



Mr. Harry Robertson, *extreme left*, Secretary of the Liverpool Retired Employees' Group, welcomes his opposite number from the Birmingham Group, Mr. Norman Hirst, and guests for the day, retired colleagues from the Midlands Electricity Board.

Liverpool Retired Group Entertain

Our very active Liverpool Retired Employees' Group were the hosts recently to nearly 60 retired colleagues from the Birmingham area of the Midlands Electricity Board.

After an enjoyable lunch at the Thingwall Road Clubhouse, entertainment was provided by a concert party until tea-time. After this, and a few drinks at the bar, the visitors made their happy way homewards.

Other special guests at the function included Messrs. S. Fairclough (*Group Manager*), A. W. Hawley and G. Shoesmith (*North Mersey District*), J. Fairhurst (*Liverpool District*), T. W. Jones (*Head Office*) and the Thingwall Road Club President Mr. E. Taylor, Chairman, Mr. J. Robertson and Secretary, Mr. R. Adams.

Right: Some more members of the Liverpool Group, *standing*, and their guests from Birmingham, *seated*.



Posing for our picture are, *from left to right, standing:* from MANWEB, Messrs. S. Fairclough, H. Robertson, R. Adams, J. Robertson, J. Fairhurst and A. Kinrade. *Seated:* from M.E.B., Messrs. W. R. Baker, C. K. Nicholas and Mr. and Mrs. W. Blake.



CONTACT

August 1975

Sports Car Specialist
(See Page 198)



ELECTRICITY'S VALUE "AS GOOD AS EVER"

— Chairman



"The real value of electricity is as good as ever—but the real value of money has declined" said our Chairman, Mr. Denis Dodds, when presenting the Board's Annual Report and Accounts for 1974/75 to representatives of the Press at a Conference in Liverpool. And he went on to stress once more that off-peak electricity will continue to cost much less (nearly one penny a unit less), than electricity taken at normal prices.

Commenting on MANWEB's greatest-ever deficit of nearly £17 million, Mr. Dodds said:

"There is no satisfaction in reporting a loss of this magnitude and the price increases necessary to correct it. Coal and oil burned in power stations represent about half the cost of each unit of electricity and increased MANWEB's costs by £41.5m (70%) last year. The Government subsidy of about £16 for every domestic customer has been withdrawn and prices have regrettably, but rightly, moved nearer to economic reality. Continuance of the subsidy would have artificially increased the demand for electricity and sent the industry into a spiral of uneconomic investment."

Fight against inflation

This had resulted in substantially higher bills for domestic customers from July 1st, added the Chairman. There could be no clearer case to justify the Government's plans to deal with inflation.

Mr. Dodds continued: "No trading organisation can exist for long unless its bills are paid. Higher incomes have generally matched higher prices and the vast majority of our customers pay their bills promptly. Delay in payment simply increases our interest charges to the detriment of customers generally. One way of helping a minority of customers to budget for their bills has been the prepayment meter. Today, however, these meters suffer from the following disadvantages;

- 1 Supply goes off when coin boxes are full
- 2 They are frequently broken into
- 3 The customer pays higher meter charges.

"We hope, therefore, to reduce their number by introducing two new facilities:

The "Thrift Meter"

The majority of prepayment customers will be offered an option "to pay as they go" and to empty the coin box when they wish. They would avoid increased meter charges and be dealt with otherwise as ordinary credit customers.

Electricity Savings Stamps

These will be on sale in our shops in the Autumn for use in paying electricity bills.

"These new facilities will supplement existing arrangements for payment by regular Bankers Order and advance part-payment of bills at our local shops and offices. Quarterly bills may be paid locally, not only at our shops but also at any branch of a Bank and through Giro. We hope, by these arrangements, to help customers to budget for the higher bills and to facilitate their prompt payment.

"MANWEB cannot provide welfare assistance to individual customers at the expense of customers generally and in many cases, to avoid the debt increasing, supplies must be discontinued when bills are not paid. We maintain very close liaison with officials in both Social Security and Local Authority offices. The initiative, however, to call for their assistance in cases of hardship must normally rest with the customer, or his family. If this is done promptly, supplies may be maintained while the case is examined by the proper welfare authority.

"MANWEB has the resources to provide industry in Merseyside and North Wales with the energy for expansion. We look forward to playing our part in promoting this expansion on a sound economic base."

Brighter Note

Despite the depressing outcome of the year's trading, Deputy Chairman Mr. Ben Hastings was able to pinpoint a more cheerful trend for our industry's future when he pointed out that in the long term the electricity industry would turn increasingly towards nuclear fuel as a power source.

"Nuclear generation, even now, provides by far the cheapest units, so cheap nuclear power is already here," commented Mr. Hastings.



CONTACT

Vol. 27 No. 8

August 1975

Editorial

Maintaining Morale

PRIDE in an essential job well done, and in working for a vital public service, have long been important elements in the morale-building process for employees of the electricity supply industry.

True, we get our share of brickbats, mainly from the malicious or the ill-informed, but for many years these were easy to handle. We could always point to the most reliable electricity system in the world, to superb value for money, and to the fact that, in the long term, we broke even financially or made modest profits. We have never been, and are never likely to be, a "lame duck" industry.

All the more painful, therefore, to record the massive financial losses of the past two years. "MANWEB Loses £17 Million" makes a depressing headline—no matter how valid the reasons for the loss!

Against this background it is inevitable that a few ill-informed voices should cry for "greater economies" and "more efficiency"—ignoring the fact that if we had all worked for nothing, and stopped paying pensions, we would still have run at a loss last year. We are not a labour-intensive industry. Our own wage inflation plays only a small part in our economy when compared with the super-inflation of our external costs.

We can all welcome the pertinent comments of the Electricity Council's Chairman—reported elsewhere in this number of *Contact*—to the effect that we would welcome the prospect of once more "breaking even" financially. This public expression of understanding and confidence by the top figure in our industry is a morale-boosting antidote to those depressing statistics!

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Editorial Staff

Phone H.O.

Keith Baldwin 2164
John F. Perry 2167
Sam Doughty 2166

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

OUR BIG LOSS

— caused by under-pricing

Throughout the year which ended on March 31st, 1975, MANWEB sold electricity at a loss to domestic and other quarterly customers because the Board observed the Government's request to keep prices below the greatly-increased cost of coal and oil used to produce electricity.

As a result MANWEB lost £16,970,000 during the year, says the Annual Report and Accounts of the Board for 1974/75. These losses, met by the Government, amounted in effect to a subsidy of £16, on average, per domestic customer.

The Report adds that since the end of the financial year under review MANWEB, like other Electricity Boards, has increased its prices. But the level of increase has again been restricted, with additional restraint in favour of the smaller user. In consequence it is probable that MANWEB will still incur a financial loss during the present financial year.

Realistic Prices Policy Welcomed

The Report points out that large-scale under-pricing sets up an artificially increased demand for electricity, leading to the need for further unremunerative investment in new power stations and plant. MANWEB, while deploring the need, nevertheless welcomed the new Government policy of ending subsidies to the use of energy—subsidies made necessary by selling electricity at artificially low prices.

Sales of Electricity

The increase of only 1.3% in total sales over the previous year was in stark contrast to the pattern of ten years ago, when electricity sales rose each year by around 10%.

The aftermath of the oil crisis, the miners' strike, and the Three Day Week continued to exert an influence in the early part of the year under review. As a result electricity sales in the first quarter of the year were lower than in the same quarter of the previous year. The situation improved gradually as the year progressed.

For the first time in 21 years domestic sales fell slightly. The average home used 4,424 units compared with 4,505 the previous year, but this fall can be attributed mainly to the abnormally mild winter.

Sales of electricity to industry rose by 1.5%.

Appliance Sales

Similar considerations affected the sales of appliances, which were also influenced by a change in hire-purchase regulations involving bigger deposits and shorter repayment periods. The total value of appliance sales fell slightly.

Some Facts and Figures

- * The increased cost of coal and oil burned in power stations added £41.5 million to MANWEB's costs—a 70% increase since April 1974.
- * The total number of MANWEB's customers rose from 1,144,939 to 1,160,294.
- * The mains network was extended by 414 kilometres and 900 new transforming points were added to the network.

Internal Efficiency

Despite the adverse effects of the rising tide of inflation and the pressure of external costs, MANWEB has continued to persevere with measures to optimise the use of its own resources.

There was progress in developing new and improved techniques in the fields of fault location and cable laying, while the introduction of portable microfilm viewers, enabling service electricians to make use of microfilmed information, will help to improve customer service and appliance repair work.

Energy Conservation

Publicity was directed to the avoidance of waste, the wise use of electricity, and the use of electricity in those fields of activity where it does the job more efficiently and economically than other fuels.

The deliberate under-pricing of electricity, with the over-stimulation of demand which results, has an adverse effect on energy conservation.

THE NATIONAL PICTURE

Points from the Annual Report and Accounts of the industry at national level:

- * Total loss for the whole industry was £257.6 million.
- * Before 1970/71 the industry had been profitable during the first 22 years of nationalisation—with accumulated profits of £783 million. Since then the combination of price restraint and cost inflation has produced accumulated losses of £515 million.
- * The Electricity Council has adopted a figure of 54,000 megawatts as the likely simultaneous maximum demand for electricity in average cold

spell conditions during the winter of 1981-82. This figure is 7,700 megawatts less than the estimate of a year ago.

- * The initial construction programme of nuclear plant using steam generating heavy water reactors will go forward—provided that the necessary investment approval is forthcoming.
- * During 1974/75 the CEBG saved about £28 million in fuel costs through improved system thermal efficiency.
- * Over the ten-year period to the end of March 1975, the number of staff employed by the industry has fallen by 23.9% although the industry's business has grown substantially.

Staff "deserve a break from ill-founded criticism" — Sir Peter

The hope that the electricity industry is moving towards breaking even financially will be welcomed by the industry's staff, said Sir Peter Menzies, Chairman of the Electricity Council, commenting on the Council's Annual Report and Accounts.

Sir Peter added that employees of the industry had worked, in the last few years, "in the shadow of financial problems and difficulties unprecedented in the history of this nationalised industry."

"They deserve a break from some of the ill-founded criticism so often directed at a nationalised industry when it faces a loss situation largely created by circumstances outside its control," he added.

After welcoming a return to more realistic pricing policies, Sir Peter said that electricity had suffered more than most industries from the effects of "the arch-enemy—inflation."

Referring to recent pay increases, he commented: "It is true that the salary costs within this industry have increased, but before anybody makes too much of the power workers' rise they should note that salaries represent less than 15% of the cost of a unit of electricity. We are not a labour-intensive industry, a situation that has been achieved with the fullest co-operation of our Unions and staff, and which has resulted in an excellent record in recent years for increased productivity of which we are justly proud."

For all MANWEB employees, pensioners and their families

"CONTACT" 1975 PHOTOGRAPHIC COMPETITION

SECTIONS AND PRIZES

Colour Transparencies	Colour Prints
1st Prize £10 Second Prize £5	1st Prize £10 Second Prize £5
Black and White	Colour or Black and White
Best Picture £5	Best Human £5 Best Animal £5
	Best Humorous £5

A copy of the Rules may be obtained on request from The Editor, "Contact," MANWEB
Head Office, Sealand Road, Chester CHI 4LR.

Closing Date . . . 30th September 1975

Talking Notes

QUEEN OF THE (REV) COUNTER

MEN WITH prejudices about "women drivers" would be well advised to keep their own counsel in Porthmadog—and especially in the vicinity of the MANWEB shop!

For in the shop, lurking beneath the charming exterior of a lady who helps the public choose their electrical appliances and sort out their problems, lies a veritable artist at the wheel of high-powered sports cars—in the person of **Mrs. Myra Rowlands**.

During 15 years' interest in motor sports Myra has amassed a bonnet-full of trophies and cups, awarded in such competitive events as hill-climbing, driving skill tests, and sprints.

OUR COVER PICTURE shows Myra proudly displaying some of her hard won trophies set out on the bonnet of her MG Midget.

A closer view of our cover girl Myra at work in Porthmadog shop.



She first caught the motor bug from her husband **Martin**, who is sales manager for a Dolgellau firm of motor dealers. In the Rowlands' stable at the moment are a Lotus Elan and an MG Midget (an Escort RS 2000 was one that came and went).

Most of Myra's successes have been chalked up in events staged by the Harlech and District Motor Club, or the Caernarfon and Anglesey Motor Club. For some time she was secretary of the Harlech club (she now serves as treasurer), and for three years on the run she was the club's Ladies Champion (having to be content with second place last year!). About eight lady members of the club compete regularly.

Most of the events in which they compete are staged on grass, but Myra has also taken part in night navigational runs, and does a good deal of marshalling for events staged by

other organisations—including the RAC and Welsh rallies. And in spite of a lot of vigorous competition driving, she can still claim (perhaps with a certain amount of foreboding) that she has never yet 'bent' a car while at the wheel! All male drivers who think that women are not fit to be let loose on the roads may now crawl into holes in the ground.

Myra has been with MANWEB for 13 years, latterly at Porthmadog and formerly at Blaenau Ffestiniog. Long may she whip through the gears—and never lose a lick of paint!

Rescuer Honoured

Awakened in the early hours of the morning to find his home filled with smoke, **Mr. Haydn Davies**, a joiner's mate based at Rhyl, failed to trace any fire in his own home. He went outside and discovered that there was a fire at the home of his next door neighbour, Mrs. Bleddyn Roberts a 91-year-old widow.

In spite of dense smoke and the staircase being well alight, Haydn was able to reach Mrs. Roberts and move her to his own home where she was given oxygen by ambulance men and later taken to hospital.

For his prompt action to save his neighbour, Haydn was presented with a Certificate by the Society for the Protection of Life from Fire at a recent ceremony at Abergele.

Big Day at the Abbey

Two of our colleagues from Dee Valley District office recently took part in the Centenary celebrations of the Girls' Friendly Society at Westminster Abbey.

To **Mr. James H. Williams** a records draughtsman at Rhostyllen, fell the rare if nerve-racking experience of playing the Abbey's famous organ, accompanying 20 young ladies—all GFS members—drawn from the Rhostyllen Church Choir.

Among the choristers was **Miss Rosemary Deary**, a clerk in the General Services section at Rhostyllen.

As part of the Centenary celebrations a nationwide hymn contest had been organised, and the winning entry—"The Lord



Musician James and songster Rosemary.

of Life is Calling" came from the Diocese of Rochester. It fell to the Rhostyllen choristers to sing the hymn at the Abbey, and Jim, who sometimes stands in as organist at Rhostyllen Church, accepted the heavy responsibility of providing the musical accompaniment before a vast congregation of more than 2,000 people, delegates from GFS groups in all parts of the world.

The big occasion passed off without a hitch, and Jim and Rosemary both enjoyed the occasion tremendously.

Jim, who has been with MANWEB for 20 years, learned the organ in the 'big occasion atmosphere—at Chester Cathed-

ral. He also plays the oboe with Wrexham Orchestral Society.

Rosemary has been with us for twelve months, and has been a member of the GFS for a number of years.

Golden Wedding

Congratulations from all his former colleagues to Mid-Mersey pensioner **Mr. Joseph Maddison**, and **Mrs. Maddison**, who celebrate their Golden Wedding on August 29th. They live in Orville Street, St. Helens.

Mr. Maddison began as a meter-reader/collector at St. Helens in 1941, moved to sub-Area office at Eversley in 1963, and later returned to St. Helens shop as a clerical assistant. He retired in 1966.

Paul meets Prince Philip

When he is not flying, gliding or shooting at the Sealand RAF Station as part of his training with the 2375 (Neston) Squadron Air Training Corps, Cadet Warrant Officer **Paul Thelwell** works as an electrician from our Crane Street depot in the Dee Valley District.

Recently, Paul took his wife Carol on a trip to Buckingham Palace where he received the Duke of Edinburgh Gold Award from Prince Philip himself!

In qualifying for the Award, Paul did a period of youth

service training and it was during this time that he gained the rank of Cadet Warrant Officer in recognition of his outstanding service.

He also went on a 60-mile expedition in the Grampians having done all his preparation work in Snowdonia.

Paul told us that his meeting with the Duke of Edinburgh had been one of the most outstanding experiences in his life.

His ambition now is to train a young A.T.C. cadet and accompany him to London to receive his Gold Award.

Paul did his basic training as an electrician at our Hoylake Training Centre in 1970-71. He is a keen darts player and captains the 'Old Quay' public house team at Parkgate.



MANWEB TV Commercial

Have you seen our new TV commercial? It features Little Willie who has the terrible dream that there is no more electricity.

He wakes up—in a cold sweat—and as he goes downstairs he finds his electricity account on the mat behind the front door. For once the

Back at New Crane Street after his trip to "The Palace" is Paul Thelwell, centre, seen here with colleagues, John Ashbrook (foreman), left, and Kevin Saul (apprentice).



amount does not matter. All he thinks of is what he has had for the past three months—13 whole weeks—in the way of electrical comfort. All the aids at the touch of a switch.

Heating, cooking, lighting, all the hot water he needs, TV, even the little luxuries like being awakened each morning by an electric alarm with a refreshing cup of tea by the bedside.

It is a great commercial... great because it is true. We really do get a lot for our money with electricity. It does so much for so little.

Little Willie's dream? It was more like a nightmare!

Organiser of Women

In the news once again, this time with her new appointment as Organiser for the Merseyside and North Wales Area for the Electrical Association for Women is **Mrs. Ann Jones** a former senior demonstrator in our Liverpool District.

Ann first hit our headlines in 1969 when she became our second 'Girl from MANWEB.' During her year of office she did a great job and made many friends at Head Office and in the other Districts of the Board as well as with many of our

Ladies of the E.A.W. photographed after a meeting held in Chester. From left to right, **Mrs. Ann Jones** (Area Organiser), **Mrs. Meurig Roberts** (former Area Organiser), **Mrs. Ramsden-Williams** (Area representative on the National Executive Committee) and **Mrs. Mary Evans** (Treasurer).



Bachelors three, cap and gowned after receiving their electrical engineering degrees. From left to right: **Colin Blundell**, **Albert Butler** and **Peter Thomas**.

V.I.P. customers.

In 1971 Ann changed her name to Jones when she married Alan, a free-lance journalist in Liverpool. She worked on with the Board until 1974 when she left to have her baby, Annette Michelle.

Now Ann is back in harness again organising the ladies in 18 branches of the E.A.W. in this area. She has taken over from Mrs. Meurig Roberts from Bangor, now retired.

If any of our female readers would like more information on the aims and objectives of the Electrical Association for Women then you are invited to ask Ann by 'phoning her at 051-428 4256.

The Bachelors

Successful in gaining their Honours Degrees in Electrical Engineering at Salford University this year, were three MANWEB student engineers, **Colin Blundell** from Liverpool, **Albert Butler** from Bootle and **Peter Thomas** from Warrington.

All three are products of our apprentice training school at Hoylake where Colin received a year prize in 1969 when chosen to go on a School of Adventure course at Applecross.

They have all received appointments as 3rd engineers with the Board, Colin and Peter at Caernarfon and Albert at Oswestry.

Quiz Contestants

Some of our meter-reading colleagues at Lister Drive have set out on the "Brains of Britain" trail by forming a team to compete in the Merseyside Quiz Leagues.

"Quiz" competitions, based on wide-ranging general-knowledge questions, are very popular and well-established among Merseyside's pubs and clubs, and rivalry for the various trophies is keen.

Anyone from Lister Drive who would be interested in taking part should get in touch with **Chris Rowlands**, of the meter reading section.

Freaky Fuse!

Some wierd and wonderful—and highly dangerous—substitutes are sometimes pressed into service to replace blown fuses, but Liverpool District electrician **Rob Burns** surely discovered the ultimate when installing a cooker recently.

The fuses blew, and on investigation Rob found that the correct 60-amp cartridge fuse had been replaced with a complete packet of "Polo mints."

Our energetic correspondent Vicki sent us the evidence—some charred silver paper enclosing a stack of rather blackened and worse-for-wear mints (we didn't sample them to discover whether they tasted better cooked!)

Ouch!

It was a shot which will long be remembered by **Mr. Arthur E. Jones**, marketing representative based on Pwllheli shop, when he drove off from the first tee on the local golf course.

His drive struck the ladies tee box a few yards away,



Arthur Jones—a smashing golfer!

bounced off on to the woodwork of the clubroom, and ricocheted into the bottom corner of a 15 foot by six foot plate glass window—to the serious detriment of the window!

Let us hope Arthur could console himself with the thought that all that energy would have produced a really good long drive if the ball had been fitted with a decent homing device!



It's That Man Again!

Yes, Little Willie is back again with more sound advice for MANWEB customers. This time he is telling our prepayment meter customers about the new 'Thrift Meter.'

This is a slot meter which the customer can empty for himself, eliminating the worry of not having the necessary coin for the meter or not being able to get a coin in the meter because it is full.

In addition, Little Willie points out that the new cost of renting a prepayment meter now works out at 50 pence per quarter, but the new 'Thrift Meter' costs only 20 pence a quarter.

The customer with the 'Thrift Meter' will receive quarterly bills just like the credit meter users.

The 'Piggybank' meter, as one newspaper described the 'Thrift Meter' is still operated by coins and if necessary, the customer can fit his own padlock to the box. To thwart thieves he can empty the meter regularly, change the coins for notes and put the money aside for when the quarterly bill arrives. Payments can be made in advance of the bill at any of the Board's shops or offices.

Meter changes are to be carried out free of charge until 31st March next year.

Special "Special"

A unique distinction has been achieved by 18-years-old **Miss Pamela Coe**, who works in the "Thrift Meter" section at Head Office—she was recently sworn in as the first Special Woman Police Constable in Chester.

Pam, who lives at Handbridge has her eyes set on a career with the Police—when she is 19 she will be eligible to join the force full-time. Her brother Terence is in the Ellesmere Port Police Force, and if Pam achieves her ambition she will have something to live up to, as Terence was recently awar-



Pamela Coe—our Saturday Special.

ded the distinction of Cheshire Police Cadet of the year. Her interest in the police force doesn't end there however—her boyfriend is a policeman at Crewe as well!

As Chester's first lady "Special," Pam will put in about four hours' work a week on Saturdays, dealing with the problems of juveniles and shoplifters.

Her main interests (apart from the maintenance of law and order) are dancing, skating, and sports. She is also a member of the Rangers.

LIVERPOOL ELECTRIC
SUPPLY
CRICKET SECTION
AUTUMN DANCE
on Friday, 12th September
at the
Thingwall Road Clubhouse
Music by Space Odyssey
Late bar applied for.
Tickets . . . only 50p from
Mal Cooper (97.763)
or **Bert Ayres** (97.721)

Friends in North Wales

Some of our Men from MANWEB in the Aberystwyth District may recall with pleasure the very attractive young lady who waved to them as she trekked on the road back from 'Happy Valley' and up from Glaspwll to Pennal a week or so ago.

Well men, we can now tell you that the young lady was Miss Norma Crick, a clerk from our Mid-Cheshire District Office who was on an Outward Bound course at Rhowniar near Aberdovey.

Norma 'phoned us to say how much she appreciated the cheerful responses she received



Norma Crick, who likes our cheerful 'Men from MANWEB.'

from our men in the vans and by the road-side as they all helped keep her spirits up on these tough expeditions.

"I am very grateful to the Board for giving me the opportunity to go on this course," she commented, "I really enjoyed every minute of it, especially the rock climbing, and wouldn't have missed it for the world. I shall always remember the friendliness of our Men from MANWEB."

Back to School

After seven years as supervisor of the MANWEB canteen at Rhostyllen, **Mrs. Megan Hadley** left the service of the Board recently to take up the duties of school meals supervisor at Bromfield School, Wrexham—but before taking up her new job she is spending a holiday in Canada.

On behalf of her friends and colleagues she was presented with a cheque by Mr. T. P. Shell (District Administrative Officer).

Golden Partners

It was hard to believe that the young couple who were guests of honour at a hundred-strong party held at the Thingwall Road Club-house recently were celebrating their Golden Wedding.

But it was true, for **Jack and Lillian Summersgill** 'tied the knot' just 50 years ago and in that time they have made many good friends as shown by the turnout at their party.

Jack, a former meter reader/collector in Liverpool, once worked in the old Whitechapel shop. He was also well-known as a compere for the social evenings held at the Thingwall Road Club and for many years he was a mainstay in the Sports Club bowling team.

His golden partner Lil also bowled a good wood playing regularly for the Club Ladies



Jack and Lillian Summersgill cut their very special golden wedding anniversary cake which was presented to them by an old friend, MANWEB pensioner Mr. Joe Third who now lives in the Isle of Man.

team, as well as making teas and sandwiches on match days.

We join with their many friends in offering our congratulations to this popular couple and wish them good health in the years ahead as they go on for their 'Diamond.'

Treasure Hunt

Over 60 competitors supported the very successful first Treasure Hunt run by the North Mersey Sports and Social Club and organised by **Messrs. Bill Tubey, Ken Mitchell and Wyn Thomas.**

The course started at Robins Island, Maghull and finished at the Black Bull, Mawdesley where everyone enjoyed a chicken and chips supper.

The first prize in the competition went to **Mr. Cam Shimmin** and second prize to **Mr. Albert Butler**, both from Engineering. The 'Ladies' prize went to **Mrs. Edna Courtney**, our 'Contact' correspondent from Work Control.

Top Shop

Our congratulations go to **Nellie Rogers and Margaret Binks** who, working from St. Johns in Liverpool, have brought the MANWEB shop to the top of the league for Spectra TV sales in Electricity Board shops throughout the country.

Congratulations

The firm of G. Fisher (Fallowfield) Ltd., responsible for the housing developments at Hazel Grove/Broad Street, Crewe, acknowledged the help given to them by our Mid-Cheshire District staff in their letter as follows:

"We are pleased to be able to inform you that the above site has been handed over—2 months ahead of schedule, and we would like to take this opportunity in expressing our appreciation to your Administrative staff, supervisors and men engaged on site

for their co-operation, particularly during the last two weeks when the pressure was really on.

Yours faithfully,
(Signed.)

Take a bow Mid-Cheshire!

NORTH MERSEY SPORTSMEN

Memories of a cricketing tradition started in the former Southport District many years ago when "The Lords" met "The Grand" in an annual match for *The Cinders*, were brought back at this year's cricket match arranged by the North Mersey District Sports and Social Club when a team from Southport played at home against a team from Bridle Road. In a limited over game, Southport scored 143 for 6—top scorer Ian McKenzie with 72—and Bridle Road replied with 122 for 5, Colin Arnold getting 41. Man of the match was umpire Arnie Ormerod.



Insulation without tears!

Letter received at Mid-Mersey District office from a lady living at Allostock, near Knutsford:

"We had our roof insulation done on Friday—my grateful thanks to MANWEB, especially the inspector who kept his promise and had the work done. I'm sure we will all derive benefit due to your help . . ."

Take a bow **Mr. Dave Fisher** energy sales engineer ("the inspector").

Wanted

Winter boat storage to house yacht from October to March. Old barn, large garage, etc., would suit, but must have 9 feet high entrance and a length of 25 feet. Should be reasonably secure and have protection from the elements. Location not important. 'Phone Chester 45622.



Lay instructor Les Smith, right, demonstrates resuscitation with the aid of 'Andy' to, from left to right: Margaret McKie, Eddie Quinn, Mary Smith and George Deakin.



Nurse Davis attends to class member and temporary 'patient' William Glover watched by, from left to right: John Browne, Christopher Rowlands and Teresa Kelly.



More practical work being carried out by, from left to right: Ken Littler, Celia Burlin, Nurse Davis, Glenys Collins and Eddie Payne.

Liverpool District First-Aiders in Action

It was not long ago that we featured a story in 'Contact' about our first-aiders achieving 100 per cent success in their examinations. We thought that this was well worth reporting but it seems to have rebounded a little and made some of our potential first-aiders a little complacent when it came to their own examinations.

Recently, in our Liverpool District, out of 19 members of

'Patient' Edward Tierney seems quite comfortable surrounded by first-aiders, from left to right: Jeanette Collins, Nurse Davis, Irene Day, Les Blackburn and George Roughley.

the District staff who sat for their examinations, four were failed by the examiners.

The results no doubt came as a shock for the unfortunate four and brought the following comments from the Board's Medical Adviser, Dr. Kenneth Turner.

"Some members of the staff who wish to become first-aiders, start off with good intentions then tail-off a little and miss one or two of the class sessions. This seems to apply more to those who are taking their re-examination certificates. Things they learned possibly many years ago have changed. First-aid practices do not stand still—the method of artificial resuscitation for instance. It is now ten years since the mouth-to-mouth method was brought in but I still come across first-aiders who advise and use the old methods.

"First-aiders hold a highly responsible position in our society and in recognising their responsibility they should keep up-to-date with their knowledge and methods. When lectures are held, they should do all in their power to attend. If, for some reason or other, they cannot attend, then they should catch up by reading and re-reading their first-aid manual."

Dr. Turner concluded by saying that the Board already had a high standard of first-aiders but he was aiming for an even higher standard still and this would be looked for in future examinations.

Gwynedd District First-Aiders



At a recent meeting of the Gwynedd District Local Advisory Committee, Mr. Ken Helliwell (Group Manager) took time out to present First-Aid Certificates to members of the District staff who had worked for and earned them. Our picture, above, shows, from left to right: Mr. Frank Ellis (Supply Engineer), Mr. Helliwell, Mr. Alan Snape (junior administrative trainee), Miss Pauline E. Jones (clerk), Messrs. Arthur Bunton (3rd asst. engineer—Supply), David Williams (3rd asst. engineer—System), Ernest Rogers (2nd asst. engineer—Energy Sales) and David Booth (3rd asst. engineer—System).

Other award winners, unable to be present, were Miss Margaret Williams (clerk), Messrs. Robert James (3rd asst. engineer—Contracting), Arthur Jones (storekeeper) and Bill Wakelin (former District Sales Supervisor).

APPOINTMENTS

Mr. Donald G. Tomsett was recently appointed as Assistant Chief Accountant (Internal Audit) at Head Office.

Aged 59, Mr. Tomsett joined the Board in 1949 and since then held a variety of accountancy posts at Head Office until 1970 when he was appointed as the North Wirral District Administrative Officer.

Taking his place at North Wirral District is Mr. Robert D. Evans, aged 45, who moves from his secondment post as Mid-Cheshire District Administrative Officer.

Mr. Evans joined MANWEB in 1958 and worked

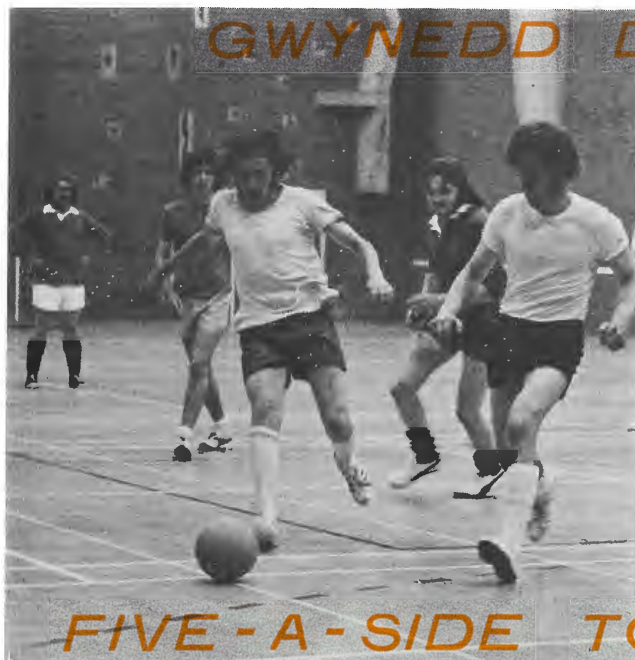
for a time in the former Area 3 Office. Then he undertook a three year contract through the Electricity Council to work for the Government of Ghana where he assisted in the development of their own electricity industry.

Prior to his move to Mid-Cheshire he was an Executive Officer in the Revenue section at Head Office.

Filling the post as Mid-Cheshire District Administrative Officer will be Mr. Peter Falcon, aged 42, seconded from his position as Executive Officer in the Personnel section at Head Office.

Mr. Falcon, who has accountancy and secretarial qualifications, has been with the Board since 1959.

GWYNEDD DISTRICT



A well organised and highly competitive five-a-side football tournament sponsored by the Anglesey Sports and Social Club, was held a few weeks ago in the Plas Arthur Sports Centre in Llangefni.

Teams taking part included—from Caernarfon—Accounts, Consumers Engineers and Engineering Mains, and from Llangefni—Contracting, Service, Overhead and Underground.

The preliminary matches were played on a two group basis bringing about semi-final results as follows:

- Llangefni Service 0
- Caernarfon Accounts 7
- Llangefni Underground 1
- Llangefni Contracting 4

The final was an exciting game with Llangefni Contracting beating Caernarfon Accounts by four goals to one.

FIVE-A-SIDE TOURNAMENT



Messrs. G. Pritchard, left, and H. Hughes.

The Runners-up

From left to right: Messrs. R. W. Parry (captain), D. R. Hughes and A. Snape.

and The Winners

Llangefni Contracting receive the winners shield. From left to right: Messrs. J. W. Evans (substitute for H. Pritchard who was injured during the preliminary rounds), D. R. Jones, N. Maden (District Commercial Engineer) who presented the award, J. S. Jones (captain), J. Ll. Williams, G. Steffan and F. Keen Jr., who organised the competition.



Checking the matches out is Mr. G. G. Barnes, seated centre, surrounded by, from left to right: Messrs. G. Parsons (Eng 1), B. Baldwin (North Mersey), C. E. Donovan (Liverpool) and F. Parkinson (Eng. 2).



Above: Caught half-way round the course, from left to right, Messrs. H. Mayhew (Eng. 1), L. Rigby (North Mersey) and F. T. Edwards (Dee Valley).

Below: On the first tee, from left to right, Messrs. P. Briggs (Financial), H. King (Eng. 2) and C. Roberts (Aberystwyth).



MANWEB GOLF COMPETITION

Sponsored by the MANWEB (Chester) Sports and Social Club, the first ever MANWEB Golf Competition was held a few weeks ago at the Helsby Golf Club.

Each of the Board's ten Districts entered a team of four players and they were joined by six four-man teams from the various departments at Head Office.

On a glorious sunny day, the 64 competitors played in 20 three-some and one four-some matches, with the success of the day due to the preliminary organisation done by Mr. Arthur Jones who is retiring as the MANWEB (Chester) Golf Society's Secretary.

When all the scores were in and checked, the

Another three-some, from left to right: Messrs. J. Young (Eng. 1), J. G. Roberts (Gwynedd) and I. Evans (Aberystwyth).



winning team, with the best three cards, was from our Mid-Cheshire District represented by Messrs. D. Nichols, R. Payton, R. Scott and E. Taylor. Clocking up the same number of points on the best three cards score, but beaten into second place by the fourth card score was Clwyd District with players, Messrs. D. Atkinson, T. E. Davies, I. Griffiths and W. Taylor.

In third place came Head Office Commercial followed by Head Office Engineering with North Mersey District in fifth place. The best individual was Mr. D. Nichols of Mid-Cheshire District.

The prizes were presented by Mr. G. G. Barnes, captain of the MANWEB (Chester) Golf Society.

A trio in competition, from left to right: Messrs. M. Lyndon (Mid-Mersey), J. G. Norbury (Commercial) and D. Burnett (North Wirral).



"ALL-ELECTRIC" TOWN CENTRE FOR NETHERTON

For many years after the end of the second world war the Netherton area of south-west Lancashire grew and grew.

Over the years vast new housing estates swallowed up the open fields, absorbing the overspill population from the Borough of Bootle, as areas of old and blitz-battered housing near the Mersey dockland were cleared.

Inevitably, as so often happens in localities of new and intensive development, the need for a civic heart to the area became apparent, and five years ago the Council earmarked a site at Marian Square, to include a community centre, health centre, day centre, rent office and day nursery—to be known collectively as "Netherton Town Centre."

Now, thanks to the patient and unremitting efforts of our colleagues at North Mersey District, the new Netherton Town Centre is to be all-electric—in fact, the project is now complete with the exception of the Community Centre.

Behind this success lie many years of painstaking effort by our Bootle colleagues in winning the confidence of the Sefton Metropolitan District Council—and of the former Bootle Council before them—for getting things done the electric way. In fact, the Netherton scheme is just one more feather in the cap of our North Mersey energy sales team, which has broken new ground before in the field of local authority activity at Bootle and other parts of the north Liverpool area.

Commented Mr. Denis Barrie, the District's energy sales engineer: "It's unusual for town centres to be all-electric—this project must surely point the way ahead."

All the buildings in the complex are being heated by means of floor-warming, topped up with storage fan heaters, with electric water-heating, catering equipment, and of course, lighting. Total load will be 535 kilowatts.

Although we did not secure all the contracting work involved, the District staff did carry out the contracting at the Day Nursery, supplying and installing a 55 kilowatt floor-warming system as well as the storage fan heaters, water-heating, and supplementary heating and lighting.

It is expected that the whole new Town Centre will be completed by the end of the year.

Obituary

It is with deep regret that we report on the following deaths:

Mr. Sydney and Mrs. Ann Brownless. Syd was a mains foreman in our Liverpool District prior to his retirement two years ago. He died whilst on holiday in Spain a few weeks ago. It was particularly tragic that his wife Ann died on the day of her husband's funeral. Ann too will be sadly missed in Liverpool for she was a popular member of the Ladies Bowling team at Thingwall Road.

Mr. Chris. Cullen, a transport foreman in our North Wirral District aged 52. He joined the industry in 1937 and during the last war served for a time with the Royal Navy.

Mr. George Irish, aged 64, an engineering draughtsman at

Head Office, was a bachelor who had given nearly 46 years' service to the industry. He was very much involved with church work and was a keen amateur artist.

Mr. Arthur Jones, aged 61, a clerk in the Drawing Office at Sealand Road. Arthur, who joined the Board in 1955 was well liked by his colleagues.

Mr. Colin Kenyon, a general building foreman at Warrington prior to his retirement in 1968.

He joined the industry in 1940 and was involved in extensive building operations at Warrington Power station before becoming foreman in 1948.

Warrington-born, he was for many years involved in welfare and charitable works in the locality. He was first Chairman of the general committee of the MANWEB Manual Workers' Benevolent Society, and his ser-

vices to the industry and to the public welfare were recognised with the award of the British Empire Medal in 1966.

Mr. Edward Owen, aged 46, an electrician at Bangor in our Gwynedd District. Eddie was an LAC representative and away from work he was a commander in the Royal Observer Corps. A quiet and helpful man, he will be sadly missed by his colleagues.

Mr. Francis Eyton Williams, 73, worked in the meter test department at Legacy until his retirement eight years ago.

He worked for the former North Wales Power Company and for a time was involved with overhead line development.

We extend our condolences to the families and friends of these former colleagues.

PSYCHO

by
Mr. W. E. Boylin
(Prepayment
Accounts,
Head Office)

This poem was written when Bill was on his way home following a visit to hospital to see a friend who had suffered a nervous breakdown. Bill said he felt impelled to stop his car in a lay-by so that he could write these words . . .

There is no illusion
about the profusion
of confusion in your life
caused by strife that's not true,
to all but you.

This fear felt so sincere
and near, costing you dear,
isn't true except to you, and
it will undo you if you don't
see thro' . . .

The blinding mist that could be
whisked away thro'
obscurity to eternity with
ever certain certainty.

Come out of your cloud
shout out loud you'll not
be bowed never cowed
stand firm be proud.

See as your friends
progressive trends
the will that bends
but never breaks as
in lifes stakes what
it takes to laugh and
cry and float and fly
to love and sigh . . . wish
to die and face the world
upright and proud say
there go I.

Let there be no defection
from affection or resistance
to assistance or mailed fist
to life's sweet mist.

Don't be incredulous at the nebulous
or feel fear for the clear
just live your life
thro' calm and strife

Tomorrow is the first day of
the rest of all your life. . . .

"THE WHEEL"

by

Margaret Ollier
and Linda Corbett

who, with Pamela Johnstone keep
'The Wheel' turning at Crewe in
our Mid-Cheshire District.

The girls of the "Magic
Roundabout"
Are cheerful, bright and gay,
Which really isn't easy
The way things are today.
We're overworked and underpaid
It really is a bore,
We asked for extra money
But we didn't get much more.
The 'phone just keeps on ringing
Right throughout the day,
"Mend my cooker, fix my 'fridge
How much will I have to pay?"
Storage heaters on the blink
Immersion heaters too,
But after all is said and done
We have a job to do.
Main fuses blowing near and far
It keeps us on our toes,
And yet another I.M.R.
That's how the story goes.
So keep the consumers happy
Don't let them get uptight,
We'll make another card out
And get the fault put right.
Still we'll keep on smiling
Through all this stress and strain,
Keeping very busy
'Till it's weekend once again!

The Hidden Arguments!

A classical example of what is meant by the "wise use of electricity" in industry is leading to the installation of a 100 kilowatt electric furnace at the Crewe home of the "world's finest car."

Reg Jenkins, our industrial sales engineer at Mid-Cheshire District, learned that Rolls Royce planned to purchase a new carburising furnace to produce a hard outer coating on the camshafts fitted to those famous engines. And he set out to convince RR that electricity could do the job better than any other fuel.

Rolls agreed to a feasibility study, and Reg called in Terry Keenan, our electro-heat specialist at Head

Office, to provide the answer to the key question—"Why use electricity when gas is four times cheaper?"

The question, of course, wasn't really as simple as that, and after a lot of research Terry came up with the answer—a detailed report, including statements from three manufacturers and three users of electric furnaces. These showed that fuel costs were only a small proportion of total production costs, and that an electric furnace would use two-and-a-half times less fuel than gas, meaning that over a year the difference in fuel costs was only £100.

Cheaper capital and maintenance costs, together with a longer life expectation, brought the whole equation down firmly in favour of electricity. Rolls were convinced—and the new furnace is on its way!

OFF TO NEW LIVES IN RETIREMENT

Miss CATHERINE McDONOUGH

Thousands of members of the public in Liverpool and Bootle have cause to be grateful for the sympathy and tact of Miss Catherine McDonough, who retired recently after 34 years' service with our industry.

For all of that period Miss McDonough—"Kay" to her friends—has worked behind our public inquiry counters sorting out people's problems with charm and understanding. She began at Hatton Garden with the former Liverpool Corporation undertaking in 1941—the only lady on the staff at the time, except for typists. Later she moved to the former North District office at Bootle, first at Stanley Road and then at Marsh Lane and finally, with the merger of Southport and Liverpool North Districts, at our new District headquarters at Bridle Road.

During her years in the industry Kay played an active part in union and social life, being a former staff committee member, an active NALGO representative, and a member of Bridle Road's new Sports and Social Club committee. In her younger days she was a first class sportswoman, playing hockey for Liverpool.

One of the "old school," she will be missed by her many MANWEB friends, who wish her a long and happy retirement, with more time to visit her friends up and down the country, and her beloved Isle of Man.

On behalf of her colleagues Kay was presented with a number of gifts and a bouquet by Mr. George Shoemsmith (*District Administrative Officer*), and a farewell buffet party followed at a Netherton hotel.

Miss McDonough, *centre*, seen here with just a few of her many friends and colleagues at Bridle Road on the occasion of her retirement presentation ceremony.



After handing over parting gifts from colleagues, Mr. Peter, *right*, has a farewell handshake for Mr. Griffiths.

Mr. KEN GRIFFITHS

After 42 years' service to the industry Mr. Ken Griffiths, a 2nd engineer at Dee Valley District, retired recently.

Mr. Griffiths began his career in 1933 with the former North Wales Power Company, and before the war held positions in the revenue and construction departments at Wrexham.

On his return from war service he rejoined the construction department for a short time, until appointed mains engineer at Newtown, where he was involved in the changeover of several non-statutory undertakings when the industry was nationalised.

He went back to his home area in 1955 as section engineer, Corwen, where he was much involved in our rural electrification programme in the localities of Llangollen, Corwen, and Merioneth.

Many colleagues and friends gathered at a local hotel to wish a long and happy retirement to Ken and Mrs. Griffiths, and to see him presented with binoculars and other gifts by Mr. E. T. Peters, District Engineer. (His friends urge him not to spend too much time line-patrolling with the binoculars!)

Mr. R. G. MONK

Our popular Mid-Mersey District Commercial Engineer, Mr. Roger Griffin Monk retired recently after a life-time of service in the electricity supply industry.

He started work with the Birmingham Corporation Electricity Department in 1932 as an apprentice electrician and took on extra studies at night school to gain his ONC and HNC before moving into the offices on the Commercial staff.

In 1939, despite efforts to hold him in a 'reserved occupation,' Roger managed to get himself into the R.A.F. serving for six war years, half of these in India, before he was demobilised as a flight sergeant. Prior to his call-up however, he and his girl friend Winnie, a schoolteacher about to be evacuated with her class, decided to get married. This took place by special licence on 21st September 1939.

After the war, Roger re-joined Birmingham Corporation and was put in charge of a third of the area and spent most of his time selling immersion heaters, hire appliances and assisted wiring schemes.

Then, on nationalisation, he came to MANWEB as 1st assistant D.C.E. in the former Northwich District. In 1954 he moved to Sandiway House as 2nd assistant engineer, Commercial, and six years

At the end of the 'show,' the participants pose for a picture. They include, *from left to right, standing:* Messrs. Ken Appleton, Tom Cadman, Colin Fisher, Ernie Redman and George Grady from Head Office, Ken Twiggs (*ex-Northwich electrician now with Santon Ltd.*), and G. H. Dodd (*former District Administrative Officer*). *Seated:* The 'victim,' Mr. Roger Monk, Mrs. Fisher (*partially hidden*), Mrs. Winnie Monk, Mrs. Jean Twiggs, Mrs. Tadman (*partially hidden*), Mrs. Elsie Owen (*ex-Sandiway House*) and Mrs. Joan Dittich from Head Office.



"This is Your Life"
Roger Monk



later he became D.C.E. for the former Warrington District, later the South Lancashire District and latterly the Mid-Mersey District.

A great farewell party was held at a local club when Roger was the unsuspecting subject for a 'This is Your Life' feature compered by Ken Appleton (*Energy Sales Engineer*) assisted by John Drewe (*2nd engineer*) and Ron Neil (*work study officer*).

Roger was obviously delighted to meet again former colleagues from his Brummy days, Messrs. Colin Fisher and Tom Cadman (*both accompanied by their respective wives*) and to hear the recorded voices of two other old friends, Messrs. Geoff Wood and Ernie Hubbard.

Many other interesting and humorous stories of the past were recalled by a succession of surprise guests before Mr. Albert Cooper (*District Engineer*) came forward to make the official farewell presentation on behalf of Roger's many friends. This took the form of a handbearing compass and a chronometer, thermometer and barometer mounted on an oak board for hanging on the bulkhead of his boat. This, it was said, was to make sure that he would not get lost on any of his cruises!