small fish.

We sat and jiggled our lines to little effect for 15 minutes. The boat bobbed up and down and I noted that a couple of the black-pudding-eaters were changing colour.

*What we needed was a little ground bait to liven up the fish. Then one of the fried-breakfast diners obliged, then a second and a third. Laying ground bait looked remarkably like being sea-sick!*

A yell of delight from the starboard side of the boat. Tony Standing had hooked the first fish of the day, a large mackerel. This he proposed to use to lure larger inhabitants of the Bay onto his hook. But there did not seem to be many about.

I was wondering what had happened to that prediction of "ideal conditions for a good day's fishing" when the reason was made obvious. "It's all this algae on the surface. I don't think the mackerel like it. We'll try further out." said our skipper, upped anchor and steamed out to sea.

The two hours of heavy swell took its toll on a fourth member of the expedition, the one who had that black pudding butty, he was seen laying ground bait. He called to the skipper to park on a flat bit next time! The sea was not rough just that swell going up and down . . . up and

down . . . frankly I was not feeling quite as chirpy as I had been, but of course I had taken that pill, I would be alright.

Another change of position, and another vessel called the *Skylark* on the radio. It was Glyn on the *Conway Star*. "Ah yes, well alright then Meurig, where are you . . . what's it like . . ." he was checking whether we had found any fish, as he had not.

Paternosters, traces as well as the feathers were now being employed to coax the elusive marine dwellers from their habitat. One or two flat fish had been caught. The boat was still going up and down, I was not going to be sick, I had taken a pill . . . I was not going to be sick . . . whoops . . . there goes breakfast. Seasick flaming pills!

*"You've got a bite Wally."*

Wally Atherton grabbed his formerly redundant rod and gave it a jerk. Yes he definitely had a bite and judging by the bend on the rod a big one. Slowly he wound in the line. Hauling the catch from the twenty fathoms of water. "It's a skate."

**There, a few feet below in the clear water, struggling at the end of the line was the brown delta-winged shape of the skate. Gradually it came along-side and the gaff was quickly used to bring the 17lb fish on board.**

We seemed to have found the spot. A gurnard was next to be

landed—a pink fish with wing-like fins, and a large spiky dorsal fin.

Whoah there, I've got a bite—in fact it is two, both whiting. All around me fish are being landed. Roy Osborne landed six mackerel at one go—that's the way to catch them!

The swell has died down and the sea is like a mill pond, all signs of nausea have passed and everyone is enjoying the fishing—even the language had improved. A transcript earlier would have needed President Nixon's expulsive-deleting squad!

The sun rose high in the sky, and the time was near for us to return to Deganwy. The skipper had another trip and it would take an hour to get back. He raised the anchor and Wally landed his second skate.

Back in Deganwy we just had time for a pint in Maggie Murphy's pub and reminisce over the day's fishing and of the big ones that got away (not that many did on this trip).

The verdict was a moderate day's fishing. The catch amounted to four skate, 8 dog fish, 2 gurnard, numerous whiting and mackerel, and a couple of flaties.

Speaking for myself, I had a good day out, and thoroughly enjoyed the fishing and the excellent company of the fishermen from South Lancs.

☆ ☆ ☆



Fishing is a most relaxing sport, and to prove it, we picture Reg Bramhall, left, and Wally Atherton, below.







**The line being dismantled can be seen descending into the valley, while the new lines replacing it march over the hillside on the right.**

**A new 11kV line, to supply power to the work-site at the upper reservoir, will climb the slate-heaps across the valley and pass over the skyline at a high level.**





# Clearing the way at Llanberis

As our CEGB colleagues press on with the early stages of the new Llanberis Pumped Storage Scheme, so MANWEB's engineers are making alterations to our networks to facilitate construction work. Plans are also well in hand to provide the CEGB with the necessary power to get on with the job.

The first network alteration—now completed—involved the diversion of about half a mile of dual circuit 33/11kV overhead line to clear the 'working area' near the upper end of Llyn Peris, which will be the 'lower reservoir' in the Pumped Storage Scheme.

This line has been moved away from the valley floor, just north of Nantperis village, as a preliminary to the work involved in raising the lake's water level, and reconstructing the main road at a higher level so as to skirt the deeper lake. This line has been rebuilt (as separate circuits) some 200-300 feet up the mountainside, in very difficult terrain.

Simultaneously, trenching work has been going on, nearer to Llanberis, to accommodate about 1,200 metres of 33kV cable, which will replace another overhead line.

Much work remains to be done. The 4mVA transformer at Llanberis substation will be replaced by one of 7.5mVA, to supply power to the main lower working area. Ahead lies the arduous and spectacular job of erecting an 11kV overhead line directly up the towering mountain of slate spoil—the by-product of the labours of generations of quarrymen—which dominates the northern end of Llanberis Pass. This line—climbing 2,000 feet at a steep angle—will supply power to the working area of the upper reservoir, and will be linked to the network by a 33/11kV by a new substation at a low level among the spoil heaps.

Other overhead line work in the Nantperis area is also required, to maintain supply to cottages in the area, as part of the general network re-arrangement.

OUR COVER PICTURE shows the upper end of Llyn Peris (*left*) which will be enlarged and deepened to form the lower reservoir.



These pictures explain, better than any words, why it would not be practical to underground all electricity supplies! This trench, along the main road near Llanberis, will carry a 33kV cable replacing overhead supplies which are being diverted to allow work to go forward.







A smile, a handshake, and a special award from the Chairman for the winning first-aiders, from left to right: David Lloyd (Wrexham), David Jacobson (Rhyl), John French (Warrington) and Kevin Owen (Crewe).



## CHAIRMAN VISITS HOYLAKE

Our Chairman, Mr. Denis Dodds, visited the Hoylake Training Centre recently to present awards to four of our apprentices who took first place in the industry's First-Aid Competition for first-year apprentices, staged in Bristol.

After the ceremony, the Chairman took time out to make a quick tour of the Training Centre and saw various aspects connected with the Board's training programme for apprentices and craftsmen.

*Above left: Mr. M. M. Parker (Secretary and Solicitor) chats with senior electrical apprentice Derek Rees Jones from Llangefni.*

*Left: Mr. Geoff Parry (senior instructor, jointing) and the Chairman, with the aid of a facsimile model of a pole termination, discuss the connection of wave-form cable terminations to overhead lines. In the background, from left to right, are Messrs. R. Slack (principal assistant, Hoylake Training Centre), M. M. Parker and partially hidden, J. L. W. Ladner (Education and Training Officer).*





## 'Walkabout' in South Lanes District

Following our Chief Commercial Officer's visit to the Dee Valley District some time ago, it was the turn of Mr. W. N. Shires, the Deputy Chief Commercial Officer, to pay a visit to another of our Districts, and he chose South Lancashire.

A member of the District Commercial staff, Mr. John Drewe (2nd assistant engineer) was on hand with his camera during the "Walkaround" and we show some of his pictures on this page.

At our St. Helens shop, Mr. Shires chats with acting shop supervisor, David Wilcox and Dorothy Rhoden (saleswoman).



Above: Margaret Catling and Emily Kendrick (saleswomen) with Sue Hodgson (marketing demonstrator) talking with Mr. Shires when he visited Warrington shop.

Below: The Deputy C.C.O. shares a joke with Stan Baldwin (assistant supply engineer), seated, while colleague Bill Davies (section engineer) is on the 'phone.



Snapped after lunch against a background showing the bonded stores associated with the ginnery where the famous Warrington gin is produced. From left to right: Messrs. Ken Appleton (energy sales engineer), Vernon Collard (District sales supervisor), W. N. Shires, Roger Monk (District Commercial Engineer), Ron Johnson (supply engineer) and Fred Crossley (installation engineer). Needless to say our 'Commercials' stuck to bitter with steak and kidney pie for their working lunch!







Watching MANWEB electrician Mr. J. Forber working on a ceiling heating installation are, from left to right: Messrs. R. S. Glover (3rd asst. engineer—energy sales, Dee Valley), G. Tommy (Housing Dept., Chester District Council), and K. Appleton (energy sales engineer, South Lancashire District), Miss M. Edge (Housing Dept., Chester District Council), Messrs. D. Davies (Architect's Dept., Wrexham Maelor District Council), J. Norquay (principal architect, Chester District Council), P. Rigby-Jones (architect, Chester District Council), J. B. Poulson (architect, Chester District Council), D. H. Hinsley (energy sales engineer, Dee Valley District) and A. F. Standing (2nd asst. engineer—installation, South Lancashire District).

## Another trip to Warrington

After reading the ceiling heating story in the June issue of 'Contact,' Mr. Don Hinsley, energy sales engineer for our Dee Valley District asked his counterpart colleague in the South Lancashire District, Mr. Ken Appleton, to arrange for a party of officials from the Chester and the Wrexham Maelor District Councils to visit installations in the District.

Within a few days, the officials were on their way to the Sankey Manor "Shelter" Home to see for themselves ceiling heating at work. Later, they visited a site in Ackers Lane, Stockton Heath where they saw MANWEB electricians working on a new installation of ceiling heating in one of 30 Council houses and flats specially designed for the aged and disabled.

This was the first installation contract to be carried out by the Board since we became the sole official installers of the highly successful ICI Flexel method of ceiling heating in our area.

Ken informed us that he has a further seven homes

in Antrobus ready for ceiling heating and twelve more houses in Grappenhall.

Following the visit of the St. Helens officials a few weeks ago, they have now decided to instal Flexel ceiling heating in the first phase of their "Shelter" accommodation comprising of 36 flats.

### Obituary

We regret to report the following deaths:

Mr. Robert Evans, a former installation inspection engineer at Warrington prior to his retirement in 1966. Bob, who was 70, had worked in the industry for 35 years.

Mr. Ernest Hutchinson, a foreman with the Installation and Service section in the South Lancashire District. Ernie, who had been ill for some time, was 58 and had been in the industry for 37 years.

Mr. Frank H. Thompson, a chargehand with the cable gang in our Mid-Cheshire District. Frank, aged 53, died after a long illness. He had been with the Board for ten years.

We extend our deepest sympathy to the families of the deceased and add our condolences to Miss E. V. Jones (sales demonstrator, Oswestry) on the loss of her mother on July 20th.



# Mid-Cheshire First-Aiders

## 100 per cent examination success

A couple of months ago, a check was made among our staff in the Mid-Cheshire District to find out how many held current first-aid certificates. Some people were surprised to find that their certificates had expired and they could no longer be classed as qualified first-aiders.

Notices were quickly posted informing one and all that a first-aid course would be starting and anyone interested should add their names to the list. The response was so great that all volunteers could not be put on the course immediately, but on the basis of first come first served, twelve people were chosen for the first course.

Under the expert tuition of Nurse Dorothy Davis from Head Office, they met each week to learn how to diagnose fractures, how to treat cuts, bruises and burns, the art of bandaging an arm or a leg, the



Nurse Davis watches as Janet Ap-Thomas puts a sling on Christine Forster's arm. Admiring the work is Gerald Clarke.

control of bleeding, resuscitation and generally how to render effective first-aid to prevent illness or injury becoming worse, to promote healing and to sustain life.

Dorothy was ably assisted during the first few weeks by Mr. Alec Cutler, a former electrician in the District. Alec devoted many hours of his time to instruct the class, but unfortunately fell ill towards the end of the course. We hear that he is still not fully fit but is on the road to recovery.

The whole course were a little apprehensive when they went in for their final test, but there were happy faces on July 3rd when everyone was informed that they had passed with flying colours.

Our congratulations to you all.

The successful first-aiders from Mid-Cheshire District. *From left to right, standing:* Carol Fox, Helen Haycocks, Margaret Lockwood, Lynne Fletcher, Fred Astles, Robert Scott, Gerald Clarke, Bernard Kimpton, Derek Burgess and Barry Harding. *Seated:* Christine Forster, Nurse Davis and Janet Ap-Thomas.





## The Modern Choral Sound of "The Hylites"

The man with a great talent for bringing out the best in blend of voices, Mr. Emyr James of our Drawing Office in the Dee Valley District, recently took eleven of his singers from the famous "Hylites" group to present a show at the Royal Westminster Suite in London.

Three more members of the Board's staff were among the group, Margaret Booth and Janet Evans (formerly of "The Lynettes") and Mr. Raymond Williams of Head Office audit staff.

Emyr and his singers received a rousing reception and were asked to return again next year.

The modern choral sound of "The Hylites" uses the medium of popular music as its basis. They do not use standard choral repertoire but have their own style of singing bringing the music of Burt Bacharach, Simon and Garfunkel, The Beatles and the solo songs of Sinatra and Bassey into choral arrangement.

The ensemble numbers around 32 members augmented by piano, organ, rhythm guitars and drums. They have broadcast on the B.B.C.'s. 'Country Meet Folk'

programme from the Playhouse Theatre in London, made three appearances at the famous Nashville Room and quite recently, put a show on at the Liverpool Philharmonic Hall.

They have enjoyed a successful and varied season with 'dates' in cabaret, clubland and theatres. Their plans for the future include "cutting a disc."

After a summer break, "The Hylites" will be 'on the road' again next month keeping dates in their bulging engagement book.

Always on the look-out for new and additional talent Emyr spreads his net far and wide. Some of his singers at the moment travel up to twenty miles for rehearsals.

If you can sing, and really enjoy it, and would like to join this happy and successful group,

please contact Mr. Emyr James, Drawing Office, Dee Valley District, Rhostyllen, and he will gladly arrange for an audition.

"The Hylites" are great and they go from strength to strength.

## WEDDING

Our best wishes for a happy future go to Mr. Clifford Jones, a heavy goods vehicle driver at our



Mr. and Mrs. Jones

Queensferry Stores, and to Miss Margaret Anne Williams, a teacher, who were married recently at Llanrwst Church.

Members of the Board's staff who sing with "The Hylites" are seen in this picture of the group. First, the ladies, 1st left, Brenda Rider, 7th left, Janet Evans, and 8th left, Margaret Booth (all from Dee Valley), 2nd right, Pat Jefferson (Head Office) and 4th right, Megan Hadley (Dee Valley). And the gents, 3rd and 4th left, David Evans and Hubert Evans (Head Office), 5th left, Reg Potts (Dee Valley), 7th left, Raymond Williams (Head Office) and 8th left, the maestro himself, Emyr James, who is now recovering from a recent operation. Get well soon Emyr!





## PENSIONERS' OUTINGS

Three separate parties of pensioners from our South Lancashire District recently enjoyed a day out at Ness Gardens before journeying to Head Office in time for tea.

Here they were met by Mr. H. Telfer (*Group Manager*), deputising for his colleague Mr. J. W. Trimble who was indisposed, and South Lancs District Officers and Welfare staff from Head Office.



The Warrington party ▲ escorted by Mrs. Ena Harding.



The St. Helens party ▲ escorted by Mrs. Helen Brown.

The Runcorn party ▼ escorted by Mrs. Jean Hopley.



## Long Service Awards

A recommendation that long service awards in the electricity supply industry should now be made to employees on completion of 20, 30 and 40 years' continuous service was approved by the General Purposes Committee of the National Joint Advisory Council at its meeting on August 1st.

The monetary value of the 20, 30 and 40 year awards will be £33, £52.50 and £70 respectively.

Notice boards will shortly carry lists showing the names of employees entitled to receive awards under this new arrangement which takes effect from July 1st of this year. Employees whose names do not appear on the lists and who consider that they are eligible for an award, should notify their District

Administrative Officer (*in the case of District personnel*), or the Assistant Secretary—Administration (*in the case of Head Office personnel*).

Before the recommendation to introduce the new awards was made, the Inland Revenue authority was consulted with regard to the income tax position. It has been established that to carry income tax exemption, a long service award must **not** be made within ten years of a previous award. This means, unfortunately, that employees receiving 30 or 40-year awards under the new scheme, having previously received 25 or 35-year awards under the old scheme, will be liable to pay tax on the value of the award.





Mr. Dick Dolman, *right front wearing suit*, with colleagues at Lister Drive on the day of his retirement.

## Retirements from Liverpool . . .

### Mr. R. DOLMAN

A man who will be doubly missed now that he has retired from his job as storekeeper at Lister Drive in our Liverpool District is Mr. Richard Dolman, who besides issuing materials from the Stores was also very handy with the comb and scissors when it

came to giving his workmates a neat short back and sides.

Following war service with the army, Dick joined the Liverpool Corporation Electric Supply Department in 1947 as a cable hand and a couple of years later when MANWEB took over, he went to work in the Stores.

Some of his many friends at Liverpool District Office, say their farewells to Mr. Jack Hebden, *seated centre right*.





At a farewell presentation, Mr. J. Ramsey (*principal assistant—Stores*) on behalf of friends and colleagues, handed Dick a clock, table lighter and cheque with everyone's wish for a happy retirement.

Later, Dick and his wife Lil, were hosts at Liverpool's "Mr. Pickwick" where one and all enjoyed a great night to give the Dolman's a send-off to be remembered.

#### Mr. J. HEBDEN

Members of our Liverpool District staff who contact their base depot at Lister Drive through the VHF radio equipment will miss the familiar voice of Mr. Jack Hebden now that he has retired.

## ... and South Lancashire

#### Mr. D. E. JONES

The "Horse and Jockey" hotel at Warrington was packed recently when friends of Mr. David E. Jones, our shop supervisor at Buttermarket Street, gathered to say their farewells to him on his early retirement.

Among those who went along to pay their tributes were former members of the Board's staff led by Mr. Ernie Lowe, former manufacturers representatives who had worked in Warrington shop, the manager of the town's Gas showrooms and many other local traders. Such was David's popularity.

He started his working life in 1933 as a clerical assistant with the Stretford and District Electricity Department and in 1949 was a senior sales represen-

After service with H.M. Forces Jack joined the Liverpool Corporation Electric Supply Department in 1941 and later transferred to MANWEB. He spent some time as a driver with the engineering sections at Pumpfields and Prescott and later worked on appliance delivery. In 1964 he became a VHF operator.

At his farewell presentation, Mr. John Heaton (*Production Engineer*), on behalf of many colleagues, presented Jack with an electric tool set, and wished him many happy years of retirement with many happy hours at his favourite pastime of old tyme dancing.

tative with Norweb. Nineteen years ago he came over to MANWEB to take charge of our Warrington shop.

At his farewell, Mr. Roger G. Monk (*District Commercial Engineer*) paid tribute to David's long and loyal service in which he overcame many difficulties and setbacks. Mr. H. Vernon Collard (*District Sales Supervisor*) added his personal thanks to David for the way in which he had acted on many occasions as 'unofficial' 1st assistant to him.

We now join with our staff at Warrington and with many friends throughout the Board in wishing that in retirement both David and his wife Elsie will begin to enjoy better health and have many years of happiness together.

A galaxy of girls surround Mr. David Jones, *centre left*, as he receives farewell gifts from Mr. Roger Monk, *centre right*.





# Exchange and Mart

## FOR SALE

### Houses

Ellesmere Port, Whitby. Detached 3-bedroom house with gas central heating and garage. Lounge, dining room/kitchen with breakfast bar. Built-in wardrobes in bedrooms, gardens front and rear. Offers over £8,500. Telephone 051-355 8451.

Compact 3-bedroom semi. Lounge, kitchen/dinette, bathroom and w.c. garage, neat gardens, many extras. £7,650. Phone 051-426 0889.

### Cars

'J' registered Group 2 Rally Twin Cam 1600 cc. Built on a new shell with Vegatune Rally Sprint Engine. Coupled up to a Bullet gear box with Techdel fast change. It all rests on a World Cup Cross Member. High Ratio steering rack. Bilsteins suspension on the front and Adjustarides at the back, and C.D.6. springs. 4.7 lsd., Minilite wheels with Ultragrip Rally Special tyres. Shell is turreted, strengthened and fireproofed. Works type seats with full harness seat belts. F.I.A. Rollcage. Full instrumentation, navigators foot-bar, Halda Twin-Master, Maguard Sump Guard. All petrol and brakes lines inside car. Four Cibie Spots, Reversing Lights and Fogs. 11 A.C. Alternator.

Relayed and fused electrics. Twin tanks and Twin pumps. Colour—Sunshine Yellow with Green Stripe. Sale Price £950. Telephone Chester 570315.

### Miscellaneous

"Nevin"—four berth 40 foot steel canal cruiser. Lister deisel power unit. Lying Bridgewater Canal, Stockton Heath. Fitted out and ready to sail. View by appointment/inventory details on request. Phone Warrington 63381 (after 6 p.m.).

Set of four 5½J x 13 Cosmic alloy wheels, complete with F100 tyres 165 x 13. £30. Mr. N. Siebert, 13 Norwood Ave., Hesketh Bank, Near Southport.

Tricity 'Contessa' electric cooker, six months old. Self-clean oven. £30. Phone: Rhyl 54534.

Pifco multi-curl electric hair styler. Only used twice and is in perfect condition. Plug attached. £3. Iona Evans, Chapel House, Trisant, Devil's Bridge, Aberystwyth, Dyfed.

### WANTED

Large glass carboy for bottle garden. Phone 051-226 2128.

Small 'fridge, suitable for flat. Flat 8, The Chalet, South Crescent Road, Queens Park, Handbridge, Chester.

## FOR CONTACT'S EXCHANGE AND MART

To: The Editor, "Contact," MANWEB Head Office, Sealand Road, Chester CH1 4LR.

Name..... Home telephone.....

Home Address .....

Date .....

Ads will be included in the first available issue, and the Editor has the right to refuse any advertisement.

## The 'JOHN NOLAN' Fund

Up to August 2nd, 1974, monies raised through the MANWEB appeal for the 'John Nolan' Fund was just short of £2,500.

We set out below, a preliminary list showing donations received. A full and more detailed list will be published later this year.

	£ . p
Liverpool District	259.43
North Mersey District	60.50
South Lincs District	54.20
North Wirral District	177.50
Mid-Cheshire District	79.00
Clwyd District	105.00
Gwynedd District	36.20
Oswestry District	56.50
Aberystwyth District	26.00
Dee Valley District	11.65
Head Office	283.05
St. Helens Gas and Electric Club	66.00
Warrington Power Stn.	32.00
Queensferry Stores	10.00
Thingwall Road Club	16.00
MANWEB Pensioners Liverpool	17.00
Miscellaneous Individual Donations	97.65
Birkenhead Ladies Football Match	500.00
Head Office Ladies Netball Competition	190.20
Butlers (Caterers)	20.00
G.U.S. Widnes	30.10
Liverpool Buffs.	25.70
Halewood Labour Social Club	5.00
St. Oswald's Club, Old Swan	25.62
Friends of Liverpool Spastics	5.00
Long and Crawford Ltd., Manchester	62.00
Vernon's Girls, L/pool	14.50
Liverpool Daily Post and Echo	23.50
Heswall & District EAW	4.50
Barclays Bank, Head Messrs. Courtaulds, Liverpool	114.00
Holy Name Youth Club	25.00

£2,448.30