

# CONTACT

DECEMBER, 1975

"Severn Sunset" (see centre pages)





## *The Chairman Writes . . .*

***I**N RECENT years our industry has had its share of problems. In different ways these problems have sometimes demanded exceptional responses from us all.*

*The difficulties of the present, like those of the past, give cause for concern. The future of our industry rests, however, on the solid rock of its indispensable place in the economic structure of the nation.*

*Our industry has weathered storms of many kinds, ranging from the effects of war to the consequences of nation-wide industrial action. The dedication, experience and flexibility of our people at all levels have enabled us to meet our responsibilities despite these adverse conditions.*

*The people of Britain—like those of many other countries—are in the process of adjusting to the fact that fuel costs are rising. The qualities which have served us so well in the past will also prove their value in meeting this new situation.*

*Christmas and the New Year are times for reflection. They give us an opportunity to look at the prevailing situation in historical perspective. Despite immediate difficulties, the long term future of electricity remains secure.*

*Denis Jones.*





# CONTACT

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December 1975

## *Editorial*

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## *A Time For Unity*

**T**HIS CHRISTMAS sees the end of a difficult and testing year for the electricity supply industry—a year when chickens hatched in Middle East oilfields and British coalfields finally came home to roost in the homes of our domestic customers.

The demand for electricity, after rising steadily for thirty years, began to falter for the first time during 1974 before going into a noticeable decline during 1975. There were also setbacks in other areas of MANWEB's commercial activities.

While part of this decline can be attributed to a long hot summer, rising prices, and energy conservation, the fall-off in industrial activity also had its impact on electricity sales.

Crystal-ball-gazers of every hue offer us no hope of an early cure for the nation's ills, and there are many who predict that things will get worse before they get better. Be that as it may, there can be little hope of a real recovery in electricity sales and commercial activity until the adverse underlying trends are reversed.

In such a climate each one of us, no matter what our individual job, has a vested interest in creating and maintaining a vigorous, viable, competitive electricity industry. No department, section or individual can be isolated from the fortunes, good or bad, of colleagues engaged on other aspects of the total MANWEB effort.

During the past year we have been beset by difficulties unlike anything we have previously experienced. 1976 will be a year for closing ranks and pulling together in the interests of our customers our industry, and ourselves.

### *Seasonal Greetings from 'Contact's' Editorial Staff*

*Keith Baldwin, John F. Perry, Sam Doughty  
and all our Correspondents.*





## "The Girl from MANWEB—1976"

### Who will she be?

On these two pages we have pictures of the fourteen young ladies who entered for the 'Girl from MANWEB—1976' competition. All were judged in a preliminary round at Head Office by our three Group Managers, Messrs. R. J. Barraclough, S. Fairclough and K. Helliwell, who selected seven girls to go forward to the final round.

Gwynedd District had their own elimination competition when from the twelve girls entered from that District, three were selected to go forward to the Head Office round. *Good show Gwynedd.*

You may or may not yet know who eventually reached the final round but our January issue of 'Contact' will carry pictures and results.

All these young ladies have obvious beauty, but they were also judged on their personality and other qualities.



### Is she here . . .

*Top left:*  
**Susan Forbes**, North Mersey

*Left:*  
**Elizabeth Frame**, Clwyd

*Right:*  
**Rosemary Ann Griffiths**, Oswestry

*Below, left to right:*  
**Lorna Jane Jackson**, Head Office  
**Edna Jacobs**, North Wirral  
**Annwen Jones**, Gwynedd.

All the pictures were taken by **Mr. Mike Hall** of Head Office photographic section.







**. . . or here?**

*Top, left to right:*

**Bethan Jones, Gwynedd  
Elizabeth Littler, Head Office  
Yvonne Lloyd-Jones, Dee Valley**

*Left:*

**Veronica Maher, North Mersey**

*Right:*

**Yvonne Menton, Head Office**

*Below, left to right:*

**Shemin Sundeji, Head Office  
Stephanie Wickham, North Wirral  
Margaret Williams, Gwynedd.**



# E.E.I.B.A. NEWS

## ELECTION OF PRESIDENT

AT THE meeting of the Council following this year's Annual General Meeting, the retiring President, Mr. W. Fraser proposed the election as President of the Association for its 70th year of Lord Nelson of Stafford.

The proposition was seconded by Sir Peter Menzies, Chairman of the Electricity Council.

Lord Nelson spoke of the outstanding achievements of the Association in its 70 years of existence and referred to the gaps which would necessarily exist in the state system of social welfare. He said that these could be filled by a body such as the E.E.I.B.A. exercising humanity and understanding.

The principle of providing residential accommodation for

those of our colleagues with impaired physical abilities appealed to him particularly and he looked forward to further developments on the lines which had already been planned.

In seeking every reasonable economy to overcome the effects of inflation, Lord Nelson said that the Association must look for the continuing support from the regular contributors and growing help from the Electronics Industries.

## FUND RAISING

The Annual Ball run by the West Lancs, Merseyside and North Wales Branch of the E.E.I.B.A., held at the Adelphi Hotel in Liverpool earlier this year, realised £1,725.

In addition, the Branch Grand National draw was again organised and brought in a further £400.

The Supper/Dance held at MANWEB's Head Office Restaurant a short time ago helped contribute another £425 to the Association's fund.

## 200 CLUB WINNERS

The October monthly draw gave Mr. Jack Hill, transport engineer from Head Office the prize, and in November, Mr. T. L. Bishop, another engineer from Head Office got the cash.

## ELECTRICAL AND ELECTRONICS INDUSTRIES BENEVOLENT ASSOCIATION WEST LANCS, MERSEYSIDE AND NORTH WALES AREA '200' CLUB

Account for the year ended 30th September 1975

EXPENDITURE				INCOME	
<i>Monthly Prizes</i>				<i>Subscriptions by Members</i>	
1974				1974	
October	No. 173	Mr. T. Armstrong	£27.60	October	£214.50
November	No. 197	Mr. I. H. Griffiths	£27.65	November	£100.50
December	No. 108	Mr. A. A. Booth	£30.75	December	£113.00
1975				1975	
January	No. 233	Mrs. S. Roberts	£30.62	January	£112.00
February	No. 147	Mr. J. Potter	£30.63	February	£111.50
March	No. 159	Mrs. E. L. Antrobus	£30.60	March	£111.50
April	No. 45	Mr. C. W. Leonard	£30.50	April	£118.50
May	No. 69	Mr. G. Edwards	£30.50	May	£111.50
June	No. 168	Mr. A. G. Fraser	£30.50	June	£112.00
July	No. 142	Mr. R. J. A. Baldock	£30.50	July	£113.00
August	No. 71	Mr. C. E. Donovan	£30.25	August	£110.50
September	No. 1	Mr. E. T. Williams	£30.50	September	£111.50
<i>Annual Prize</i>					
	No. 131	Mr. E. G. M. Roddan	£368.09		£1,440.00
<i>Donation to EEIBA Funds</i>					
			£728.69	Bank Interest	£17.38
			<u>£1,457.38</u>		<u>£1,457.38</u>

Signed: J. Pilkington (Hon. Secretary)





'Girl from MANWEB' Miss Lynette Kemp chats with guest speaker Dr. Glyn O. Phillips.



Group Manager Mr. Ken Helliwell, left, in conversation with Mr. Albert Searle of the District's consumers accounts section.

## TODAY'S TWO WORLDS

—Conditioned by the Scientific Revolution

A MUCH travelled man of many talents, Dr. Glyn O. Phillips, proved his ability and attraction as a public speaker when he addressed members of our Clwyd District staff at their annual conference held at Eirias Park, Colwyn Bay.

In a talk punctuated by many humorous anecdotes, Dr. Phillips illustrated how our industry, more than most, coupled with science and technology, influenced the world we are living in.

"It's really two worlds in one," he said, "because if you think of the state of the world 200 years ago, the standards of living in the most advanced countries of the East were the same as the standards of living in this country."

### Dr. Glyn O. Phillips

Principal of the new Institute of Higher Education in Clwyd. Ex-Professor of Chemistry at Salford University, first Vice-Chancellor of the new University in Nigeria. For ten years he was a BBC correspondent and has travelled extensively in Asia, America, Africa. He was Editor of the Welsh Science journal—'Gwyddonydd.'

He went on to show the tremendous change that has taken place in those 200 years suggesting that the reason for the two-world gulf now existing between the backward countries and our new world was the massive advance of science and technology.

Quoting the words of Herbert Butterfield he said, "The scientific revolution of the 16th and 17th centuries outshines anything since the rise of Christianity and makes the Renaissance and the Reformation mere episodes."

Dr. Phillips said that the pace of our advance had been so fantastic that it had changed the way we think of ourselves and of the world. He suggested that the electricity industry had contributed to this speed of development.

He related a story of a trip he made to the United States of America and of the ultra-modern apartments with the full range of electrical aids, from tooth brushes to carving knives. Then along came Hurricane Betsy and blew down all the power lines.

"Heaven on earth soon became hell on earth," he commented. "The American way of life disintegrated."

The punch line came when Dr. Phillips said that when he visited a friend who had a gas cooker, he still couldn't get a meal because the electric can opener was out of action!

**This story clearly illustrated the dependence of a modern technological state on electricity. Once this failed, the whole system collapsed.**

"It is not so much the things we use," he went on, "but the way in which we think. We too become machines and we are in danger of being conditioned."

He stated that we must be able to travel in this fast moving technological age but we must be sure to travel in the right direction. "The ingenuity of the scientist and technologist of today is enormous," he warned, "but some of their creations are thoroughly frightening."

He exemplified the spending on the Defence Budget now running at around £3,365 million and expected to reach some £6,000 million by 1980. "Why?" he questioned. "The answer seemed to be, 'to prevent an attack by the Russians' who seemed far more interested in conquering Mars than Manchester."





***Just a few of the many people  
who enjoyed this year's  
Glwyd District Conference***





Dr. Phillips went on to list the going prices for missiles, warships, jump jets, etc., and he wondered whether we had got our priorities right and if we really were going in the right direction.

He said that the developing countries like Nigeria were now copying us. "Science is the high priest," he said. "One may see a mud hut with 20 or so people eagerly watching a colour television, but there is no running water in the village. They are taking the lead from us so it is most important for us to establish the right priorities."

Saying that science and technology in shaping and changing our world should be used with care and discrimination, he commented, "We can see the dangers and we can see the possibilities."

Bringing his remarks to a close, Dr. Phillips said that he felt strongly about our duty and responsibility to consider the implications of our National policy and then to act accordingly. "And it doesn't matter if we sometimes have to act alone."

Earlier in the evening, after an excellent meal, Mr. Kenneth Helliwell (*Group Manager*) welcomed everyone saying how pleased he was at such a good response from the 160 staff and over 30 retired colleagues.

He called upon Mr. Keith Griffiths as Secretary to the No. 7 Local Advisory Committee, to present his Report of the year's working.

Keith, who has now taken up an appointment in our Dee Valley District, said that quite a lot of emphasis had been placed on safety in its many aspects and a number of interesting points had been raised on efficiency. One item which appeared regularly in the Minutes—which he encouraged everyone to read—was the new office block at Cefndy Road. He said that the many discussions had helped iron out snags before, during and after the move.

In closing, he thanked everyone in the Clwyd District for the help they had given to him during his five years at Rhyl.

Mr. Helliwell then took over again and introduced the individual members of the L.A.C. and said to the audience, "I can assure you that they all do a very good job on your behalf."

Some of the Clwyd ladies, from left to right: Megan Williams, Jean Spriggs, Vera Tyson and Vera Atkinson.



Lucky man Ivor Roberts with a trio of lovelies, from left to right: Judith Jones, Stephanie Peel and Chris Lloyd.

He then went on to say that he was curtailing his own comments on the Board's Annual Report in order to allow for the full time sector devoted to the 'Open Forum' question time.

He then produced a press cutting referring to the proposed closing down of a number of power stations and the subsequent redundancy of staff. "This is the first time I can remember in my 46 years in the industry that I have ever read of power stations being closed because of lack of demand," he said.

"We are not expanding. We have got problems and we have got to have the help of each and every one of you to work as efficiently as possible to avoid waste of all types. We have all got to contribute to make an endeavour to change the trend which we have had over the past two years of negative expansion."

He reminded his listeners that it was only a few years ago that we in the electricity industry were doubling our capacity every seven years. "It is very different today," he commented, "and we all have to realise this."

An interesting point about this Conference was that a full hour and twenty minutes was set aside for questions from the staff—both written and from the floor. It is to the credit of members of the Clwyd District that every minute of this time was taken up with a variety of questions answered by Mr. Helliwell and senior District officers.

Another two charmers attending the staff meeting, Thelma Layhe, left, and Pauline Jones.





# Talking Notes

## A LONG HARD SLOG!

A TEAM of four Venture Scouts which included two MANWEB student engineers was recently placed first in the Under-21 section of the Boy Scouts' Association's "Masters' Hike"—an annual event covering some of the wild parts of the Derbyshire hills, Yorkshire Moors, and part of the Pennine Way.

The 360 competitors, in 90 teams of four, started out at five-minute intervals and had to cover the 40 miles in as fast a time as possible, with a maximum time allowance of 24 hours.

All contestants had to be properly equipped, with boots and waterproof clothing, and had to carry First Aid kits, food, sleeping bags and survival bags, plus maps and compasses.

Including the start and finish they had twelve checkpoints, to be located by map and compass.

The teams stayed together until they had passed the half-way mark, after which the faster members were allowed

bank clerk, covered the 40 foot-blistering miles in an average time of 13 hours 58 minutes. They were the fastest Under-21 team and the fourth fastest team overall.

Two other MANWEB students also competed—**Nick Gill** and **Mike Parr**. Although some of their team-mates were forced to retire Mike managed to achieve the second fastest time for an individual finishing without a complete team.

### Barbershop Songsters

Singing appears to be a widespread hobby of MANWEB staff, with choirs and soloists being well represented from our ranks.

Two exponents of another facet of the vocal art are Messrs. **Lawrence Whittle** and **John Woods**, both of Head Office, who lend their voices to barbershop harmonies. They are both members of the *Liverpool Barbershop Harmony Club*.

The club was formed about twelve months ago by Mr. Bob Kaye, son of the former Liver-

pool F.C. manager, and can regularly be heard in concert at pubs, clubs, hospitals and charity functions in and around Liverpool. They have also appeared on Radio City, the



In straw hats and bow ties, barbershop singers Lawrence Whittle, left, and John Woods.

Liverpool based commercial radio station.

The 35-voice chorus is affiliated to the British Association of Barbershop Societies, and in concert apart from the chorus, sing as quartets.

Lawrence, who is 27, is a new member of the Head Office Commercial Staff, having been appointed recently principal assistant to the Board's Advertising Officer. He has had ten years experience in various advertising appointments, joining the Board from the C.W.S. Ltd., where he was an advertising officer.

His wife, Rhiannon, is a music teacher in a Liverpool School,



Venture Scouts, from left to right, Phil, Steven and Derek.

to forge ahead to lower the mean time for the team.

The two MANWEB men, **Derek Roberts** and **Phil Currie**, together with their team-mates from the 40th Highfield Scouts at Rock Ferry, Steven Williams, a trainee civil engineer, and Neil Bridgewater, a



and runs the ladies section of the Barbershop, known as the 'Sweet Adelines.' She has also been known to fill in as a tenor in the early days of the club, with the men, donning a false moustache!

John Woods the other MANWEB 'barber' has been with the industry since 1938, and is an administrative assistant in the Finance Section. He is married, and he and his wife Joyce have two children, a son, David, aged 16, and a 12 year old daughter, Sharon.

Both John and Lawrence are members of other choirs. John is in the Liverpool Male Voice Choir and his church choir, and Lawrence sings Gilbert and Sullivan with the Bently Amateur Operatic Society.

### Played for City

Two members of the Head Office Sports and Social Club were chosen to represent the City of Chester in a recent multi-sports contest with Warrington.

Mrs. Joan Hughes, Commercial Department secretary and Mr. Nigel Crossley were chosen to play in the table-tennis match. Joan triumphed over her Warrington opponent, who was ranked No. 6 in Lancashire. Nigel was narrowly



Chester City sports representatives, Nigel Crossley and Joan Hughes.

beaten in his two games by the Lancashire No. 4.

Other sports in the match were netball, basketball, badminton, 5-a-side football, a relay race and a golf target test.

Warrington, on their home ground, the Broomfield Leisure Centre, just beat the Chester team, from the Christleton Leisure Centre, by 14 points to 10.

### Super Service

One of our customers in the renewed "Time to Rewire" campaign was a lady living in Chester Road, Warrington—and the man from MANWEB who went along to do the job was electrician Mr. Billy Stringer.

He got an unsolicited testimonial after finishing the job in the form of a letter from the customer to District office—in the following terms:

*"I am taking this opportunity of writing to you to sincerely thank you and your Mr. Stringer for so competently handling the re-wiring of my house.*

*"It is an extremely rare commodity these days to find such civility and alacrity with which this work was carried out.*

*"You can rest assured I will have no hesitation in recommending you for any further work that may become available."*

Billy began with us seven years ago as an apprentice at Hoylelake Training Centre. He is interested in motoring, and keeping tropical fish.

### Change of District

On the occasion of his departure from his post as principal assistant (Administration) at our Clwyd District to take over a similar post in the Dee Valley District, Mr. Keith Griffiths was presented with a golf bag and trolley from his many friends at Cefny Road and throughout the District.



Keith Griffiths, right, receives his parting gift from George Cooksley.

In making the presentation, Mr. George Cooksley (District Administrative Officer) thanked Keith for the invaluable support he had given during the difficult period of administration and in the course of the District Office move a short time ago.

Taking Keith's place in Clwyd is another Mr. Griffiths—this time Mr. Eryl of that name—who formerly worked at Head Office and in our Gwynedd District.

### People Write . . .

Nice letter from a lady at Goostrey, Crewe, to our Mid-Cheshire District office:

*"Recently I sent for your engineers to repair my washing machine—which is over 11 years old. The repairs were carried out speedily and efficiently, but the fault re-occured within a couple of days . . . your engineer again arrived promptly and corrected the fault.*

*"Two days later he again appeared and said that he had been giving the problem some thought, and had decided that there must be some underlying reason for the starter motor to keep failing, and would like to take the pump unit away and examine it. This he did, on a Friday morning . . . it was re-*



turned and replaced in the machine by 10 a.m. on the Monday morning. From then the machine has worked efficiently, thanks to the care and thought of your engineer.

"My reason for writing is to congratulate you on your standard of employees. It is unfortunately unusual in this day and age to find people showing an interest in the job they are doing!"

The medal in this instance is shared by two electricians—**Bill Holland** and **Steve Davies**—who jointly worried about the problem until they found the right solution.

#### **W.H.A. Reminder**

Members of the Welsh Hospitals and Health Services Association still contributing at the lowest rate, are reminded that in their own interests, the minimum contribution of 5p per week is to be increased to 10p per week as from January 1st, 1976.

Inflation has reduced the real value of the benefits

applicable to such an extent that they are no longer realistic.

All other subscription rates remain unaltered including the Concession Rate of 13p per month to retired pensioners.

#### **Plugs and fuses**

A new leaflet showing how to tackle wiring plugs and replacing fuses in the home has been produced by the Electricity Council. As well as an illustrated step-by-step guide to wiring a plug using the new colour coded flex, there is a simple guide to choosing the correct fuse and the different types now in use.

Free from Electricity Board shops or by post from the Electricity Council, Trafalgar Buildings, 1 Charing Cross, London SW1A 2DS, the leaflet is the fifth in a series 'Electricity and You' produced by the Electricity Council to help the householder. Other titles are *How to Read Your Meter*, *Warmth Without Waste*, *A Guide to*

*Running Costs*, and *Advice for Elderly People in Winter*.

#### **Happy Homemaking**

Young couples setting up their first home can get useful advice, hints, and tips from a new 40-page illustrated booklet available from electricity boards. As well as explaining how to read the meter and make the best and most economical use of electricity, there is a guide to kitchen planning and choosing and using electrical appliances with the amount of electricity they use.

There is advice on heating the home and keeping down the heating bill with good insulation. A room by room guide gives hints on lighting and electrical equipment and there are clear explanations of essentials like wiring a plug, replacing a fuse and how to get help and service.

*Happy Homemaking* is available, free of charge, from electricity board shops or by post from The Electricity Council,

#### **THE WINNING SYNDICATE**

After five years of entering Littlewoods 'Spot the Ball' competition our Head Office telephone and telex girls were finally rewarded for their efforts when they recently received a prize for a 'near miss.' However, they are not planning any big spending sprees for the 'winnings' only amounted to 50p! Never mind girls, now you are on a winning streak—if you'll pardon the expression—why not change to the Pools? Still smiling are, *from left to right: Irene Matthewson (supervisor), Norma Hughes, Margaret Davies, Merelyn Griffiths, Brenda Davies, Janet Hodson, Susan Thomas and Pat Hunt.*





Marketing Department, Trafalgar Buildings, 1 Charing Cross, London SW1A 2DS.

### Board Appointments

**Councillor W. H. Sefton**, Chairman of Merseyside County Council, has been appointed as a part-time member of the



New Board-man Councillor  
W. H. Sefton.

MANWEB Board by Mr. Tony Benn, Secretary of State for Energy. **Mr. D. Morley-Smith** of Pontesbury, Salop, has been re-appointed a part-time member of the Board. Both appointments run until 31st March, 1977.

Councillor Sefton is also chairman of the Runcorn New Town Development Corporation, the Merseyside Development Committee, and the North West Industrial Development Association.

Mr. Morley-Smith is immediate past chairman of the CBI Wales Regional Council, a member of the Wales and Marches Telecommunications Board, and a past chairman of the Wrexham and District Chamber of Trade.



Photographed at Queen's College, Cambridge, while at their Summer School are, from left to right, Bill Dixon, John Hulmerston, Ted Worrall and Frank Williams.

### Summer School

Lectures from leading people from the Electricity Council, Area Boards, and CEEGB, afternoon visits to places of local interest, and falling in and out of a punt on the River Cam—these made up the "mix" of a nine-day visit to Cambridge for four of our colleagues in September.

The occasion was yet another enjoyable and interesting Summer School—this time at Queens College—shared by Messrs. **Bill Dixon** (Oswestry), **John Hulmston** (Queensferry), **Frank Williams** (Head Office), and **Ted Worrall** (Crewe).

Frank told us that apart from the tribulations involved in starring as MANWEB's crew in the "Head of the River" race, there was much of interest and enlightenment in the week's programme of study and discussion. The student's-eye-view of the industry was widened, while the various experts involved found themselves on the receiving end of an interesting feed-back of opinion over industry policies in various fields of activity.

### Getting into hot water

Until recently, if any player for the Runcorn football team—

When the classic Inter Milan team trained at the Runcorn football ground prior to their match with Everton, our photographer managed to get this picture of Dave Tinsley, right, with Keith Mason and the Italian club's press liaison girl, Emanuela Bampi. Notice too that the footballs were "Elektras!"





or their opponents—was sent off for an 'early bath,' he would have to settle for a cold shower.

This was because the water for the huge communal bath was heated by an old solid fuel boiler which took at least four hours to get the water to a reasonable bath temperature.

Now all this has changed. Through some good work by **Mr. David Tinsley**, Mid-Mersey District's commercial sales engineer, and the forward-looking Club Chairman and Vice-Chairman, they now have all the hot water they need—some 500 gallons at a time—provided by a 50 kW Santon boiler, quickly and cheaply.

The Vice-Chairman of the Club is Mr. Keith Mason, a former electrician/fitter with MANWEB and now with Run-corn Development Corporation. Supporters Club trea-

surer is **Mr. Glyn Threadgold** (Admin. assistant, Material Control). Committee man responsible for all the sound and electrical installations for the Club is **Mr. Tom Mulheirn**—known as Musical Tom—an

electrician. Both work in the Mid-Mersey District.

Another Club man who acts as Lottery Secretary is **Mr. Eddie Lunt** a principal assistant at Head Office in charge of registry and mailing.

## For Sale

For sale—All new and in perfect condition . . .  
Minolta camera SRT 101 (new—boxed—VGC). (Full Aperture Meter'g). Including case £89.  
Minolta Telephoto Lens 135mm f2.8 (boxed) £55.  
Minolta Auto Tubes (Set of 3) Boxed £20.  
Minolta Fitting Unitor Wide Angle Lens £18.  
Durst Enlarger 35mm with ext. arm £20.  
El Nikkor 50mm f2.8 Enl. lens £20.  
Minolta Gadget Bag. Black with red lining £5.  
Mr. Lewer, 5 Nant Eos, Holway, Holywell, Clwyd.  
\*Phone: Winifride 3580 (after 6 p.m.).

Skoda S100L, 1974, N Registered. 9,000 miles only. Taxed until March 76. £750 o.n.o. \*Phone: Buckley 2527.

### CARTOON BY FRED ILLINGWORTH

(a jointer in North Mersey District—who no doubt will be on 'Stand-by' this Christmas)

"God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen, Let nothing you dismay,  
Remember we can't all be home, for pud on Christmas Day!"







Deputy Secretary Mr. P. B. Henderson, left, with our Chairman, Mr. D. G. Dodds.



Mr. Gren Roberts, left, of the Welfare Section, chatting with guest speaker Mr. Alun Williams.

## No. 11 L.A.C CONFERENCE

# BBC Man Guest Speaker

THE BOARD Secretary Mr. M. M. Parker chaired the Head Office annual employees' meeting in the Sealand Road restaurant. Over 400 members of the Head Office staff and some retired members sat down to a meal prepared by the Head Office caterers.

Opening the meeting, Mr. Parker introduced the management representatives from each department who would be available to answer questions in the open forum.

The first speaker of the evening was the Chairman of the Board, Mr. Denis Dodds, who reviewed the state of MANWEB and the electricity supply industry, which he linked with the state of the country.

Mr. Dodds likened the state of Great Britain to that of a large ship carrying a valuable cargo of cars with divided views on board about the ship's destination. The Officers wished to sell the cars in New York but the crew wished to go to the West Indies where the climate was better but no cars could be sold.

While the debate proceeded and the ship circled in

the Atlantic, the hull and the fuel tanks were leaking. Foreign ships had however placed emergency pipelines on board, to pump out the water and supply emergency fuel.

The analogy, said the Chairman, sounded extreme but it was near the truth. Currency inflation was running at 26 per cent, the cost of food and other imports had increased proportionately and exports were priced out of many markets. Meanwhile, about five per cent of all salaries and wages was financed by temporary loans from the Arabs and others. International depression caused by the rise in oil prices was now compounded by a British depression caused by inflation. Quite apart from the danger to jobs, the lower activity of industry had caused a fall in the demand for all forms of energy, including electricity.

The Chairman pointed out that there was no longer any cheap fuel. All forms of heating were now expensive. Electricity was, however, still competitive with oil and gas and there was no reason for us to abdicate our position in the market place.

*Below: From left to right, Messrs. R. Neil, B. R. Hastings (Deputy Chairman) and D. G. Scott.*

*Right: Secretary and Solicitor Mr. M. M. Parker, left, with Mr. E. V. Owen (Asst. Secretary—Policy Administration).*







## Just a few of the Head Office Delegates





For example, the annual running cost of heating a standard three-bedroomed semi-detached house amounted to about £190 for oil, £170 for off-peak storage heaters and £150 for gas. After allowing for the much lower capital expenditure on storage heaters and the lower maintenance costs, electricity and gas were not far apart in overall costs.

**It was the job of Electricity Boards to help in the wise use of energy but it should be remembered that conservation was not only about fuel, it was about all resources.**

The industrial uses of electricity had expanded for decades on the basis that other resources were saved in the process. This was still true today. The increased use of electricity indeed often resulted in an overall saving of fuel.

Following Mr. Dodds was the guest speaker of the evening, Mr. Alun Williams, the well-known BBC broadcaster and commentator, who was also a justice of the peace.

During the war his first Commanding Officer was a certain Lieutenant Denis Dodds, now the Board's Chairman.

The familiar radio voice told his audience of Mr. Williams' experiences as a broadcaster. He recalled the time a Welsh lady stopped him on the street and said "You're Alun Williams aren't you?" he nodded and she continued, "I know 'cos I've seen you on the wireless!"

He was a strong supporter of the British Broadcasting Corporation, which he contended was the best in the world. The TV licence, he said, was excellent value for money. A colour licence at £18 a year compared favourably with the cost of newspapers with an average annual bill of £80 to £90.

He criticised commercial radio and TV, particularly in America, where the medium was for advertising first and foremost and entertainment, news and education was the bait to sell the products. There was no opportunity for the minority interest for which the BBC catered, such as the wealth of good music, classical, jazz, opera and plays which Radio 3 broadcast.

Finally, Mr. Williams told his audience of one of his treasured moments associated with his broadcasting career. On a train he met a man who recognised him. He had recently regained his sight after being blind for many years. The man told him he was delighted to meet the man from the radio who had been his eyes for so many years.

On behalf of the L.A.C. Mr. Ken Wynn proposed a vote of thanks to the guest speaker, there followed the open forum in which staff took the opportunity to question management on a variety of topics.

The evening ended with the music from Mr. Norman Kenyon's Sealand Sound, a varied selection for dancing aimed at all age groups.





## OUTWARD BOUND

An account of the visit to the Rhowniar Outward Bound School for Girls in Aberdovey, North Wales by Christine Roberts, Head Office Registry clerk.

THE LONG drive up to the School was lined by large trees, many of which had ropes dangling from them, I wondered what I had let myself in for.

Once inside I was directed to the dormitory in which I had been allocated a bed along with 11 other girls who had yet to arrive. I was early.

The others arrived and we introduced ourselves and then assembled with the others from other dormitories who were also on the course, for a meeting which briefed us on what we were expected to do. Then it was tea and bed at ten, lights out at 10.30.

Not being an outdoor type I had not experienced any of the activities I was about to try. Huge boards rising up the side of the building were used to demonstrate to us the basic techniques of rock climbing and abseiling. The thought of abseiling terrified me. Seeing an instructor coming down on a rope in huge bounds down a cliff seemed the nearest thing to flying without wings. The rope is wrapped around your body and the loose end allowed to slide over your shoulders and by moving your arm you control how fast you slide down the rope. I never thought I would get used to it but I soon did and found it fun.

Map reading, canoeing, first-aid and effective speaking were subjects we were introduced to in the first of the four weeks of the course.

After the first week came the chance to test our newly acquired knowledge. We were dropped several miles away from the camp and had to find our way to a camp site, pitch our tents and stay over night, then find our way back to the school the following day. This was the first of three expeditions, and on this occasion we were accompanied by an instructor.

Our second week we did more canoeing, rock climbing and our second expedition, two nights under canvas and finding our way back to base.

We learnt how to cross on parallel ropes, rope bridges and in a lighter vein, had to write the words and act a play from a book.



Christine, right, with her friend Ruth Elliott from London.

The two things which stood out in the third week were exploring an old slate mine. Climbing down rope ladders and abseiling into the darkness, dropping down 35 and 60 feet pitches. The other was surf canoeing, a really exhilarating experience.

The course culminated in the fourth week with our three nights under canvas checking in at

various points over the rugged Welsh countryside. Our dorm was split into two groups, a fast group and mine, a slower one.

My first thoughts before going on the course were "I must be crackers," but my conclusion was that I was pleased I had done it, it was fun in parts, and I was grateful to MANWEB for sponsoring me.

### **E.E.I.B.A. APPEAL**

Speaking at a meeting of the No. 11 (Head Office) Local Advisory Committee, Chairman Mr. M. M. Parker said that he felt it worthwhile to draw attention to the work of the E.E.I.B.A. whose object was to assist people in need who work, or have worked in a non-manual capacity, in the electrical and electronics industries.

He pointed out that the Association had to collect sufficient monies to conduct its various activities to relieve need and distress among its members.

Mr. Parker produced statistics which showed that the average contribution per employee in MANWEB was lower than that for the majority of other Boards. He added that fund raising activities within our Board were among the highest but felt that the salary deduction scheme performance could be improved.

The staff representatives on the Committee felt that the Association was not sufficiently well known within MANWEB and pledged their support for any efforts to improve the situation.

*I've joined—how about you?*



## 'CONTACT'

# PHOTOGRAPHIC COMPETITION

This year's competition attracted 35 amateur photography enthusiasts who among them submitted 209 entries in the various sections.

The winning transparency was chosen because it was a most difficult picture to take technically and it had come off. Animals were obviously a most popular target for the lens, but in many cases

extraneous objects detracted from the animal itself and so spoiled what could have been an excellent picture.

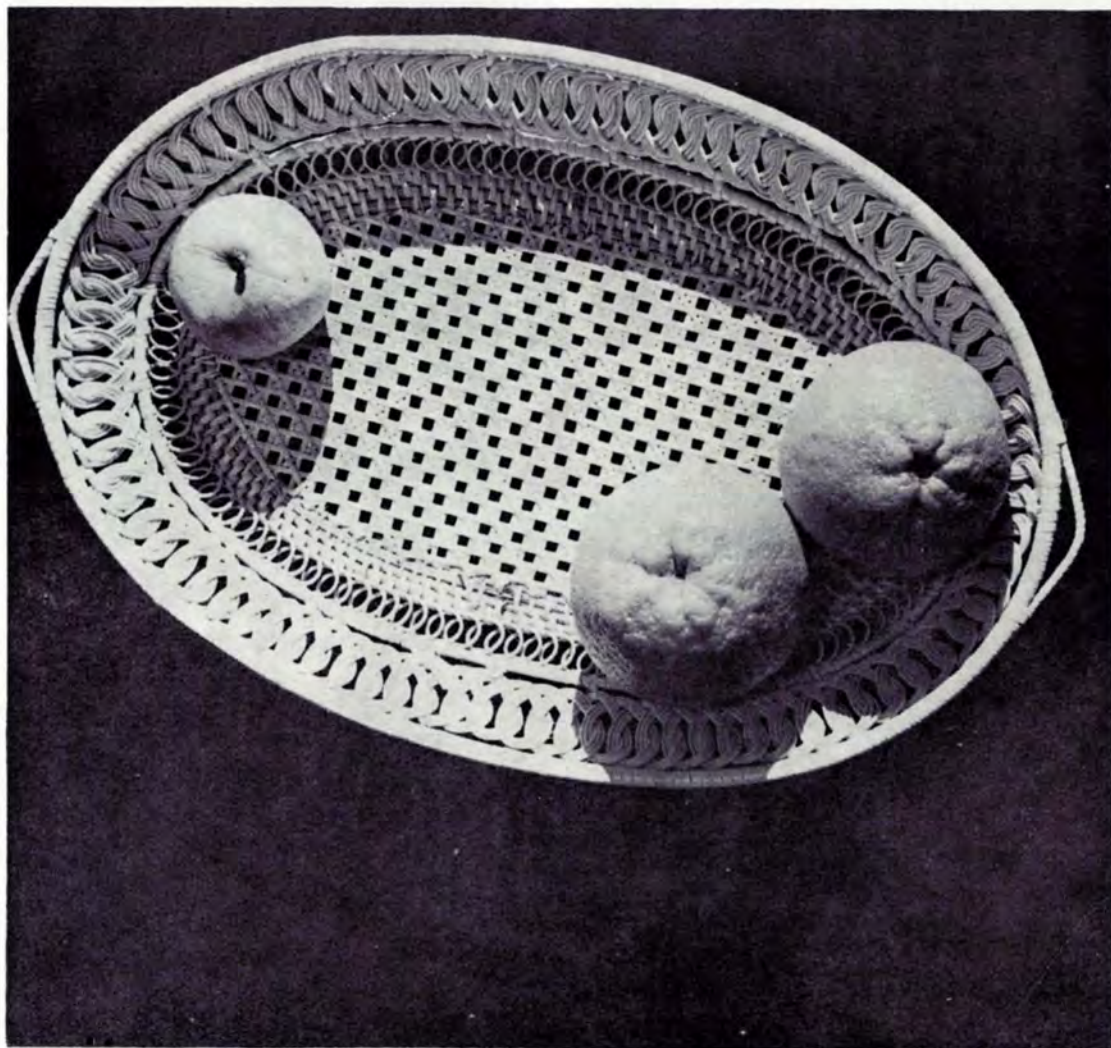
The judges were unanimous in suggesting to all amateur photographers that patience is certainly a virtue when taking prizewinning pictures.

### Black and White Section

### 1st PRIZE

"Still Life"

submitted by **Mr. G. A. S. Lewer**, Display Leader, Head Office



The judges were: Messrs. **John Lightfoot**, of Lightfoot and Newman, Watergate Street, Chester, **Bill Griffiths**, the Board's chief photographer and **John F. Perry** of 'Contact'.





**Colour  
Transparency  
Section**

**2nd PRIZE**

**"Sunset Sail"**

submitted by  
**Mr. Ian Hamilton**  
son of  
**Mr. T. D. Hamilton,**  
*D.A.O., Liverpool)*

**Colour Transparency Section**

**COMMENDED "Scramble"**

submitted by **Mr. John Shallcross**  
*engineering draughtsman, Head Office*

**Colour Print Section**

**1st PRIZE "Mexican Hat"**

submitted by **Mr. Max Cooksley,**  
*electrician, Test House, Queensferry*



**Colour Print Section**

**2nd PRIZE "The Sixth Birthday"**

submitted by **Mr. W. G. Evans,** *retired Supply Engineer, Dee Valley.*







### Best Picture—Human

"Young Dancer"

submitted by **Mr. Stan Jones**, assistant storekeeper, *Legacy*



### Best Picture—Animal

"Sian"

submitted by **Mr. Max Cooksley**  
electrician, *Test House, Queensferry*

OUR COVER PICTURE won the 1st Prize in this year's 'Contact' Photographic Competition. "Severn Sunset" was submitted by **Mr. David Edge**, a design engineer with our North Mersey District energy sales team.

### Best Picture Humour Section

"Not Recommended"

submitted by  
**Mr. R. C. Stobbart**,  
electrical fitter,  
*Clwyd District*







Men from MANWEB who sing with the famous Rhos Male Voice Choir. They are, from left to right: Ernie Lloyd (driver, Dee Valley), Charles V. Jones (clerical assistant, Legacy), Gwyn Parry (foreman meter reader, Dee Valley), David H. Lloyd (driver, Legacy), Glyn Jones (records draughtsman, Oswestry), Albert Jones (labourer, Dee Valley), Ivor C. Williams (retired labourer, Legacy), Dowell Jones (clerical assistant, Head Office) and George E. Roberts (retired linesman's mate, Legacy).

## STARS AT THE ROYAL VARIETY PERFORMANCE

FOR MORE than a Century the enormous depth of singing talent among the people of Rhosllanerchrugog, near Wrexham, has made the village with the unpronounceable name famous throughout the world. And one of the highlights in a star-studded history came a few weeks ago when the 100-strong Rhos Male Voice Choir appeared alongside such famous names as Telly Savalas, Charles Asnavour, Bruce Forsyth, Harry Secombe, Michael Crawford and Dame Vera Lynn in the Royal Variety Performance at the London Palladium.

Nine men from MANWEB were numbered among the Rhos choristers who sang before a notable audience, including the Queen and Prince Phillip, and reports from some of our people show that they found the occasion a most memorable experience.

Mr. Ivor C. Williams, formerly a labourer at Legacy and now retired, told us that "it was not very long before we realised that the stars were simply human beings, and we were soon on familiar terms with these famous people." Ivor added however, that the choristers were disappointed with the TV presentation, which tuned down the sound of the choir to a "pathetic hum."

Others who told us how much they enjoyed the experience were Mr. Dowell Jones (salaries, Head Office), and Mr. Gwyn Parry (foreman meter reader,

Dee Valley). It appears that some at least of the members of the choir were particularly impressed by the appearance of the topless Zulu dancers!

### 112 YEARS ON

The first choir to be formed in Rhos was a mixed group, in 1863. They won fame on the concert platform and in competitions, and between 1873 and 1876 won 19 first prizes out of 20 competition entries. Since 1891 it has been a traditionally male-voice choir, and except for the two war periods has enjoyed a continuous and illustrious history, with a long record of successes in Eisteddfod competitions in Wales.

The aim of the choir is to reflect all facets of the national Welsh musical tradition and heritage. The choir has given performances all over Europe and the USA. They have made over 150 radio broadcasts, have appeared on TV, recorded several LP's, and some years ago topped the bill of Ed Sullivan's TV show in New York.

They are conducted by Colin Jones, aided by the accompaniment of John Tudor Davies.





Above: Chatting with some of his former colleagues is Management Services Office Mr. L. J. Scudamore, second left. Also in the picture are Messrs. Wilf Osbaldeston, left, Jim Graham-Glover and Ken Crabtree.

Left: Deputy Chairman Mr. B. R. Hastings with our "Girl from MANWEB," Miss Lynette Kemp.

## NORTH MERSEY DISTRICT EMPLOYEES' MEETING

# "The Future is with us"

—Deputy Chairman

### Reassurance for Board's Staff

Mr. M. M. Parker (Secretary and Solicitor)  
listens as Mr. Ted Kelly makes a point.



IN AN impromptu speech, our Deputy Chairman, Mr. Ben Hastings took a look at our present situation and a peep into the future. As guest speaker, he cut his talk to around ten minutes because of an over-run of time at this year's North Mersey District Employees' Annual Meeting, held recently at the Mons Hotel in Bootle.

Mr. Hastings said that changes in joint consultation or worker participation being made today were evolutionary rather than revolutionary. "Management and trade union leaders at national level are looking at our negotiating and advisory machinery and I am sure that there will be changes which will include more disclosure and discussion of plans."

To emphasise this point he exemplified the recent CEGB decision to close a number of power stations when both sides of the industry took part in intensive discussions.

Appreciating that here too in MANWEB, many members of the staff were concerned about their immediate prospects, Mr. Hastings pointed out that our sales were lower now than they were last year or even two years ago. He said that new housing and industry were not developing as in recent years, and this was reflected in the fact that the £11 million we would spend on capital development this year was about the same amount that we spent last year. "Taking inflation into account," he warned, "this is a severe drop in activity."

He then referred to the 'Switch-Off' and 'Save-it' campaigns commenting that they would have an impact on us over the next few years in which we could expect little growth.

Echoing the Chairman's comments made a short time ago at the District Joint Advisory Council, Mr.





*Left: Enjoying a drink we see Kay McDonough, Tommy Burt and Fred McHugh.*

*Above: Togetherness with Margaret Wheatley and Arnie Ormerod.*

*Right: Enjoying the dance we see Rita Tomlin, Olive Redmond and Len Morris.*



Hastings said that in this unhappy situation we have to take action.

Taking this a stage further, he said that when people leave the Board, they would, in many cases, not be replaced. He intimated that staff would be moved from areas of low work to areas where their labours would be required, and this would involve re-training in some cases.

*"All this is already going on very quietly and smoothly with every co-operation from our staff and their Trade Unions,"* he said, and went on to reassure his listeners that the Board did not anticipate any serious unemployment problems but added that no one could guarantee that there would be no redundancies.

"This may seem very gloomy," he continued, "but I am hopeful for the future. In the long run, electricity has everything going for it."

He spoke of 'off peak' electricity with its lower installation charges and, at the moment, slightly

*From left to right: Edna Courtney, Margaret Jones and Kath McDonough.*



*Eric Matthews, standing, with retired colleague Jack Martin.*



*From left to right: Hilda Crompton, Jean Corrin and Pat Jackson*



higher running costs, as being, even now, the best investment over the next 15 years.

Explaining his reasons for being so hopeful for the future, Mr. Hastings was sure that electricity would assume a more dominant share of the energy market. "Gas is limited," he stated, "oil is limited, and nuclear power, which means electricity, will have to fill the energy gap."

He then dealt very briefly with energy sources in wind, wave and solar power—all of which can only be harnessed through electricity if at all—and said, **"The future is with us and it is up to us to survive and emerge blinking, into the sunlight."**

In conclusion he said that he hoped his remarks had given some reassurance to everyone about their immediate employment prospects and that they would appreciate that the Board were looking into this problem continuously and would endeavour to make next year a Happy New Year.

Mr. S. Fairclough (*Group Manager*) then thanked





A smiling trio, from left to right: Malcolm Donaldson, Barry Gray and Jimmy Bell.



Our candid cameraman caught this happy group, from left to right: Isabel Hartley, Elizabeth McGee, Margaret Gill, Les Owens and Pat Turner.

Mr. Hastings for his extemporaneous speech which did not 'wrap anything up!'

Following a period for written and oral questions from the staff, Mr. Sid Owen (*shift electrician*) rose to propose a vote of thanks to the guest speaker and the visitors. Mr. Len Morris (*jointer's mate*) then voiced everyone's thanks to those members of the District staff who has so capably organised the Meeting.

Earlier, Mr. Fairclough had welcomed the 235 staff and guests. He then went on to highlight one or two items from the Board's Annual Report and summarised some of the District's activities and achievements. He said that it was useful to recall events of the past year and it was important for all staff to take an interest in what was going on outside their own departments.

He spoke of the introduction of wave form cables costing less than conventional cable and at the same time providing for greater safety. He mentioned the Board's 'Kitchen Centre' and audio promotions then said that the 'Time to Rewire' campaign had set a new high record for installation business with the Board.

Despite these successes, he said that today we in MANWEB were subject to the economic conditions of other industries. "For the first time ever, we are selling less electricity than in the previous year," he continued.

"The situation is serious but we can weather the storm by all working efficiently and economically with full consideration for our customers," concluded Mr. Fairclough.

#### NORTH MERSEY DISTRICT STAFF PAST AND PRESENT

with Mr. A. W. Hawley (*District Engineer*), left, and Mr. G. Shoesmith (*District Administrative Officer*), right.





## Pen Portraits

**Marian Scott** (*Llanrwst*) has been with us for just over six months. Married last August, she and her husband are just re-building a house.

**Menai Owen** (*Caernarfon*), after 16 years at home, started work with the Board about five months ago.

**Megan Jones** (*Llangefni*) worked part-time in an off-licence then spent two years at home before



In the audio section we see, from left to right: Marian Scott, Menai Owen, Megan Jones and Linda Hughes.

## Newcomers at Wallasey

coming to work for MANWEB five months ago.

**Linda Hughes** (*Bangor*), a former secretary from Bethesda, has been with us for nearly three months. She married six months ago.

**Shiela Evans** (*Nantwich*) has been with us since last March after a few years as a part-time demonstrator for Thorn Domestic Appliances based at our Crewe shop. **Pauline Owen** (*Crewe*), has been a marketing representative with Mid-Cheshire District since February. She is a member of the Young Wives and Round Table organisations.

**Joan Palethorp** (*Winsford*), joined us at the end of January on a part-time basis. She lives at Holmes Chapel and is a member of the local music society.

**Steve Brooks** (*Warrington*) was a sales representative for a boutique before joining MANWEB as a marketing representative at Run-corn shop in March.

**Ruth Walton** (*Birkenhead*) worked as an invoice clerk in Liverpool before taking a part-time job with the Board last March.

**Roger Wood** (*Liverpool*), a former field manager for a promotions firm before becoming a MANWEB marketing representative last March. He recently severed a

tendon in his hand while making wine!

**Jean Minnis** (*Upton*), worked in a sports shop before joining us on

a part-time basis last May. She is a member of the New Brighton Rugby Club—she doesn't play but knows a few songs!

### Course 272

A trio from Mid-Cheshire District, from left to right: Sheila Evans, Pauline Owen and Joan Palethorp.



A smile for our cameraman from Steve Brooks, Ruth Walton, Roger Wood and Jean Minnis.





**Michael Bond** (*Bootle*) joined us as a salesman in May this year. He lives in Runcorn and enjoys playing chess and tennis.

**Audrey Bullough** (*Mold*) lives just down the road at Buckley. She joined us as a part-time saleswoman last April.

**Kathleen Griffiths** (*Sandbach*) has been with MANWEB as a saleswoman since May. She lives in Middlewich and enjoys cooking, listening to music, walking and going out to the cinema and live shows.

**Lynda Hughes** (*Caernarfon*) joined us 18 months ago as a material control clerk at Gwynedd District Office. After a year of this she became a sales assistant. She lives at Llanfairpwll on Anglesey.

**Roy L. Jones** (*Bangor*) has been with our sales staff since last June. Prior to this he was a junior Administrative Trainee for three-and-a-half years at Gwynedd District Office. Roy is Vice-Chairman of Dyffryn Ogwen's Young Farmers Club and he plays the guitar.

**Rose King** (*Garston*) joined the Board last May as a part-time sales assistant. She tells us that she has no time for hobbies since joining MANWEB!

**Richard Sapple** (*Wallasey*) on his home ground at the Sales Training School. Richard has been with us



Senior instructor Eric Richardson, centre, with some of his 'pupils,' from left to right: Richard Sapple, Lynda Hughes, Audrey Bullough and Roy Jones.

## **and Course 273**

New sales training instructor Val Eastwood, centre, with, from left to right: Kathy Griffiths, Ann Whitty, Michael Bond and Rose King.



for a year working as a senior salesman. His hobbies include swimming, fishing and antiques.

**Ann Whitty** (*Warrington*) is a part-time saleswoman who joined MANWEB last May. She likes sewing—dressmaking in particular—and reading.

### **RIGHT HAND WOMAN**

Our new sales training instructor at Wallasey is Mrs. Valerie Eastwood who will assist Mr. Eric Richardson, the Sales Training School's senior instructor.

Val—she used to be Val Ford—started work with the Board in March 1960 at Garston shop. Later she worked for a short time at North Wirral's Grange Road shop before taking charge at West Kirby when it opened in June 1963.

She is an active member of the Wirral Branch of the Liverpool Ramblers and likes swimming and dressmaking.

Her hubby Jim is a driver with the Board working from Seaview Road, Wallasey. They met when Jim was on appliance deliveries to the West Kirby shop.

Val's brother is Bert Davies who is in charge of our Bootle shop.





## LOVE GAS

*A fantasy by Marshall Lane*

**I**N THIS DAY and age of advanced technological discoveries it seems strange to me that no one—as far as I know—has attempted to manufacture a gas which would have the effect of making mankind love one another.

During the last two World Wars there was plenty of talk of Mustard Gas and Chlorine Gas, and in the latter period, of Nerve Gas. All of these naturally are deadly killers. That some were never used was probably caused by the fear of retaliation. Millions of money must have been spent perfecting the processing and technique of delivery, all with the same purpose of destroying another human being.

Since the end of the last war, various parts of the globe have been engaged in mortal combat and even those countries at "peace" with one another have carried out a non-stop cold war of nerves.

What a blessed relief it would

be if a gas was manufactured; whose one purpose was to let, every man see, *and* understand the other man's point of view. Just imagine a state of tension building up between two neighbouring countries, each unable or unwilling to see the claims of its neighbour. A force of bombers, permanently based at a United Nations Headquarters, would be despatched post haste to drop a few gas bombs on both countries. Care would be taken to explode the bombs only on the uninhabited parts of the countries. Within a few hours the Love Gas would have permeated every corner of both countries and the tension would quickly be followed by goodwill missions and gifts from

the one to the other. If the effects of the gas could be made permanent, so much the better. Gradually the whole world could be enveloped in a cloak of love and understanding.

The gas could be taken a step further. Would-be criminals could be effectively dealt with by an hour's session in the gas chamber. They would probably emerge full to the eyebrows with thoughts of how effectively they could best serve mankind.

In time a new era would commence in our history. Barriers of religion, colour and stations in life would disappear. A Kindness for the Day would be the uppermost thought in everyone's mind.

Truly it would be Heaven on Earth—or would it? It is said that one man's heaven is another's hell. I wonder just how happy everyone would be. For many the spice of life would disappear. To get one over on the other fellow has been an inherent trait of homo sapiens since the advent of the stone age man. There is a feeling, if not always of gloating, then at least of satisfaction when the see-saw comes

*(continued opposite)*



# THE ROLE OF DINORWIC—

## *Gwynedd Staff Conference*

Britain has the biggest fully-integrated electricity system in the world—and the giant new pumped storage generating station at present under construction at Dinorwic, near Llanberis, will be “a versatile tool which will be used to play tunes on the system.”

This was how the future role of the new power station was summed up by Mr. I. T. Ellis, project manager at Dinorwic, when he was guest speaker at our Gwynedd District employees' conference, organised by No. 8 Local Advisory Committee and held at a Caernarfon hotel on November 14th.

The great interest of our Gwynedd colleagues in this exciting new venture taking shape in their midst was reflected by the close attention they paid to Mr. Ellis, and to the slides he used to illustrate his talk. Inevitably many of the slides were of a technical nature, easily understood only by those with a fair amount of technical knowledge, but this did not prevent everyone present from making a big effort to grasp as much as they could.

Mr. Ellis said that some might ask why, in a climate of falling electricity sales, the Dinorwic project should be proceeded with. He answered this point by stressing that the viability of Dinorwic did not depend on electricity sales, but rather on the tremendous flexibility of the new scheme in coping with

rapidly-changing conditions on the system.

“Soon the biggest generating unit on the system will be 1,320 megawatts” said Mr. Ellis. “A set could fail, and the great point about Dinorwic is that in those circumstances the pumped storage scheme could be brought on load up to 1,320 megawatts in ten seconds.”

The conference, which was preceded by a meal much enjoyed by the big gathering from all parts of Gwynedd, was opened by Mr. K. Helliwell, Group Manager.

Referring to the fact that electricity sales in the first six months of 1975/76 were nearly seven per cent down on the previous year, Mr. Helliwell said, “I have been in the industry for 46 years and this is the first time we have had a negative result.” Our problems should not be under-rated, but we still had a competitive fuel to sell.

Question Time brought interesting discussions on topics including the desirability of holding future conferences elsewhere in the District, the Thrift Meter scheme, Board policies over appliance sales, and the encouragement of employees to learn Welsh to help them deal with problems from Welsh-speaking customers. A popular social get-together rounded off the evening.

*We apologise for the absence of pictures of our Gwynedd colleagues, caused by a technical fault in our flashgear. (No, they didn't break the camera!)*

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## LOVE GAS—

*(continued from page 308)*

down on your side. The proverb that every dog has its day is deep rooted in the sub-conscious mind. To some it is the spur that keeps them jogging along.

The battle of the sexes is one which has lasted since Adam had his first difference of opinion with Eve. Psychologically, I suppose, this is inevitable since a man thinks with his head and a woman thinks with her heart. But just imagine how the bawlings and the screech-

ings would cease if, at the start of an argument either the wife or the husband were to uncork a stopper and release from a bottle a few whiffs of Love Gas. The only question is, who would then give in to whom?

There are many—in their present way of thinking—who would argue that if you destroy hatred, you might also by degrees destroy all initiative. To these people beating the other fellow is a creed without which life would

not have much meaning. They are not content to just keep up with the Jones'; they must rub their hands gleefully and say “well, that's where I was once, now look where I am now.”

I cannot answer this question. In fact I could only vaguely guess what the ultimate outcome of a few hundred Love Gas bombs would be. But of this I feel sure. Millions of people would know what they have never known—True Happiness.





Not long ago the MANWEB shop at Runcorn moved from the old town to the new Shopping City—and very quickly made its presence felt with rising sales. For a week in November there were twice-daily demonstrations in Town Square, outside the shop, given by Joan Thorpe, of Belling, with Lesley Ratcliffe, energy sales demonstrator, North Mersey District, and Jan Fairclough, trainee demonstrator, Mid-Mersey District. Our picture shows one of the demonstrations in progress

## RUNCORN "DEMS"

## Our Clwyd District Correspondent



Mr. Derek Young has moved around the District quite a lot since he joined the Board in 1949 when he started at Abbey House, Rhuddlan, on clerical duties. Then he moved to the former Sub-District Office above Rhyl shop until 1960 when he went to Prestatyn—again above our shop—as Sub-District clerk.

In 1971 he was back at Abbey House and then to Cefndy Road where he is now settled in as administrative assistant on consumer amendments and liaison.

He met his wife Jean—who works as a typist just a few desks away down the office—when he first started with the Board at Abbey House. They married in 1952 and now have two girls, Caroline (17) and Cathryn (14).

Derek is a keen golfer and was Secretary for the Rhyl Golf Club for a couple of years. He handed over to Bill Silvey, Clwyd District records draughtsman.

He is also keen on mountain walking and so is Jean who is the

Secretary of the Mountain Walking section of the Clwyd District Sports and Social Club.

Their ambition—*Derek and Jean that is*—is to reach every peak above 2,000 feet in Snowdonia. He works it out that there are over 50 and up to now they have conquered about 30. "*We are saving the hard ones till the end*" he says.

Derek is justly proud of his two daughters. Caroline with seven 'O' levels won a book prize at school for her good results, but not to be outdone, Cathryn also won a book prize for her consistently good performance. Both are keen on amateur dramatics with Caroline appearing in a Thornton Wilder play and Cathryn in '*HMS Pinafore*.'

With all this talent around him we are now looking forward to some regular items from the Clwyd District. If you have any news or views for '*Contact*', please get in touch with Derek on 524.



## No. 2 L.A.C. EMPLOYEES' MEETING

# Deputy Chairman Looks Ahead at Liverpool Conference

**D**OVEDALE Towers in Liverpool's Penny Lane was the venue of the employees' annual conference for Liverpool District. Over 200 present and retired employees were welcomed by Group Manager, Mr. Sid Fairclough.

Mr. Norman Mitchell, secretary of No. 2 L.A.C. and the man responsible for organising the conference, summarised the work of the committee during the year. He urged staff to make greater use of the suggestions scheme, as he considered there was a vast reserve of untapped ideas which could be used. Suggestions—of the right sort—were always welcome and could prove profitable for the originator.

Mr. Fairclough then reviewed the year's work in the District and the Board. Despite the enormous loss incurred through a combination of increased fuel costs and price restraint, he appeared optimistic about the year's work. There had been improved efficiency in the District and the extension of the negative earth system had saved money.

In the shops, the kitchen centres and audio bars had proved successful and thanks to the 'Time to Rewire' campaign contracting work had reached an all time high.

However, for the first time in the Board's history the total sales of electricity were less than the pre-



Guest speaker, Deputy Chairman Mr. B. R. Hastings with delegate Miss Mary Smith, a clerk at Lister Drive.

vious year. This he attributed to the economic climate reducing the demand for industrial goods which meant industrial sales of electricity were down, and the Government's 'Save it' campaign was beginning to bite.

Finally Mr. Fairclough declared he thought the coming year would not be a good one but eventually he was certain the outlook was bright, but as the future prospects of the industry and the employees were the subject of the guest speaker's talk he left him to assure the audience of his own long term optimism.

The guest speaker was the Board Deputy Chairman, Mr. Ben Hastings, and he spoke on the growth of worker participation, the employment situation in MANWEB, and the future prospects of the industry.

Five or ten years ago there was less talk of involving employees in decision making, but now at national level negotiating machinery was being examined.

There was more consultation in the offing but management must still take the decisions although plans should be discussed with employees and modified where necessary.

Mr. Hastings quoted the example of the recent power station closure programme in which general

Marketing Manager, Mr. Warwick Saunders, left, chats with Messrs. John Ramsey and Jim Brown.



Mr. Jim Fisher (Deputy Chief Engineer), left, with Mr. Charles Donovan (District Engineer).







**Some of the Liverpool District employees—past and present—at their Annual Conference**





agreement had been reached to bring forward the closure of power stations.

Exactly how the worker participation was to be introduced was still being discussed but it was hoped it would be in operation in 1976.

Referring to the immediate future employment situation, the possibility of redundancy could not be entirely ruled out. With a 7% reduction in electricity sales a lot depended on the Government anti-inflation policy.

Capital investment for new homes and factories was down, the volume of sales through shops and contracting was down. A return to previous levels could not be seen in the immediate future. Much centred on local authority spending and industrial activity which was depressed in the Merseyside area.

It was hoped that by not replacing staff when they left or retired, reducing work given to outside contractors and the redeployment of labour, redundancies would be avoided, and he re-assured his audience that there would be full co-operation with unions and employees.

In the long term, looking 10, 15 or 20 years ahead he was convinced the prospects were bright.

The days of cheap fuel were over and this was not the fault of the oil sheiks or the miners but the fact that there was limited fuel in the world. New ways had to be found to meet the world's energy needs and Mr. Hastings thought that nuclear power, in particular the fast breeder reactor, would be the main source of energy by the year 2,000. He quoted an E.E.C. forecast that electricity would cater for 50% of the community's energy needs by that year, of which 70% would come from nuclear power.

There were many fanciful ideas, which even if they proved effective were all used to produce electricity. It had been suggested that the desert be used to produce electricity from solar energy, but the huge transmission costs might make it prohibitive. Nuclear energy, he emphasised was the only real answer and looked forward to the end of the century when he expected to see all homes all-electric.

Gradually the cost of electricity would become lower relative to other fuels, and even today an off-peak electric central heating system was cheaper to run than any of its competitors when the cost of installation and annual maintenance were taken into consideration.

On that optimistic note Mr. Hastings concluded his talk, inviting questions from his audience. Then it was the turn of Mr. Ken Rigby on behalf of the L.A.C. to propose the vote of thanks to the guest speaker.

The final part of the meeting was devoted to the open forum in which a variety of questions were raised from the floor.





# BUMPER CROSSWORD FOR CHRISTMAS

We know that we have quite a number of crossword enthusiasts who look forward to the king-sized puzzles set by our friend Mr. F. G. Lott. Some swear they are a marvellous remedy for muzzy heads brought on by too much brandy and Christmas pud!

Here is the 1975 version of this bumper brain-teaser—guaranteed to keep crossword fans happily occupied for a couple of days at least.

To keep the Bank Manager happy there will be prizes of £5 each for the senders of the first three all-correct solutions received by January 9th, 1976. The competition is open to all MANWEB employees, pensioners, and their families—but only one entry per person please.

Entries should be sent to *The Editor, Contact, MANWEB Head Office, Sealand Road, Chester CH1 4LR*. Envelopes should be marked "Crossword." Plain paper entries will be accepted, but don't forget to add your own name and address.

## Clues Across

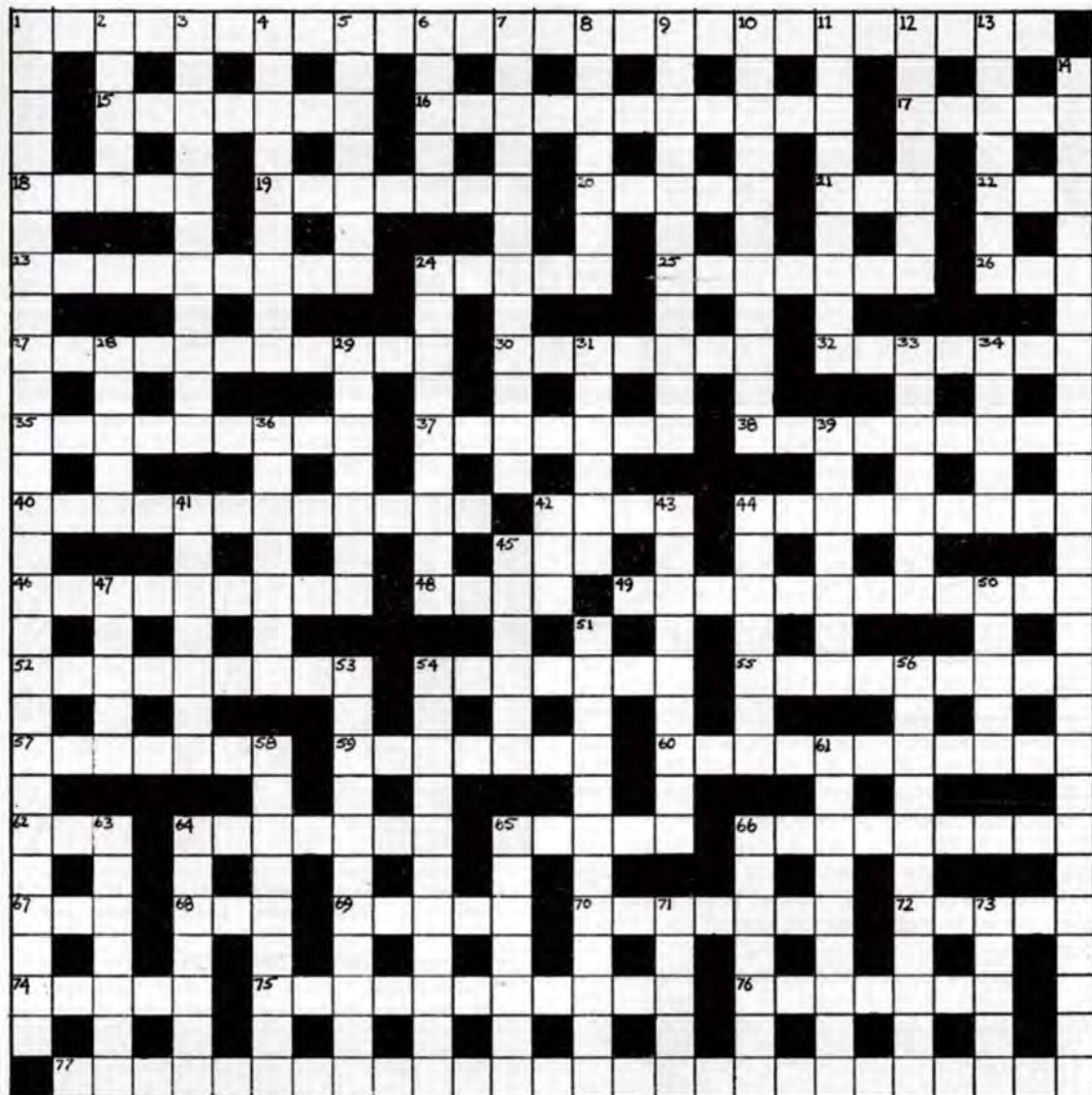
- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <p>1 Presents a limiting factor because of it? On the contrary! (9.5.3.4.1.4)</p> <p>15 Residence is hotter without her in a cage (7)</p> <p>16 Heard rattle like a triangular pyramid (11)</p> <p>17 After a little sleep I go to a place in Ireland (5)</p> <p>18 Where of divine despair came Tennyson's idle tears (5)</p> <p>19 As Ringo might appear in Rome . . . (7)</p> <p>20 . . . or little Diana in a distant land (5)</p> <p>21 Little dog returns to clean the floor (3)</p> <p>22 Help! A young lady with no men around (3)</p> <p>23 Mad dragon's mixed tea could be someone like Paul Revere (4.5)</p> <p>24 Take advantage of Miss Gardner who is not yet fifty? (5)</p> <p>25 Grass growing in church (7)</p> <p>26 Item of wear concealed by the Jacobites (3)</p> <p>27 As Chauvinistic as John of Gaunt (11)</p> <p>30 A cherry for the toxophilite (7)</p> <p>32 Royal prerogative for keeping saddlery in good condition (7)</p> <p>35 Proximo (4.5)</p> | <p>37 Brother of Martha (7)</p> <p>38 Emanation of fuel mixture through a broken fence (9)</p> <p>40 The fragile stuff of mendacity (6.2.4)</p> <p>42 Shakespeare's England: this sort of paradise (4)</p> <p>44 Colourful melodic progression (9)</p> <p>45 The low-down fellow is insecure! (3)</p> <p>46 Charles Kingsley's mythical pin-ups (3.6)</p> <p>48 Indian mahogany for a town in Scotland (4)</p> <p>49 Cheap glances help you move around (6.6)</p> <p>52 How Cortez viewed the Pacific (5.4)</p> <p>54 Jupiter's responsibility came under Thomas Hardy initially (7)</p> <p>55 Rosa's gaunt, upset and bitter; she needs a drink (9)</p> <p>57 Strange men in Asia cause forgetfulness (7)</p> <p>59 A slap-up place in Africa (7)</p> <p>60 Turn an art date into something more conventional (11)</p> <p>62 Kipling character in book impression (3)</p> <p>64 He starts as a hobo but is just a lout (7)</p> <p>65 Concillary passenger (5)</p> <p>66 Get harlot to take it easy (9)</p> <p>67 It's put in unasked (3)</p> |
|--|---|

- 68 They dip in Somerset (3)
- 69 Demand payment for a late performance? (5)
- 70 Not well, note girl it isn't right (7)
- 72 As Adam was wont to do while Eve span (5)
- 74 "Out of the . . . came forth meat" said Samson (5)
- 75 A Caine bullet I cannot escape (11)
- 76 Vido cut a way through the pass (7)
- 77 "It blesseth him that gives and him that takes, . . ." (3.9.2.3.9)

## Clues Down

- 1 Came after a poem by Browning (5.6.2.3.4.5)
- 2 Go over (one's head?) again (5)
- 3 Prepare to be disturbed when you go to bed (3.3.5)
- 4 Poverty-calculating statesmen (5.4)
- 5 A little trickery by the sound of it (7)
- 6 Surpass but not indoors apparently (5)
- 7 An excellent "graze a van" tax adjustment (12)
- 8 Two axes, neither of which will chop wood (7)
- 9 They walk you off your feet (5.6)
- 10 Wisdom type of architecture (6.5)
- 11 Piled soil around a rugby ball for example (9)
- 12 Odd sort of hay mask with which to hide one's face (7)
- 13 Musically disturbing (7)
- 14 Good start to Christmas singing (4.4.9.6.3)
- 24 Invalidation of girl on spirited mule at the end of Lent (9)
- 28 It links us at the end (5)
- 29 Smokes in a leanish sort of way (7)
- 31 Occupational haste (6)
- 33 Well-dressed was George Bryan; a beau indeed! (7)
- 34 "Assume a virtue if you have . . ." (Hamlet) (2.3)
- 36 None of your ordinary words to solve this clue! (7)





- 39 Presumably it has no connection with a battery (4.3)
- 41 "That one talent which is death to hide, Lodged with me . . ." (Milton) (7)
- 42 Dinky request for payment (3)
- 43 He gets what's coming to him (9)
- 44 Assumes an act as choir practice perhaps (7)
- 45 After some consideration, Paul confuses the connection between subject and predicate (6)
- 47 Nigel playing marbles in Morayshire? (5)
- 50 Ben becomes buttery between carbon and nitrogen (5)
- 51 Of decline and fall fame (6.6)
- 53 A funny tune beloved by the twins (6.5)
- 54 Flexible yardstick? (4.7)
- 56 For bold thugs it carries no conviction (6.5)
- 58 Make a dash for the mixed gin while there's plenty of it (9)
- 61 Like waves at high tide (2.7)
- 63 Hair mat made in India one might say (7)
- 64 What bees do to a musical instrument is lacking in variety (7)
- 65 Knock on the door and come back to say goodbye to the sailor (7)
- 66 Carry bait to the fishing ground (7)
- 71 How the old doctor hangs on! (5)
- 73 Less than two pints in all it remains to be seen (5)





Jane Wills presents the "Five-a-side Championship" trophy to "Brewers Droop" team captain Nigel Crossley watched by competition organiser Gren Roberts, *centre*. Other members of the successful team are Pete Ledsham and Geoff Green, *left*, and Phil Roberts and Barry Hart-Davies, *right*.

## HEAD OFFICE FIVE-A-SIDE TOURNAMENT

Twenty-four teams with strange sounding names from 'Crane Street Cloggers' and 'Breathless' to 'Monty Metcalfe's Flying Soccer Circus' and 'Caer-gwrlle Academicals,' played in 67 matches to find winner of this year's Head Office Sports Club 'Five-a-side' football competition.

All the games were played during a seven hour spell at the Deeside Leisure Centre a short time ago. The tournament had four leagues of six teams with the top two in each league playing off on a knock-out basis.

The man who organised it all and kept the matches on time was Gren Roberts of our Head Office Welfare section.

**Losing finalists—"The Hammers"**—*from left to right, back row: Rob Jones, Eddie Phillips and Dave Spencer. Front row: Santo Nardo and Ian Craven.*



**"Pelicans."** *From left to right, back row: Steve Fishwick, Brian Shepherd and Dave Croston. Front row: Geoff Poole, Keith Prowse and Roy Casey.*

### SEMI-FINALISTS

**"Peaks People."** *From left to right, back row: Neil Magill, Mike Edwards and Joe Norris. Front row: John McAdam and Joe Pugh.*







Congratulations from Mr. Barraclough, left, to Mr. John Walker, winner of the MANWEB finals of the industry's public speaking competition.

## OSWESTRY'S STAFF CONFERENCE

**"WE ARE  
FORTUNATE"—**

*Group Manager*

**E**MPLOYMENT prospects within our industry depended on circumstances which could change dramatically in response to world economic circumstances, changes within the European Economic Community, or changes within our own country, warned Mr. R. J. Barraclough (*Group Manager*), speaking to members of our Oswestry District staff at this year's staff conference, held recently at an Oswestry hotel.

"It is no use beating about the bush—I can't give anybody any assurances on this subject," declared Mr. Barraclough.

"If we charge more for our product there is always the danger that our customers will decide not to

use so much of it, and figures to date indicate that this year we may sell less electricity than we did last year. We cannot ignore this. It is going to have an effect on the industry and on the staff."

After analysing the prospects for different aspects of the activities carried out by the Board, Mr. Barraclough added:

"We are very fortunate to be working for an essential public service which is essential to the economy as a whole. Unless we remain in a good state the national economy will not be able to get off the ground again. Let us make the most of our good fortune in this respect, and do our job as well as we possibly can, never forgetting that the cus-

A section of the big attendance at Oswestry's staff conference.







Entertainment from the James Lambert singers.

tomers are our livelihood," added Mr. Barraclough.

About 150 people attended the conference, and one of the most important guests was Mr. G. E. Davies, who recently retired from his job as District Engineer after a working lifetime in the electricity industry in the Oswestry area. Mr. Davies took the opportunity to express his thanks to everyone who had given him co-operation and friendship during his years of service.

The report of No. 9 LAC was presented by the

secretary, Mr. S. W. Warburton, who commented on the fact that the District had now managed to recruit and train eight First Aiders, and the hope that the District would be represented at the next First Aid competition.

A lively 'Open Forum' session, and a vote of thanks to the guests, proposed by LAC Chairman, Mr. 'Ces' Lewis, of Newtown, brought the formal business to an end. An enjoyable social evening, with entertainment and song, rounded off the occasion.

## MR. GWILYM EDWARDS RETIRES



Head Office first engineer Mr. Gwilym Edwards has retired from the Board after 47 years' service in the industry.

He started his career in a clerical post at Gresford but after a year moved to an engineering position in the metering department of the Electricity Distribution in North Wales Company, which merged with the North Wales Power Company.

For many years he worked in Wrexham, and near to his own home, in the Rhostyllen Offices.

During this time he was an active member of the Wrexham Rural District Council, and he served his colleagues as the treasurer for the Electrical Power Engineers' Association.

Gwilym and his wife Hilary have three married sons and a daughter, and two grandchildren.

MANWEB Chief Engineer, Mr. Frank Brown made a presentation to Gwilym at Head Office on behalf of his friends and colleagues in the Board.



# Farewell Ladies

Miss K. McKEOWN

It was a most memorable day when Miss Kathleen McKeown retired from her job at our Liverpool District Office recently.

Kay, as she is popularly known, in addition to receiving a shower of individual parting gifts was also officially presented with a carriage clock and candelabra by Mr. T. D. Hamilton (*District Administrative Officer*) on behalf of her friends and colleagues.

At the end of her day's work, Kay arranged for a party at the Thingwall Road Clubhouse where a great time was had by her many friends who attended.

She started work in our industry in March 1941 at Hatton Garden, moving from the Blitzed City to the comparative safety of Woolton a couple of months later. In 1945 she returned to Hatton Garden, transferring to the former Central District's consumer records section in 1951. She was appointed as Zone leader in 1964 and on the merging of the former Central and South Districts in 1971, she made her 'home' at Lister Drive.

Kay was a founder member of the Electron Players and currently assists in the productions by the New Electron Players. She was always a 'first volunteer' for helping with refreshments at local Nalگو meetings. Her generosity, gay personality and untiring efforts in carrying out all her duties earned her great respect and popularity.

She was an inspiration to all who worked with her and will be sadly missed by her colleagues who wish her many years of healthy and happy retirement which she so richly deserves.

Miss G. PARRY

After nearly 29 years' service to the electricity supply industry, Miss Gwen Parry, shop supervisor at Flint, retired recently.

The two great enthusiasms of Miss Parry's life are music and her local church. She comes of a musical family, several of her relatives being well-known local singers, and she is a devoted worker and a Sunday School teacher on behalf of the St. John's Congregational Church, Flint.

On behalf of the many friends she has made during her long period of service she was presented with a painting and a bouquet of flowers by Mr. D. R. Mellor (*District Commercial Engineer*), together with good wishes for a long and happy retirement.

Miss M. McCANN

Known by her colleagues as the "Girl with the Golden Voice" when she was operating the switchboard at MANWEB's District Office at Craven Street, Birkenhead, Miss Molly McCann retired recently after 35 years' service.

Molly, who began with the former Corporation electricity department (at £2-6s-8d a week!), back in 1940, started her working life in the Purchasing Department. Later she did switchboard duties, but has spent most of her 35 years at Craven Street working on consumers' accounts.

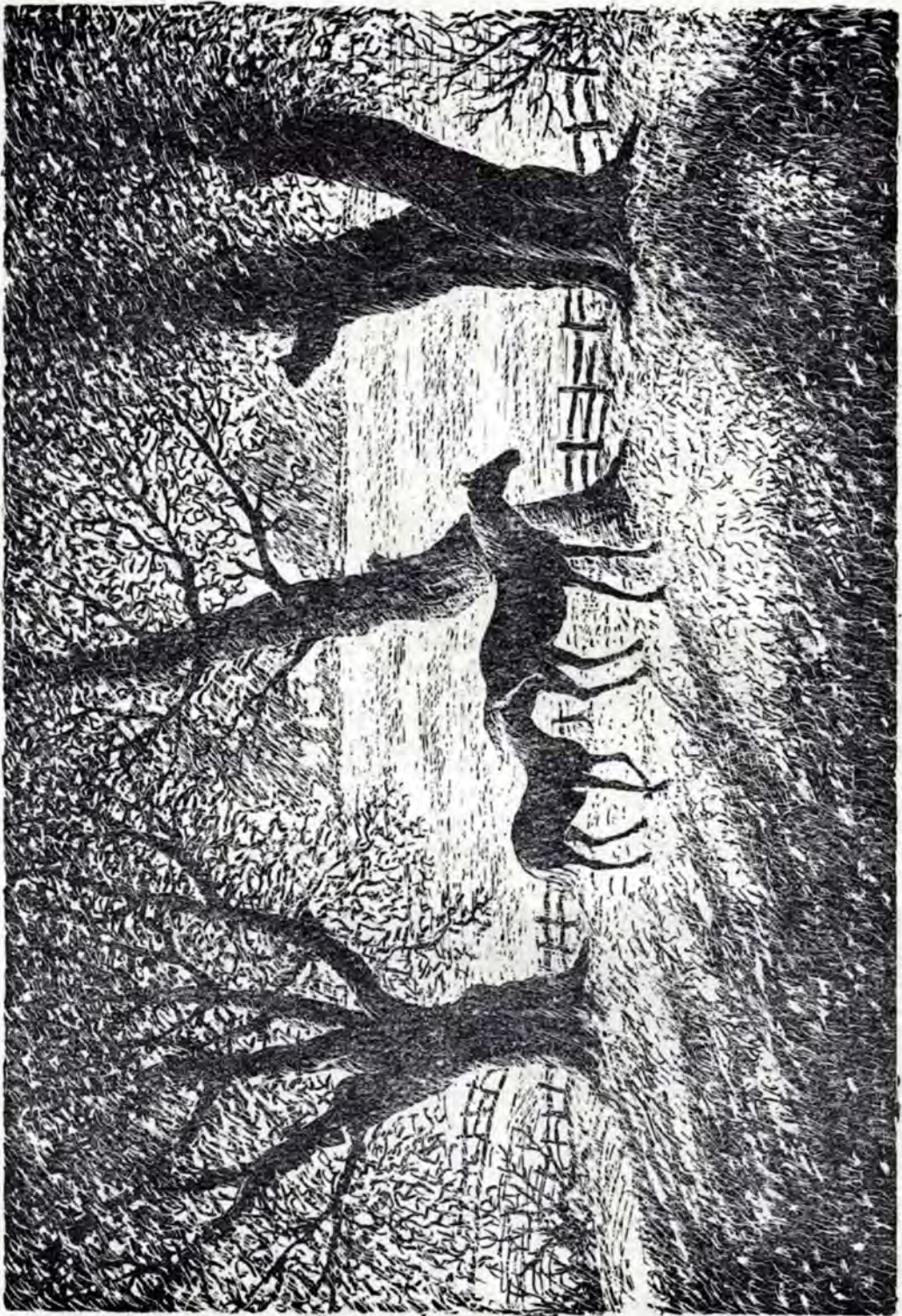
On behalf of a host of friends she was presented with a nest of tables, while donations from Head Office colleagues resulted in the presentation of a cut glass vase.

Her popularity was attested to by the fact that those present included ex-MANWEB staff, pensioners, and visitors from Sealand Road.



Miss Kay McKeown, surrounded by friends who enjoyed her farewell party at the Thingwall Road Clubhouse, receives a bouquet of flowers and good wishes for a happy retirement from Mr. Dick Goodwin (*Consumer Accounts*).





"BLACK BEAUTY AND HER FOAL"  
Drawing by Mr. Stan Jones, assistant storekeeper at Legacy