

Contact

August 1980

"Light on Deck"
(see page 155)



Great Value for Money!

by Bill Shires (Chief Commercial Officer)

THERE is no shortage of people—notably spokesmen for some of the “consumer” organisations—who are happy to spread the belief that electricity is expensive.

The average customer would probably agree with them when he opens his quarterly bill—because he doesn't stop to weigh up what he has had for his money.

Our customer is unlikely to pause to consider that the bill covers 13 weeks of convenience, comfort and leisure.

The meals that have been cooked, the baths that have been taken, the clothes that have been washed,

the hours spent watching TV—these things are not borne in mind and valued. The customer sees the bill, which is probably bigger than the last one, and feels hard done by.

If we can help the public to realise just what they are getting for their money in terms of convenience, comfort and all the other amenities of civilised life, we shall be doing them a good turn. As prices rise on every hand under the pressure of inflation, it is our job to bring home to our customers just what excellent value for money electricity really is.

Included with this number of ‘Contact’ is a copy of the latest MANWEB “Value for Money” leaflet. This leaflet is going out to all our domestic customers with their quarterly bills. It explains, simply and clearly, what one unit of electricity offers. At present, one unit costs just over four pence on our standard domestic tariff. Off-peak electricity, of course, is a great deal cheaper; Economy 7 night rate, for instance, is 1.5 pence a unit.

I hope that all MANWEB employees will make themselves familiar with the leaflet's message and that they will go all out to bring home to our customers the marvellous value-for-money bargain that electricity offers.

The ‘Cygnet’ Sells Well

A NEW commercial dishwasher which we brought on to the MANWEB market at the beginning of the year is proving to be a ‘Best Seller’.

In the first six months, our sales staff have sold 36 models of the **Cygnet** commercial automatic dishwasher at around £500 each!

In the Clwyd District, senior energy sales representative Mr. Arthur Thompson quickly convinced Mr. Norman Cooper, the engineer for a group of hospitals in the area, that the machine would meet the Health Authority's stringent hygiene regulations, as well as being a great time- and labour-saving investment.

The **Cygnet** has now become another of the many items of electrical kitchen equipment which Arthur provides for the hospital group.

The machine takes only ten minutes to clean and sterilise up to 100 pieces of crockery, glass and cutlery, which makes it a necessary and ideal piece of equipment for the many hundreds of small hotels and guest houses throughout the MANWEB area.

Catering for a couple of dozen hungry children, plus the staff at Gwynfa Residential Clinic in Colwyn Bay, mother and daughter Bridie and Christine Reynolds, cook and assistant cook, are delighted with their new dishwasher—being loaded here by our sales rep.

Arthur Thompson.



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pages...*

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PAYING THE PRICE

“THE cost of fuel burned in power stations to generate electricity continues to rise, and nearly 50 pence in every pound we receive from our customers now goes to meet this cost. Ten years ago it was 33 pence in every pound.”

With these words, Board Chairman Ben Hastings, introducing our 1979/80 annual report and accounts to representatives of press and broadcasting organisations, summed up the impact of rising primary energy costs on the electricity supply industry—and on our industry's customers.

Although increased demand from industry played a big part in contributing to an overall increase in demand during 1979/80, the Chairman warned that this trend was not continuing into the present year, as the industrial recession bites deeper in the MANWEB area.

No-one expects anything but further increases in the price of coal and oil, and the odds are that the cost of these essential elements in the generation of electricity will rise faster than the general rate of inflation—as it has done in the past.

Few people would be rash enough to predict the kind of upsurge in the economy and industrial production which would provide a big boost for electricity sales.

Energy conservation and the search for even greater efficiency in the use and application of electricity seems likely to continue to play a big part in our lives.

Editorial

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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.

The New Approach to Joint Consultation



by Mr. STAN GORDON
(Principal Assistant, Personnel)

SINCE its inception in 1948, The Electricity Supply Industry's negotiating and advisory machinery has often been cited as a model to other industries and organisations.

Over the years, changes to the machinery have taken place, some almost unnoticed, while others—such as the extensions to include Foremen's Committees and Technical Staff Committees—have been more apparent.

Now more radical changes in the Local and the District Advisory machinery is to be implemented.

Just over two years ago, the National Joint Advisory Committee was dissolved and a new body known as the National Joint Co-ordinating Council (Great Britain) was established. The change was made to help overcome certain problems which had arisen, with the view taken that whilst the NJAC had provided a valuable forum for the exchange of information about the Industry's plans and policies, it was too large to allow representatives to express their particular views on basic policy matters.

The initial task of the NJCC was the drafting of constitutions for the new joint co-ordinating machinery to succeed the DJAC's and the LAC's. The Council had the benefit of advice and suggestions submitted by all the District and Local Advisory Committees in response to their studies of the original consultative document.

Agreed Constitution

Considering these comments from the Industry at large and drawing on the considerable experience of the Management and Trade Union members of its drafting panel, the NJCC agreed the constitution for establishing the new Councils.

Replacing the LAC will be a Local Joint Co-ordinating Council, and an Area or Regional Joint Co-ordinating Council will operate in place of the DJAC. These new constitutions were finally ratified at a meeting of the NJCC on 29th July, 1980.

The purpose of this re-structuring is to create the means by which our Industry's staff and their Trade Unions can participate more fully in the efficient operation of the Industry at all levels. A basic principle is that staff should be able to talk directly to their own management and vice-versa.

The same principle applies with the separate co-ordinating councils at District level for both Area Boards and CEBG Regions.

Membership of the new Councils will be less than the former LAC's and DJAC's, based on the experience that fewer people can be more successful in considering, dealing with and coming to an agreement on a wide range of topics. Also, committee members appointed from the staff side of Local and District negotiating bodies (*Works Committees, Staff Committees*) will be more accountable to and representative of their sections.

The former advisory committees were confined to discussions on safety, health, welfare, education and training, efficiency and other matters of mutual interest. Although the regular meetings have been constructive and co-operative, the subjects for discussion have been limited.

Matters for Discussion

In the new Co-ordinating Councils, matters for discussion can include such subjects as:—

- The efficient operation of local management Unit (*District or Head Office*), and the provision of an effective service, direct or indirect, to the customer.
- *All matters related to the Unit's operating plans in the context of the Industry and Board's corporate plans.*
- Financial matters, especially including such aspects as the operation of local budgets, profitability or economic viability of the Unit.
- *Energy and other sales trends.*
- Implementation of proposals for closures of places of work and the establishing of new places of work.
- *Trends and forecasts in local manpower.*
- The implementation of organisational and technological change at local level.
- *Changes in the state of the national or regional economy having a bearing on the progress of the Industry at local level.*

This list is simply a guide and not a prescription. It does not preclude discussion of other relevant topics, nor does it require that all the listed items be tabled. **The only constraint on discussing a particular subject is that it must not be a matter which comes within the terms of reference of the negotiating bodies.**

With the founding of these new Local and District Councils, if past experience is any guide, their success in MANWEB is assured.



The impressive Britannia Bridge with the new road deck built above the railway track.

(Photo by Douglas Gowan of Bangor)

Royal Opening for New Road Deck

FOR 154 years, the one and only road link between the mainland and Anglesey has been the Telford Suspension Bridge spanning the Menai Strait. Now there is another crossing with the completed construction of the new £6-million road deck which has been built above the reconstructed Britannia Railway Bridge as part of a Welsh Office Scheme for Roads in the area.

"A major engineering feat . . ." was one of the comments made by H.R.H. Prince Charles when he officially opened the road deck last month. We are pleased to record that members of our Gwynedd District staff played their part in this project—unique to Wales.

MANWEB engineers and electricians, under sub-contract to the Fairclough/Fairfield/Mabey Consortium and consulting engineers Messrs. Husband and Company, provided the high standard of lighting on the half-mile of approach roads and on a further half-mile of the road deck itself.

Some 50 lighting columns, coated with PVC to prevent corrosion from the salt air blowing up from

the Strait, were especially manufactured by Fabrikat Engineering Limited, who also provided a further 131 standard ten-metre columns for the approach roads.

To feed supply to the columns on the road deck, about two miles of two-core 16-mm PVC cable was drawn through ducts in the reinforced concrete parapet walls on either side of the deck.

When positioned, the columns were secured by four galvanised bolts, one-metre long, through the baseplates and into the concrete parapet wall.

Road deck illumination is provided by Philips 150-watt dual-entry high-pressure sodium lanterns, with individual control gear housed in waterproof chambers in the parapet walls directly under each column.

Matching lighting and control gear is fitted in the three towers crossing the road deck and, on each of the twin railway abutment towers sited on either end of the deck, there are two dwarf-type columns supporting lanterns. All the wiring is clipped neatly to the wall surfaces and each lantern is controlled—for dusk to dawn lighting—by photo-electric cells.

As an additional economy measure, alternative lanterns are controlled by a time-switch mechanism built into the circuits.

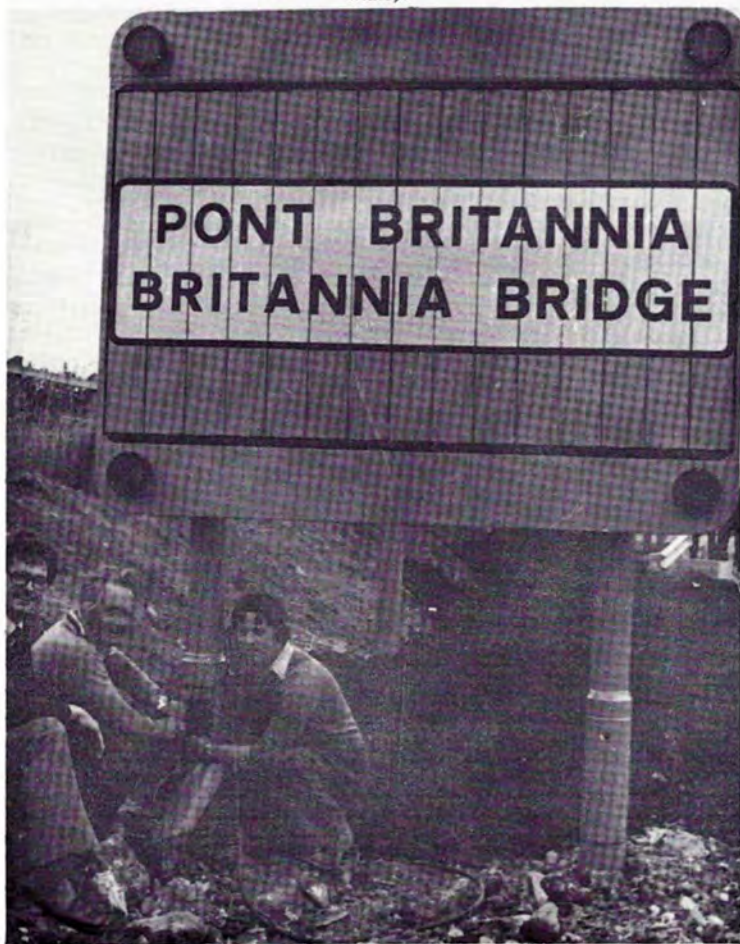
The main supply is taken from the existing distribution pillar located beneath the rail deck and the distribution control gear for the eight new lighting circuits

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Some of our Gwynedd District staff who worked on the lighting contract. From left to right: Messrs. R. J. Hughes, Idris Roberts (electrician), Gwyn Jones and Robin Williams (apprentice electricians), Delwyn Hughes and Hugh Roberts (electricians). Others who played their part were Messrs. T. J. Jones (Installation Engineer), O. G. Roberts (3rd engineer—Installation), Trevor Coates (2nd engineer—Production), Dafydd Roberts (foreman), Hugh G. Williams and Cyril G. Williams (material delivery).

Working on one of the traffic warning signs on the approach to the road deck are, from left to right: Messrs. Peter Thomas (2nd engineer—System), Alwyn Pritchard (chargehand linesman) and Bryn Williams (linesman's mate).



Above: Messrs. Dafydd K. Jones (electrician), left, and Dewi M. Birkett (mate). Below: Messrs. John M. Owen, left, and Vaughan Williams (linesmen).



New Road Deck—Continued

is housed in a heavy-duty cast-iron pillar located near the central Britannia Tower.

The workers on this huge contract experienced difficulties with the exceptionally high winds which sweep along the Strait from time to time. On occasions, these were serious enough to affect the work programme and re-location of jobs had to be directed.

Lighting on the approach roads is provided by Thorn Alpha semi-cut-off lanterns with 135-watt SOX lamps, individually controlled by photo-electric cells housed on each column. Four distribution pillars are sited at various locations, each with eight circuits of main lighting control gear.

Excavations to an exact depth of 700-mm had to be carried out to accommodate about four miles of two-

OUR COVER PICTURE shows electrician Idris Roberts installing one of the lanterns above the road deck.

core cable for this particular section of the job.

Our Engineering section was sub-contracted by the Installation section to do the excavations, lay the cables and erect all the lighting columns and distribution pillars. They also took supplies to the illuminated traffic signs on each approach to the road deck.

All wiring and connections were carried out by our Contracting staff under the direction of Mr. R. J. Hughes (*3rd engineer—Installation*).

The Britannia Bridge lighting scheme has a total loading of 32 kilowatts with the road deck section accounting for 14.5 kilowatts.

Heavy Load Crosses the New Road Deck

The original Britannia Bridge, taking a rail-link across the Strait, was completed by Robert Stephenson in 1850 and remained in service until it was destroyed by fire in 1970.

When the planned Bangor By-Pass on the mainland and the Llanfairpwll By-Pass on Anglesey are completed in 1984, the important part played by the new road deck bridging the Strait will greatly enhance the communications network to and from the island.

The Menai Bridge, with its vehicle and load restrictions of height, width and weight, has become inadequate in catering for the increasing amount of traffic from the new industries now settled on Anglesey.

In proving this point, the first mighty load to cross the new road deck—within days of its opening—was a 27-ton transformer on a low-loader. A few days later, a similar weighty load was taken across in the other direction. Without the use of the new bridge, we would have been faced with the transportation of the transformer to Holyhead and then by sea to its destination. Obviously a more expensive and time-consuming way.

So, once again, we salute our Men from MANWEB—in the

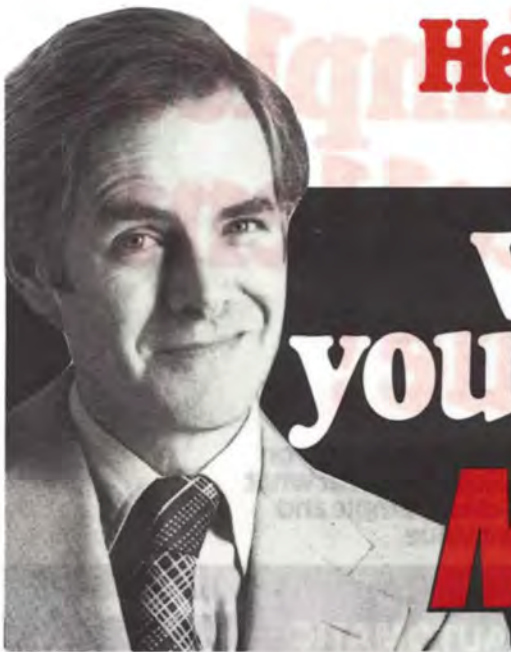
Gwynedd District—for lighting the way, yet again, to the beautiful island of Anglesey.

In closing, it is worth noting

that, had not the two youngsters caused the fire damage to the bridge in 1970, this second road link would never have been built!

The 27-ton transformer being transported across the new road deck.





Here's where to
find real

value for
your money

Manweb

All energy costs have risen, but just think for a moment of all the value you get for just one unit of electricity. The cost of each unit is shown on your Energy Account under 'Pence per unit'. Electricity—clean, simple and excellent value!



SHAVER
Over 1800 shaves



IRON
Over 2 hours use



KETTLE
12 pints of boiling water



TELEVISION
B/W: 9 hours viewing
COL: 6 hours viewing



VACUUM CLEANER
2 hours cleaning



TOASTER
70 slices of toast



READING LAMP (60 W)
Over 16½ hours use



ELECTRIC BLANKET
(Underblanket)
One week's evening use
(Overblanket)
Over 2 full nights' comfort



'ON THE SPOT' WATER HEATER
Over 3 gallons of piping hot water



FRIDGE
(compressor type)

A day's operation



HAIR DRYER
5 hours use

THERE'S SO MUCH YOU CAN DO WITH ONE UNIT OF ELECTRICITY!

THINK ELECTRIC

Clean, simple... and excellent value!

Look for the cost of one unit of electricity on your Energy Account, then look below at what it buys you. Electricity—clean, simple and simply excellent value.



SHOWER UNIT

Just 10 units for a week's daily showers (per person)

AUTOMATIC WASHING MACHINE

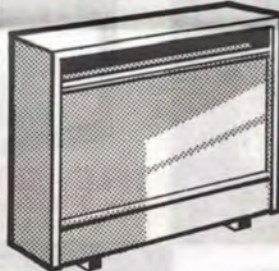
Only 9 Units for weekly wash for average family of four



TWIN TUB WASHER

Just 12 Units for weekly wash for average family of four

STORAGE RADIATOR



A 2 kW model uses around 2,400 Units per 32-week heating season

FOOD FREEZER

1½ Units per cu. ft. per week



COOKER

Approx 28-30 Units for one week's meals for family of four



ALL FIGURES ARE APPROXIMATE AND ARE BASED ON THE AVERAGE RATING OF EACH APPLIANCE

Manweb

That's value for you!

The Bells of St. Mary's Ring Out Again

CHURCH RISES FROM ASHES

THE well-designed and neatly-installed lighting in the rebuilt and refurbished ancient Church of St. Mary in the picturesque village of Hale on the outskirts of Liverpool, is a credit to the Men from MAN-WEB who planned and carried out the work on the contract.

A tragic and devastating fire in October 1977 completely gutted this centuries-old Parish Church, leaving only the outer walls and the 14th Century tower standing amid the smoking ruins.

People of all denominations throughout the village quickly got together in a massive money-raising drive to restore the interior of this fine old church to its former glory.

Fluorescent lighting cleverly concealed in the ceiling arches and decorative lighting in keeping with the character of the church.



Here against the background of the church and its 14th Century tower are Messrs. Maurice Lock, left, and Ted Potter.

Financial and material help came in from far and wide and, at a cost of over £300,000, the church has now risen like a phoenix from the ashes.

A major contribution to the inside facelift is the lighting, designed by Messrs. Gerry Worthington (*Lighting Development Engineer, Head Office*) and Geoff. Pittman (*2nd engineer—Commercial, Liverpool*). The scheme consists of 60 six-foot fluorescent tubes cleverly concealed in the ceiling arches and fitted on purpose-made trunking. Decorative lighting has been added in the body of the church, with specially-designed fittings and shades suggesting the historical background of the building. Bulkhead fittings light the spiral staircase leading to the belfry and ringing-chamber.

The control-gear for all the lighting is grouped behind the rebuilt organ at the rear of the church.

This intricate installation job was carried out by Liverpool District electrician Mr. Maurice Lock, aided by Messrs. Dave Wilson and Nigel France. Keeping his eye on the whole project was Mr. Ted Potter (*2nd engineer—Installation*).

Hale had their own Parish Church—and their own Lord Mayor—when Liverpool was just a small village by the river. People from all over the world visit the churchyard to see the grave of John Middleton, the famous "*Childe of Hale*" who, when he died in 1623 at the age of 45, stood nine feet three inches tall!

Talking Notes

SPECIAL PROMOTION

Senior energy sales representative in our Clwyd District, **Arthur Thompson**, has recently received a promotion—not with MANWEB, but with the police!

Arthur is the new Divisional Commandant for the North Wales Police Special Constabulary. He is now responsible for the whole of 'C' Division, which covers an area from Rhyl down to Deeside, bordering on the Cheshire area.

He has about 400 'Specials' under his command and they liaise with the full-time police on special occasions.

During his 26 years' service with the Special Constabulary, Arthur has received two commendations: one for arresting

an escaped prisoner and the other for giving chase in a police patrol vehicle and eventually capturing a car thief.

He told us that he has never regretted 'joining-up' and has enjoyed every minute of his long service. His wife Joyce also has police connections, for she has worked for the North Wales Divisional HQ for the past ten years.

In 1977, Arthur represented the North Wales Police Special Constabulary, when he was presented to H.R.H. The Duke of Edinburgh during a royal visit to the Metropolitan Police Training College at Hendon.

Night to Remember

A visit to 'The Wigan Tree' at Parbold was a night to remember for two dozen lads and lasses from our Liverpool District offices.

After a meal, the happy party had a song or two to sing. They were joined by a group of young men from Ingersoll Rand, who were celebrating the ending of their seminar.

As they came from all corners of the world, the 'Lancashire' evening soon became quite a cosmopolitan affair.

On the morning after the night before, a large bouquet of flowers was delivered to District Office with a card from the Inger-

soll Rand party which read:

MANWEB girls are nicer
than champagne,
Rarer than snowdrops in
summer,
And more beautiful than
Charlie's Angels:
In fact, they are great!

New Medallion

Patiently waiting for his new badge of office following his election to serve as Chairman of the Hope Community Council, is **Cliff Shone**, one of our store-keepers at Queensferry.

Cliff has the distinction and honour of being called to this office in only his second year on the Council.

In keeping with the importance of the position as Chairman of the Community Council, it was decided that a medallion should be designed by The College of Heralds. This could then be attached to a chain or ribbon.

The new Chairman is hoping that the medallion will be ready in time for him to wear at the



Top Cop, Arthur Thompson.



Megan and Cliff Shone.

Armistice Day service.

He is also arranging for a Civic Service—the first for many years—to be held in Hope Parish Church. Guests to read the Lessons will be Beata Brookes (*Euro M.P.*) and Barry Jones (*M.P. for East Flint*).

Although a comparative newcomer to the Hope Community Council, Cliff has been a member of the Alyn and Deeside District Council for the past four years, and, for half this time, was Chairman of the Planning and Housing Committees.

He has been with MANWEB for the past 11 years, all of this time at Queensferry Stores.

He's Done It Again!

A very clever man with money-making, inventive ideas, who also has the good sense to submit them for consideration in the Suggestion Scheme, is **Evan Nelson**, a meter mechanic at Lister Drive in Liverpool.

Evan was recently presented with a cheque for £225 for his cash-saving ideas which gained awards at District level.

Since we featured him in our magazine 18 months ago, he has been successful in gathering £180 for an earlier suggestion to modify meter covers.

His simple ideas—always the best—are the result of a great deal of careful and constructive thought and an excellent all-round knowledge of his job and its relation to the Board and our



Courier driver Ken Sproat, with his travelling companion, Sarah.

customers. He also takes the time and trouble to work out his ideas on paper.

Even now he has one or two of his suggestions in the pipeline at National level. If they are accepted there, and adopted by other Boards, more cash could roll in and possibly bring his total awards to around the £1,000 mark!

Man's Best Friend

Courier driving can be a most tedious task—boring, too, as you travel along the same route day after day, but having to keep alert in the busy traffic.

For long stretches of time it

can be a lonely job, too. Some drivers have a car radio or a cassette-player to keep them company. Not many take along their best friend to help break the monotony.

But **Ken Sproat**, our driver from Southport does. He has *Sarah* with him all the time.

Before you jump to the wrong conclusion, *Sarah* is his cute little West Highland terrier.

On the long journeys from his base at Southport to North Mersey and Liverpool District Offices, via all the shops, then on to Queensferry and Head Office, Ken and *Sarah* pass away the hours together.

Mr. Jim Barraclough (Group Manager), centre left, presents Evan Nelson with his £225 cheque. Between them is Mr. Dave Crangle (Senior Engineer—Meter Test).



Now 18 months old, Sarah has been with Ken for the past year. He has been a driver with the Board for 23 years.

Cricket, Lovely Cricket

Eaton Hall, Chester, provided the idyllic setting for a cricket match between MANWEB and Norweb.

The home team batted first, making a solid start with **John Gorman** (32), **Mike Boxall** (45) and **Keith Dyer** (62 not out) scoring freely. **John Rowlands** (19 not out) brought a flush of runs near the end of the 40 overs, bringing the MANWEB total to 168 for five.

This very respectable score was never seriously challenged by Norweb, who faced some tight bowling right from the start. The visitors were always behind the clock and, when both openers fell to **Amlyn ab Iorwerth**, other wickets fell

quickly. **Dave Spencer** took three and **Tony Murphy** got two more. Norweb were all out for 79 runs.

After the match, watched by an enthusiastic gathering of supporters, everyone went along to the Eaton Golf Clubhouse to bring an excellent sporting occasion to a happy end.

A return match is now eagerly awaited. *Over to you, Norweb!*

Wedding Bells

Our congratulations on the occasion of their recent wedding to **Janet Hough** and Roy Lewis. Janet has been employed by the Board as a stock control clerk at our Queensferry Stores for over two years. Roy is a management services officer with Cheshire County Council, although he worked as an electrician for MANWEB in Clwyd some years ago.



The ceremony took place in the St. John's United Reform Church, Flint, with the reception at the Theatr Clwyd, Mold. The happy couple then left on a touring honeymoon in the South of England and the Cotswolds.

Dee Valley Golf

The course at Wrexham golf club was this year's venue for staging the Trophy Competition for members of the Dee Valley

In the beautiful grounds of Eaton Hall, we see the victors (MANWEB), left, and the sporting losers (Norweb), right. Our team, from left to right, standing: **Cliff Houlbrook** (umpire), **Deanie Griffiths**, **Tony Murphy**, **Amlyn ab Iorwerth**, **John Rowlands** and **Dave Spencer**. Seated: **John Gorman**, **Chris Morrey**, **Howel Watson**, **Mike Boxall**, **Keith Dyer** and **Steve Addison**.



District Golf Section.

Brian Doyle (*System Engineer*) made it two-in-a-row to retain the Trophy he won last year, by taking this year's title on a card play-off with **Ken Edwards** (*2nd engineer—System*) who took second place. Close behind was **John Young** (*Principal Engineer—Planning*).

A prize for the outward nine holes was won by **Hywel Jones** (*senior Works Study Officer*) while **Trevor Edwards** (*1st engineer—Energy Sales*) was the prizewinner on the last nine holes.



Mr. and Mrs. Gwynedd Morris.

Wedding

Our congratulations go to **Susan Mary Jones**, formerly a clerk at the Gwynedd District offices, on the occasion of her marriage to Gwynedd Morris, a welder, whose work takes him all over the country.

The wedding was held at the Llanberis Church on 28th June—Susan's 22nd birthday. The happy couple spent their honeymoon in Holland. They have now set up a home in Broughton, Chester.

Susan, an entrant in our "Girl from MANWEB" competition a couple of years ago, has now transferred from Gwynedd Dist-



Two of the handicapped children at Dee Banks Special School show Jenny Tomann and Jean Whittle some of the equipment bought with the 'Sponsored Slim' cheque.

ric to work as a clerk in the Mail Order section at Queensferry depot.

We wish Susan and her husband every happiness in their future together.

Slimmers' Aid

The four-week sponsored slim by members of the Chester Sports and Social Club raised £650, and a cheque for that amount was presented to the Dee Banks Special School for mentally and physically handicapped children.

The school caters for children from two to 15, and Head Teacher Mrs. June Wilson invited four members of the Club Committee along to see the equipment those lost pounds of fat had helped to buy, and to meet the children.

The MANWEB visitors, **Jenny Tomann, Jean Whittle, Gren Roberts and Amlyn ap Iwerth**, saw the robust Galt furniture and toys the school had purchased with the money for the infants' classroom. They also saw a small group of children having fun in the tiny paddling pool, which has

proved to have therapeutic value to many of the children.

After seeing round the school and having coffee, the MANWEB quartet took their leave, convinced that the slimmers' contribution had been presented to a very worthy cause.

The school had a very happy atmosphere and, on the way back to the Head Office building, the committee members were unanimous in their praise and admiration for the enthusiasm and patience of Mrs. Wilson and her staff.

Right on Time

One o'clock precisely on 3rd July, 1980, was the time predicted by **Lesley Miller** for the birth of her daughter Lisa Jayne. She was right on time, too!

In offering our congratulations, we are pleased to report that mother and daughter are doing fine. Husband Richard is over the moon, as well!

Lesley, an accounts clerk at Aberystwyth, will be missed by her friends and colleagues in the District, for she was a tower of strength as an active member of the Sports and Social Club.



At Holyhead, as far West as you can go in the MANWEB area, our roving reporter came across a team of mains-men excavating a couple of very deep holes in the ground to unearth electricity cables. Our man learned that they were preparing to lay a new three-phase supply to the nearby coastguard station. Our picture, taken on one of the rare, warm and sunny days, shows the team, from left to right: Vivian Pritchard, Elwyn Jones, Robert Taylor and Dave Williams.

FOR SALE

Car

MGB GT 'P' (1976) registered. Primrose yellow, 34,000 miles, 12 months MoT. Excellent condition. Fitted radio. £2,450. 'Phone: Northop 322.

House

Tranmere Hall Estate, Birkenhead. Semi-detached in very convenient location. Lounge, dining-room, kitchen, three bedrooms, separate bathroom and w.c., gas central heating, detached garage, gardens front and rear, fitted carpets throughout included in the price at £18,750. 'Phone: 051-645 2574.

Caravan

450 Robin. Two double, one single. Electric or gas lighting; new, full-range gas oven; new gas or electric 'fridge; toilet compartment and Porta-Potti toilet or changing tent; 56 lb. gas bottle and 12-volt heavy-duty battery; cocktail cabinet; all metal has been treated and undersealed; strip or gas lighting. Perfect condition, £1,700— with radio and television £100 extra (optional). Reason for selling—owner now disabled. 'Phone: Wrexham 841099.

EMPLOYEES' MEETINGS

LAC	District	Date	Venue
1.	NORTH MERSEY	6th Nov.	The Mons Hotel, Bootle
2.	LIVERPOOL	9th Oct.	Dovedale Towers, Penny Lane, Liverpool
3.	MID-MERSEY	10th Oct.	The Crest Hotel, Beechwood, Runcorn
4.	DEE VALLEY	17th Oct.	Head Office Restaurant, Sealand Road, Chester
5.	NORTH WIRRAL	1981	To be arranged
6.	MID-CHESHIRE	11th Sept.	Hunters Lodge Hotel, Sidney Road, Crewe
7.	CLWYD	7th Nov.	The Derbyshire Holiday Centre, Marsh Rd., Rhyl
8.	GWYNEDD	24th Oct.	The Royal Hotel, Caernarfon
9.	OSWESTRY	26th Sept.	The Pedigree, Shrewsbury Road, Oswestry
10.	ABERYSTWYTH	1981	To be arranged
11.	HEAD OFFICE	2nd Oct.	Head Office Restaurant, Sealand Road, Chester

Retired members of the staff wishing to attend any of these meetings should get in touch with the Secretary of the Local Advisory Committee at the respective District Office or Head Office.

LETTERS

Co-operative

From a Bebington-based Probation Officer, our North Wirral District received the following letter:

"In my line of work, I frequently have to discuss clients' and other outstanding accounts with personnel in the 'Code of Practice' Section and am always impressed by the co-operative attitude of your staff—particularly that of Mrs. Ruth McBride. There has never been any occasion when a query has not been courteously and efficiently handled. I do hope you will pass on my appreciative comments."

Most Kind

A pensioner from Liverpool 6 wrote to Lister Drive to thank our Liverpool District staff:

"We all complain when things go wrong, but I am very pleased to inform you of the wonderful help and kindness I received from a young lady on Monday—I believe her name is Miss Sylvia Marsh.

"She was most kind and very helpful; will you please thank her and your tariff inspector (Mr. George Roughley). A big thank you to yourself, as staff are as good as their boss."

Worthy Ambassador

In a letter to the Board Chairman, a Wrexham customer expresses his satisfaction with our Queensferry-based mail-order service:

"Living as we do in an age of diminishing services, I was, however, particularly dismayed to find that I was unable to obtain a replacement thermostat for our 16-year-old Belling cooker, which was otherwise serviceable.

"In a 'last-ditch' attempt, I telephoned your Customer Service Department, who put me in touch with Mr. Peter Frost, your fore-

man in charge of the Commercial Mail Order Service at Deeside, who went to great trouble on my behalf, and eventually found a suitable thermostat from an old 'trade-in' cooker. This has now been fitted and, thankfully, the family can look forward to roast beef and Yorkshire pudding again (after pay-day).

"I would, therefore, like to place on record my gratitude to Mr. Frost in whom MANWEB have a worthy ambassador."

Speedy

A Heswall lady who lives adjacent to one of the Board's substations wrote to the District Engineer, North Wirral:—

"I send you my sincere thanks and appreciation for the speedy attention in erecting a new boundary wire-mesh fence.

"It certainly will now prevent the further deposits of rubbish, etc."

The men who helped keep this customer happy were Bill Farrel and Eric Allen, with foreman Phil Wearing.

Consideration

Our 1st engineer in Gwynedd District Energy Sales section, Ernie Rogers, received a letter from a Penrhynceudraeth customer, praising the work of electrician Tommy Roberts:

"Following your visit concerning the installation of a shower unit, I write to thank you for your time and consideration.

"As the work was completed a fortnight after your visit, I wish to convey my appreciation for your service. Perhaps you would see that the electrician—from your Ffestiniog office—who carried out the installation most competently and pleasantly, receives a word of appreciation."

Marvellous Job

A lady who runs an Ellesmere Port fish and chip shop had a shower unit installed by our Dee Valley District electrician Ron

Niel, and her daughter-in-law had one simultaneously installed by Ron's colleague Eric Jeffs. She writes to Mrs. Ann Oliver of the Dee Valley Work Control:

"I would just like to say what a marvellous job Ron and Eric, the MANWEB electricians, did on Wednesday.

"They were both prompt and helpful. They did not leave any mess at all and were quite helpful at explaining the working of the shower.

"I have no hesitation in recommending them to everyone whom I know, as I have a fish and chip shop.

"Both myself and my daughter-in-law want to say how much we appreciate their work."

Quick Service Efficient Two!

A letter from a customer in the Pwllheli area arriving at our Gwynedd District office:

"I wrote a short time ago asking for the meter to be changed to 50p, and also lowered.

"Thank you for your quick and efficient service. Two gentlemen arrived and did the job very quickly and efficiently. They did not leave any mess and were very polite and pleasant. I just had to write, as it is so unusual to get anyone to do a job as well and as quickly as your two electricians."

Our two men from Pwllheli were Will Jones and Hugh Roberts.



"I've decided to Cook-Electric!"



At the award presentation held at Bridle Road, we see, from left to right: Messrs. Ron Slack (executive officer, E & T), Dennis Noad (DCE), Les Appleton (Installation Engineer), Bryan Pope (prizewinning apprentice) and his mother and father, Tessa and Bernard Pope.

Top Apprentices

TWO apprentice electricians, both 17-years-old, became joint winners of the award for "The Best All-Round Achievement" during their initial training period at the Board's craft apprentice centre at Hoylake.

They are, in alphabetical order, **Bryan Robert Pope**, who lives at Olverson's Farm, Hightown, Merseyside, and **Richard Andrew Philip Williams**, from Heol Dafydd, in Wrexham.

Earlier this month, Bryan flew off to Florida for a four-week holiday with three of his friends. As a first-time flyer, we hope he enjoyed the trip and didn't suffer too much from jet-lag! A keen driver—he is hoping to have his own car soon—Bryan told us that

he was really enjoying his work in our North Mersey District.

Richard, too, likes the variety of work he gets in the Dee Valley District, from helping on huge factory contracts to installing shower units in homes. He is a motor-bike man, especially interested in the engines, and his other pastimes include playing the cornet with the famous Farndon and District Brass Band. He was a member of the well-known St. David's High School Band at Wrexham. Richard's sister, Lyn, recently started work with the Board when she became a computer programmer trainee at Head Office a few weeks ago.

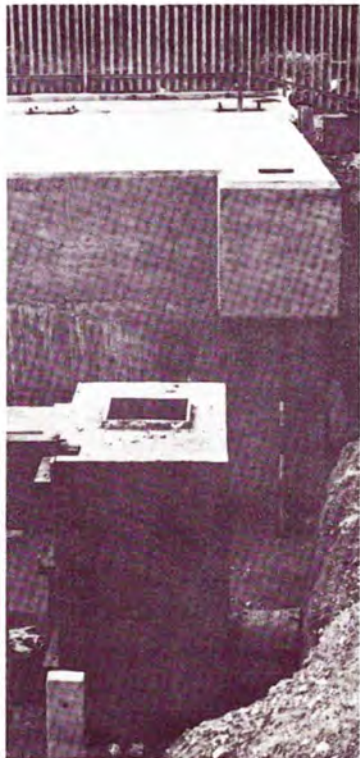
Both young men are continuing to learn their trade and, in addition to their practical work in the Districts, they take the opportunity of day-release to study at local colleges.

At the ceremony held at Rhostyllen we see, from left to right: Mr. Eric and Mrs. Margaret Williams, Mr. Ron Williams (District Commercial Engineer), Mr. Ron Slack, Richard Williams, Messrs. John Milne (2nd engineer—Installation) and Frank Jones (foreman—Commercial).



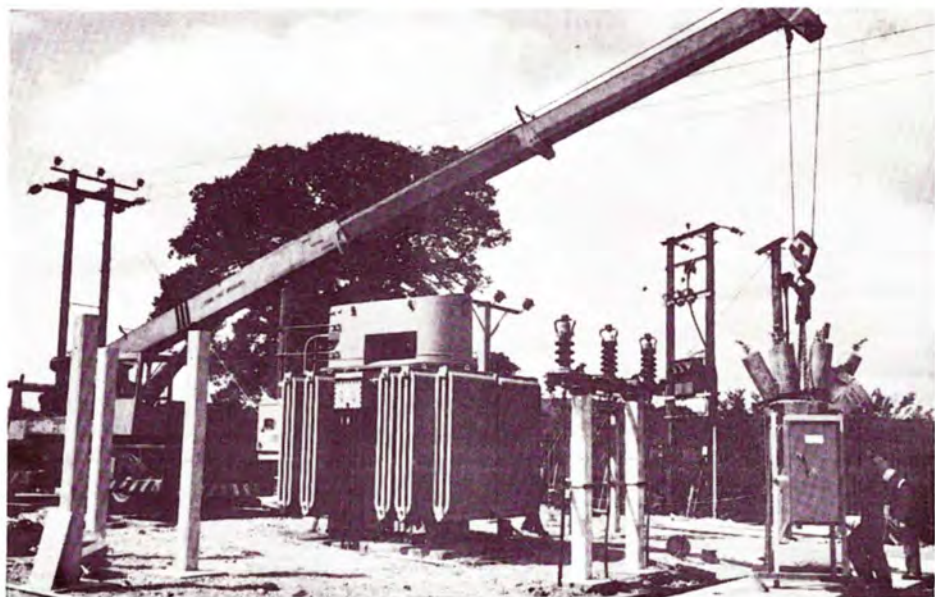


On site at Welshpool. From left to right, standing: Messrs. Geoff Cross (2nd engineer—Newtown), Harry Smith (driver), Arnold Houghton (1st engineer—Construction), and Bill Ellis (foreman—Oswestry). Kneeling: Messrs. Ray Owen (fitter—Oswestry) and John Griffiths (linesman—Oswestry).



Nearly 140 cubic metres of concrete was poured to set and form the three-metre deep plinths to take the 45MVA transformer tank and cooler at the Welshpool sub-station.

£1½-million Network Reinforcement



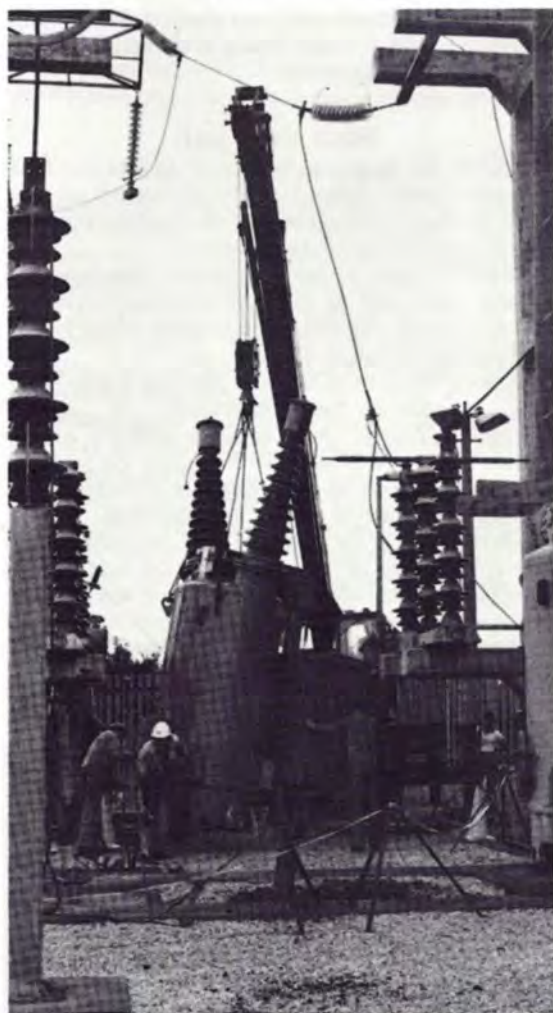
One of the four outdoor oil circuit-breakers being positioned on the new plinths in the modified 33-kV compound at Welshpool.

The Scheme

TO REMEDY the unsatisfactory voltage situation, under outage conditions, which has developed in the Oswestry, Welshpool and Newtown areas, work is now in progress on an engineering scheme costing nearly one-and-a-half million pounds.

Quite a large slice of this capital is to be spent on a new 132/33-kV substation which is to be established on a site adjacent to our existing 33-kV substation at Welshpool. This new bulk supply point will have a 45-MVA 132/33-kV transformer fed from the Oswestry 132-kV substation where extensions are being carried out to provide a new 132-kV switchbay.

Some 29 kilometres of 132-kV 'Trident' overhead line is being erected between Oswestry and Welsh-



Above: The tricky job of lowering one of the very large and weighty 132-kV oil circuit-breaker tanks on to the lorry for transportation to another part of the Oswestry sub-station.

Left: Crane lifting and manoeuvring one of the three tanks for the oil circuit-breaker from its compound in the sub-station.

pool and two kilometres of 33-kV wood-pole line between Welshpool and Criggion is to be rebuilt.

At Welshpool's existing EHV substation, diversions of high-voltage cables have been necessary to permit a new access road to be laid and extensions to the substation to be carried out. In addition to the single transformer bay, there will be a control/relay room and a staff mess room.

The whole scheme is scheduled for completion towards the end of this year.



Mr. Paul Mulvey, centre right, bids farewell to Mr. Reg. Huyton and friends in the Cost section at Head Office.

RETIREMENTS

Mr. P. C. MULVEY

Friends and colleagues gathered at Sealand Road to say farewell to Mr. Paul Mulvey and to wish him a long and happy retirement.

Mr. Mulvey, a clerical assistant in the Head Office Costs section, has almost completed 30 years' service with MANWEB. He joined the Board as a temporary clerk in Chester and saw the amalgamation of the former Areas 2 and 3, and later the Board re-organisation.

He trained and worked as a teacher before the Second World War, during which he served in the Army. He is a very fit man, who sustains his health by riding to work every day on his bicycle in all weathers. He also enjoys gardening.

Paul is married and he and his wife Beryl have a son, and Beryl also works at Sealand Road as a part-time clerk in the Head Office Revenue section.

Thanking Paul for his contribution to the Board during his employment, Mr. Reg Huyton (*Assistant Chief Accountant*) presented him with a barometer on behalf of his colleagues.

Mr. E. SMITH

After a lifetime in the electricity industry, Mr. Edmund 'Ted' Smith retired from his post as Principal Engineer responsible for the design and equipment of high-voltage sub-stations.

Mr. Stan Roberts (*Assistant Chief Engineer*), wearing glasses, has a farewell handshake for Mr. Ted Smith.



He joined the industry as a junior engineer in 1939 with the Sheffield Corporation. With the outbreak of war that year, he became a member of the R.N.V.R., serving as a lieutenant. He returned to the Sheffield Corporation after the war and, in 1948, joined the newly-formed British Electricity Authority. A year later he came to MANWEB Head Office and has held a series of appointments with the Board.

Ted is married with a son and two daughters, one of whom is a doctor. Caravanning is his main interest, other than a nice quiet life.

Miss J. BALLARD

One of the largest gatherings of staff in our Mid-Mersey District honoured the retirement of Miss Joan Ballard, a telephonist at Warrington for 36 of her 38 years' service in our industry.

Many tributes to her helpfulness, kindness and loyalty were paid at this well-organised ceremony (*thanks to Ena Harding*), attended by many former and present friends and colleagues.

Among the host of farewell gifts was a gold watch and, in making the presentation, Mr. Dennis Hodgetts (*District Administrative Officer*) gave a potted history of Miss Ballard's career. He said that she started work in the offices at Howley power station, cataloguing plans and drawings for the modernisation of the station in 1942. He remarked on the coincidence of the power station now closing down at the same time that Joan herself was retiring.



Just a few of the many people who went along to wish Miss Joan Ballard happiness in retirement. She is seen here, holding a bouquet, in a very happy mood.

Miss Ballard was a member of St. Paul's Church Council until its closure earlier this year. She has also been a member of the British Red Cross Society for many years and, during the war, she did sterling work through the YWCA.

She will be missed by colleagues in Mid-Mersey and by the people who telephoned her daily. We wish her good health and every happiness in retirement.

Mr. E. G. M. RODDAN

Friends and colleagues gathered at Sealand Road to say farewell to Mr. Eric Roddan, Principal Engineer in the Plant Supplies section. Eric was retiring after 30 years' service with MANWEB.

He joined the electricity industry in 1950 in the purchasing section of the former Liverpool Head Office as a clerical assistant, and he became a principal assistant four years later. He moved with Head Office to Chester in 1970 and became the Principal Engineer responsible for buying engineering plant and supplies in 1974.

Eric and his wife Betty have four children and six grandchildren. He enjoys a little gardening, is a keen philatelist and likes to tour the country in his car.

However, much of his time is taken up with his

Mr. Eric Roddan, centre, with some of his colleagues in the Plant Supplies section, on the occasion of his retirement presentation.



church, where he is a lay-preacher, and he is involved in welfare work associated with the church.

On behalf of his colleagues, Mr. Gerry Haughan (Deputy Chief Engineer) presented Eric with a mahogany bookcase and a radio.

ELECTRICITY SUPPLY (STAFF) SUPERANNUATION SCHEME

Election of the Members' Committee-men

The election of ten members' committee-men to serve on the Committee of the above Scheme is about to take place.

Retired members of MANWEB are entitled to stand, or to nominate candidates for the election. Candidates and nominators must be members of the Scheme.

Nomination forms, available from Mr. Stan Gordon, Personnel Section, Head Office, should be completed and returned to him not later than 8th September, 1980. The form must be signed by the candidate indicating consent to act, if so elected, and by the nominator.

Personal Accident Insurance Scheme

FURTHER significant improvements in the benefits afforded by the above Scheme have been formally agreed by The Commercial Union and their co-insurers and re-insurers.

Improvements are as follows:—

- (1) *Death and all capital benefits increased by 50%, apart from Permanent Total Disablement, which remains at £4,000 per unit. Death Benefit is thus increased from £2,000 to £3,000 per unit.*
- (2) *Temporary Total Disablement waiting period reduced from 13 weeks to ten weeks.*
- (3) *The award of a 'bonus' unit of cover, other than Permanent and Temporary Total Disablement benefits, to those members contributing to the maximum holding of ten units.*

Stamp Exchange

People who buy electricity and gas stamps to help them save up to pay their fuel bills will now be able to use either Industry's stamps to settle either bill.

Electricity accounts may be paid by using gas stamps and gas bills may be settled with electricity savings stamps.

This system of 'mutual redemption' has been agreed between the two Industries to add more flexibility to the savings stamp scheme. A short time ago, an arrangement was made to enable Sub-Post Offices to sell the Industries' savings stamps.

Annual sales of electricity stamps now total over £40-million, while gas stamp sales are in the region of £25-million a year.

With the new arrangements, we hope that even more of our customers will get into the habit of buying savings stamps.

MANWEB intend to replace the present 50-pence stamp with a new unit valued at £1.

If you require further clarification or additional information on the Scheme, please get in touch with Mr. Norman Maguire, Principal Assistant, Insurance and Common Law section, Head Office (Internal telephone 2114).

NEW BOOKS

Publications recently released by The Electricity Council are as follows:—

"Microwave Cooking At Home" explains how these safe and useful appliances work, how to choose one and how to get the best use from it.

Microwave cooking represents a new, easier way of preparing food. It saves time and trouble and can provide a hot meal in minutes—even straight from the freezer.

The cooker takes up very little space—it can stand on a work surface—and can be plugged into a 13-amp socket. It is easy to keep clean and, normally, it uses less energy than any other form of cooking.

"Microwave Cooking At Home" is written by Gwen Conacher (*Electricity Council*) and Jenny Webb (*E.C. Appliance Testing Laboratories*) and costs 50 pence from Electricity Boards.

"Safe Use of Electricity on the Farm and in Horticulture"—a booklet which provides guidelines on the safe use of electricity by farm and horticultural workers and highlights the hazards inherent in bad practice.

The booklet sets out sound, basic advice on electrical matters from underground cables to overhead lines. It is available from the *Farm-Electric Centre, National Agricultural Centre, Stoneleigh, Kenilworth, Warwicks., CU82LS.*

NEW POST FOR MR. COWAN

The Electricity Council has appointed Mr. Matthew Cowan to the new permanent post of Central Director at the Electricity Council Research Centre, Capenhurst.

Mr. Cowan, our former Chief Commercial Officer, was seconded to fill the post of Director (Commercial) at the Research Centre in October, 1978. He joined MANWEB in 1964.

Drive Electric 80

Over 70 presentations on all aspects of electric vehicles will be given at the *Drive Electric 80* Conference at Wembley next October.

Organised by the Electric Vehicle Association of Great Britain, *Drive Electric 80* is the world's major event of the year, the conference and exhibition bringing together leading experts in the design, manufacture, marketing and use of electric vehicles.

OBITUARY

It is with deep regret that we record the deaths of our former colleagues.

Mr. James J. Hawksorth, aged 60, a meter reader/collector at St. Helens depot prior to his ill-health retirement in 1977.

Mr. Thomas J. L. Morris, aged 73, the first resident joiner with our former Area 4 Office until his retirement in 1971.

Mr. Charles Musker, aged 67, a former labourer—and quite a character—who worked at the Pumpfields depot and North Mersey District prior to his retirement in 1977.

Mr. E. Vincent Owen, aged 63, after a long illness. "E.V." retired two years ago from his post as Assistant Secretary (*Policy Administration*) at Head Office.

Mr. Austin W. Rawes, aged 80, who worked for the industry for 47 years, prior to retiring as chief clerk at Liverpool in 1962.

We extend our sincere sympathy to their families and friends.