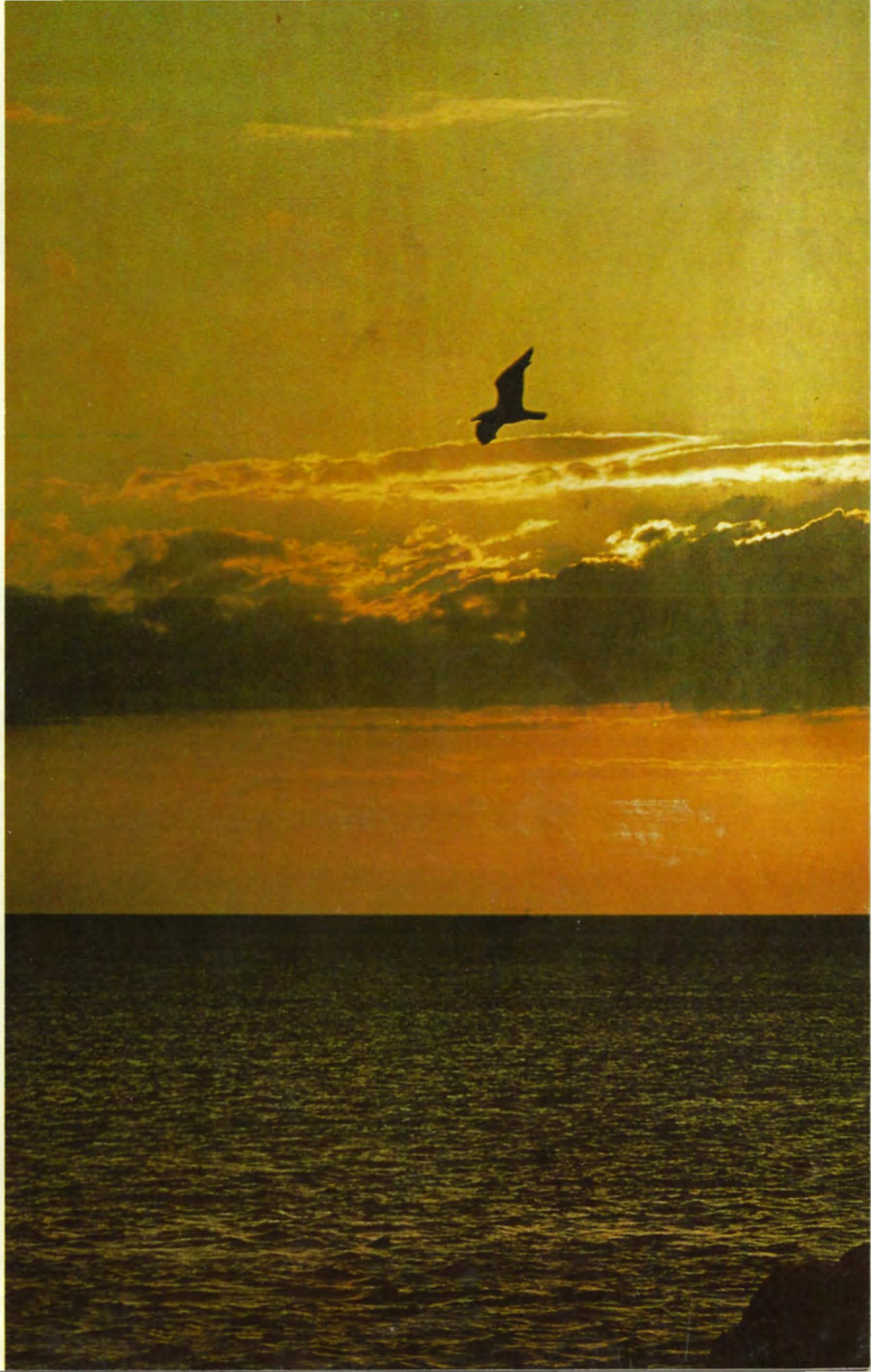


# CONTACT

DECEMBER  
1976



**“Winging  
Home”**

(see centre pages)



## *A Message from our Chairman*

*1976 WAS ANOTHER year of mixed fortunes for the electricity supply industry, reflecting in large measure the economic difficulties which face our country. A modest rise since April in the industrial consumption of electricity, however, gave grounds for cautious hope that the economy may be making the first uncertain steps towards recovery.*

*Our job as a public trading corporation is to distribute electricity efficiently at an economic price. There are those who would like us to take on in addition the duties of a charitable welfare organisation—duties which are properly the concern of the statutory welfare authorities set up for that purpose. If we fail to collect revenue sufficient to meet our costs, however, we distort not only our own finances, but the investment pattern of the whole nation.*

*The future of energy policy will, no doubt, continue to be hotly debated during the coming year. Consequences of great importance depend upon the decisions which will be made. From this complex melting pot will come the electricity supply industry of tomorrow, but one thing is certain—our industry's role in the long term will be even more vital to the people of our nation than it has been in the past. As always, we in the industry will respond with good heart to the challenges which lie ahead.*

*A good Christmas and New Year to you all and to your families.*

*Denis Jones.*



# CONTACT

Vol. 28 No. 12

December 1976

## *Editorial*

*On other  
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## *Service Unsung*

FOR THE majority of the population the Christmas period provides the opportunity for a complete break from the burdens of work and responsibility. For a few days, at least, most of us lay aside our everyday cares (do we hear the ladies say that we must be joking?).

Some complete industries, and millions of individuals, will "clock off" for a complete week, but all essential public services must continue to hold a protective umbrella over the head of the nation, as they always do, day and night, high days and holidays alike.

Some people, these days, almost make a way of life out of "knocking" the public services. Nationalised industries and public authorities of all kinds are ready targets for such critics. It is easy to heap criticism, usually unfounded, on the head of those who are unlikely to reply with legal action.

Our friends and our detractors alike, however, may be assured that conscientious employees of our industry will be on duty or on call while the rest of the world relaxes, ready as always to deal with problems and emergencies.

To all our colleagues, and especially to those who cannot entirely turn their backs on the workaday world, we extend our wishes for a beneficial break from duty and pressure.

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

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



District  
Joint  
Advisory  
Council—  
Chester  
Conference

## DISCONNECTION POWERS — OUR CONSUMERS ARE BEHIND US

—Chairman

"I think the great majority of our consumers are behind us and want us to keep our powers to disconnect electricity supplies for non-payment of accounts" said MANWEB Chairman Mr. Denis Dodds, speaking to the recent annual District Conference organised by the Merseyside and North Wales District Joint Advisory Council for the industry.

The Conference, held at our Chester Head Office, was attended by delegates from MANWEB, the North Western Region of the CEBG, and the Electricity Council's research centre at Capenhurst. Other principal speakers included Mr. W. F. Cusworth (*Director General, CEBG*), who presided, Mr. R. W. Orson, a member of the Electricity Council, and Dr. A. T. Churchman (*Director at Capenhurst*).

Mr. Dodds said that the question of disconnection was "highly topical and controversial." Some people were campaigning to deprive Electricity Boards of the power to disconnect supplies, but the implementation of such a policy would cost MANWEB £6,500,000 a year.

After referring to the "considerable number of difficult and welfare cases" among our consumers,

the Chairman went on to say:

"Welfare, as such, is not our business. That doesn't mean that we are inhuman, but welfare is the business of professional bodies such as the Department of Health and Social Security and the Social Services departments of local authorities."

The Chairman added that MANWEB was quite prepared to make prepayment meters available to really needy cases, provided that they were supported in their requests by welfare authorities.

Turning to the present commercial outlook, Mr. Dodds said that sales of electricity to industry during the six months April to September showed an encouraging rise of 18% over 1975—but warned that the 1976 figure was still marginally below that of 1974. Increased prices and the long hot summer had seen a further decline in domestic electricity sales, and a similar picture prevailed in respect of contracting work and appliance sales.

"We shall recover as the economy itself recovers," said the Chairman. "It is essential that we balance our resources with demand, and that can only be done if the price is right. Our future depends on the overall prosperity of the nation, and we support all measures to destroy inflation before it destroys us."

# TEDDY TEACHES THE CHILDREN

ONE OF OUR now familiar "Think Electric" teddy bears is doing a great job of work at the Huyton Gate School in Liverpool. Here about a hundred children, all severely mentally handicapped—some physically handicapped too—are taught by ten dedicated teachers led by Mrs. Joan Woods, headteacher and her deputy.

Two of her staff, Mrs. Elizabeth Leece and Mrs. Barbara Mellor came to our "Think Electric" Home Economist Conference held at Head Office a few weeks ago. Before leaving, they persuaded our Energy Sales Manager, Mr. Roy Stewart to let them have one of our teddy bears.

Back at their school, the children soon recognised 'Teddy' from our industry's TV commercials. They held a competition to name him and he became "Wally"—the winning name being submitted by 16-year-old Joyce Parkinson.

A neat letter to our Chief Commercial Officer thanking him

for the gift of "Wally" and a report on his reception at the school was painstakingly written by 11-year-old Yvonne Cohen.

As an exercise in recognition, all the children searched through newspapers and magazines and cut-out pictures of our "Think—Heat — Plan — Cook — Clean — Electric" teddy bears.

Mrs. Leece told us, "With our youngsters and the space available for our cookery sessions, we are rather limited. However, we do try to make them all—both girls and boys—socially acceptable and independent to a degree where they are able to make some kind



The young lady who gave Wally his name, 16-year-old Joyce Parkinson.

of a meal by the time they leave us when they are 18-years-old."

Despite their handicaps—or maybe because of them—they are certainly a very happy group of children at Huyton Gate School.

Teachers and their charges working in the kitchen section. From left to right: Mrs. Elizabeth Leece, twins Susan and Paula Patterson, Peter Freeman, Mrs. Barbara Mellor and of course, Wally.



# FEASTELECTRIC

## Electricity helps provide our Christmas fare

**A**S YOU tuck-in to the festive fare over the four days of Christmas, spare a thought for electricity's part in helping to provide the turkey—or chicken—the mince pies and the cake.

This seasonal food would be outrageously expensive too without the power of electricity to give gentle heat for hatching millions of eggs, to drive production lines, to deep freeze food and automate packaging.

In this country, some 14 million turkeys are sold every year—about ten million at Christmastime. The majority of these birds are born in Europe's largest hatchery, run by British United Turkeys Ltd., in the truly rural surroundings at Tarvin, near Chester.

Turkey eggs arrive here daily from seven laying farms, all in the Cheshire area. After careful grading, the eggs are incubated and hatched into poults, some in electronically-controlled 'Petersime' single-stage incubators—the only ones in use in this country today.

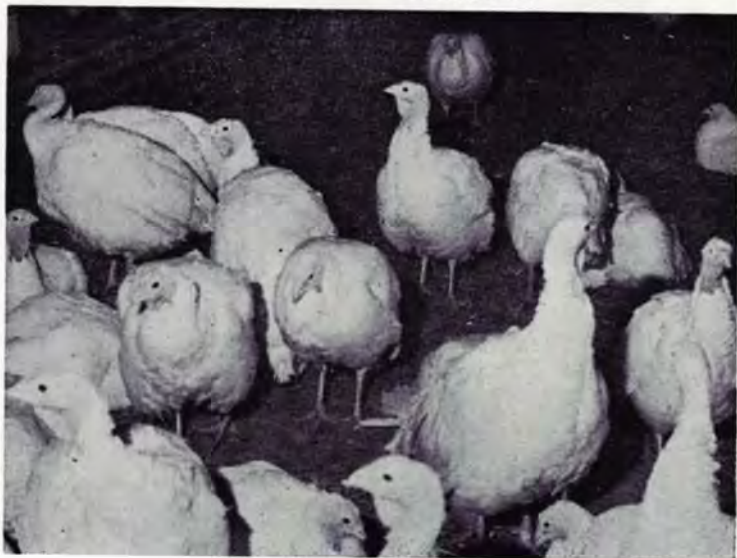
It takes a full 28 days from egg to poult. The station's 24 incubators have a capacity for 280,000 eggs producing an annual output of around two



Loading one of the huge incubators with 11,000 turkey eggs which, after 28 days, will become turkey poults.

*Right: Prime hen turkeys at one of the BUT breeding farms at Tarvin.*

*Below: A selected stag used for breeding.*



million poults. Many thousands of the day-old poults are sold to companies throughout the world. Thousands more are kept on 14 rearing farms for a further 30 weeks. During this period, birds are selected for future breeding stock in British United Turkey production farms. The rest are sold to companies who later market them as the 14 million table birds through their retail outlets.

At this time of the year, however, B.U.T. farm staff at Tarvin prepare about 3,000 of their prime fresh birds for sale locally.

## Boom in Chicken Sales

Chicken, an all-year-round favourite, also enjoys a boom in sales at this time of the year.

One of our leading firms, Messrs. J. P. Wood & Sons of Craven Arms, Shropshire, turn out 16 million chickens every year—blast frozen, electrically, allowing for continuous and steady production and so avoids seasonal—and expensive—peak periods.

A group of their 'growing' farms is sited on the Isle of Anglesey where the whole process from egg-to-chick-to-chicken-to-table is carried out.

From 10,000 breeding hens and a thousand breeding cockerels there is a constant output of eggs which are immediately transferred to hatcheries. Three weeks later the chicks appear and these are then distributed to ten farms where controlled feeding

starts. In exactly 54 days, each bird weighs in the region of four pounds.

The ten 'growing' farms are dotted around the island, all within a half-hour road journey to the main factory at Llangefni. Each farm can house up to 180,000 birds.

Every day, starting at about five in the morning, two nine-man teams of 'catchers' pick up and crate 34,560 birds from one of the ten farms. On arrival at the factory, it takes just 40 minutes to unload the vehicles.

Then electricity takes over as the chickens are hung on the intake line. Three-and-a-quarter hours later, the birds are in cold storage having been de-feathered, gutted, graded, weighed, bagged, sealed, blast-frozen and boxed.

The following day sees them loaded—by electric fork-lift trucks—on to 40-foot insulated containers to make their way to Craven Arms for re-shipping all over the country and finally on to your table.

Factory Manager at Llangefni, Mr. John Shreeve, is happy to have MANWEB 'on call' just across the road. "We are very grateful to MANWEB for always being ready with help and advice or to give practical assistance. When our firm started operations here on St. David's Day 1971, we produced 250 birds on that opening day. We can now clear that many birds in about three minutes."

Electrical demand at the Llangefni plant at the moment is around 1,200 kilowatts.

*(continued  
overleaf)*



Processing staff at the Llangefni plant prepare chickens for the customer.

On the left is the Moba system for weight-grading the birds before they are bagged, sealed, blast-frozen and boxed in the cold store.

## Cakes galore . . .

The main meal over and it is time for the mince pies and Christmas cake. Once again, electricity is utilised to power production line processes and mighty mixing machines.

One of Merseysides largest and best-known confectionery bakery—Sayers in Lorenzo Drive, Liverpool—produce millions of cakes for their 120 shops plus another 160 agency outlets and van sales to the catering trade.

They have recently installed a new Gilbert high-speed mixing machine which deals with 240lb. weight at one mix. The machine is now working to full capacity as the seasonal rush is on.

They are also very busy making their very popular Christmas cakes—two and a half thousand of the 3lb. size and in excess of 10,000 of the smaller sizes.

*This year's target for mince pies is exactly one million. Some 95 per cent of these will be sold over the December/January period.*

In additions to these vast quantities of rich fruit cakes and mince pies, the 800 staff will make about 10,000 bun loaves—a classic Christmas line—over 10,000 yule logs, 60,000 meringue 'snowmen' and a quarter of a million fondants and fancies. All this in addition to their normal output!

Looking after all this is Bakery Manager, Mr. Ian F. Macdonald, a former Man from MANWEB. Ian joined the Board in 1959 and worked with our former Area I Technical Department and at Head Office in Liverpool and Chester. He was with M.S.U. until he left to take up his post at Sayers in 1971.



*Above: One of the three blast freezers which together deal with about 35,000 chickens a day.  
Below: Insulator container vehicles being loaded—by electric fork lift trucks—with chickens from the cold store.*





*Right:* The recently installed Gilbert high-speed mixing machine.

*Right, centre:* Staff busily engaged on decorating the 12,500-plus Christmas cakes produced for the festive season.

*Below:* A million mince pies are turned out on this 'Asser' machine which can produce 10,000 pieces an hour.



**Present and past Men from MANWEB. Messrs. Ron Harper, left, (sales development engineer, North Mersey) and Ian Macdonald (Bakery Manager), flank an appetising display of Christmas 'goodies' made by Liverpool's largest confectionery bakery.**

# Christmas comes but once a year

By a member of the  
MANWEB Christian Fellowship.

Once upon a time a baby was born in Bethlehem  
Once upon a time shepherds, wise men, angels  
rejoiced at the birth  
Once upon a time we enjoyed receiving presents,  
opening our stockings, meeting  
Father Christmas  
Once upon a time we were glad to see the  
children's faces when they saw  
what Santa had left.  
Once upon a time we had a good time at Christmas  
Once again that annual event called Christmas is  
here.

Once again it is time to be at peace and show  
goodwill to all.  
Once upon a time . . . once, no not once  
'I will be with you always' was that baby's final  
words, always  
Once for all God did become human, was born in  
a stable.  
Once became always when he had lived out his life  
Once at this time we need to realise who the  
Christ of Christmas is.  
Once we need to be part of that birthday rejoicing,  
Once we need to cradle a babe, give shelter to that  
Christ. The joy, peace, the miracle of new  
birth will be ours.  
Christmas will then be not once, but always,  
God with us.  
The Lord be with you . . . always.

## Obituary

It is with deep regret that  
we record the following deaths:

**Mr. ARTHUR DODD**, a  
foreman at our Legacy depot.  
He had worked for over 40  
years in the industry.

**Mr. JAMES FENNEY**,  
aged 70, a former electrician,  
shop steward and member of  
many Committees. He had  
served the industry for nearly  
50 years.

**Mr. C. HICKEY**, aged 68,  
a labourer at Warrington for  
18 years.

**Mr. K. KAVANAGH**, aged  
87, a labourer at St. Helens  
until he retired in 1954.

**Mr. STANLEY TAYLOR**,  
who retired in 1967 after 30  
years as an electrician in  
Warrington.

## MY PRAYER

by **Mr. G. W. Wells**, Shop Supervisor, Garston

Oh! Lord of love whose goodness  
Fills our every thought,  
We thank you for the treasure  
That each day has brought.

The happiness of Summer  
The flowers that bless our way,  
Just make us whisper 'Thank you'  
At the close of day.

The falling leaves of Autumn  
Gently turn to grey  
And lead us to the story  
Of a child on Christmas Day.

How that little baby  
Grew to be a man  
And taught us by example  
As only Jesus can.

He died in shame to save us  
High upon the Cross  
Oh! Lord above please help us  
Bear this tragic loss.

And let us live that we  
When our turn doth come  
May dwell in Heaven for ever  
With God's eternal Son.

## Successful First-aiders

All seven members of the latest  
Head Office first-aid class have  
passed their examinations at the

first attempt. This 100 per cent  
result was achieved by Miss  
Pauline White, Miss Jane Wills,  
Messrs. Mark Gittens, Rob Hal-  
lows, John P. Hammond, George  
Harrison and David Roberts.

Our picture, *left*, shows Mr.  
M. M. Parker (*Secretary and  
Solicitor*) presenting Mr. Rob  
Hallows with his Certificate,  
watched, *right*, by fellow recipient,  
Mr. George Harrison.

Also in the picture are Messrs.  
Ellis Parry, *left*, and Fred Rose,  
*second left*, both from Dee Valley  
District, who received re-exami-  
nation Certificates.





Mary Burdis



Gillian Cooke



Jane Fairlough



Carole Anne Jones



Angela McCarthy

**Lucky for  
some in our  
"Girl from  
MANWEB"  
Contest**



Linda Morgan



Janice Parry



Jacquelyn Pemberton  
Mary Ross

Here are the 13 entrants who aspired to become our next 'Girl from MANWEB.' If you don't already know, see if you can pick out the six finalists chosen by the Group Managers. It's not just good looks, for personality comes high on the list of attributes required by our 'Girl.'

Our line-up shows Mary Ross from North Mersey, Angela, Gillian, and Linda from Liverpool, Jane from Mid-Mersey, Carole, Elizabeth, and Jacquelyn from Dee Valley, Stephanie and Victoria from North Wirral, Mary Burdis from Clwyd, Janice and Margaret from Gwynedd. There were no entrants from Head Office, Aberystwyth, Oswestry or Mid-Cheshire!



Victoria Rodaway  
Margaret Williams



Elizabeth Swain



Stephanie Wickham



# The Bard of Bootle

A short story

by Mr. Marshall Lane from North Mersey District

**DO BIRDS THINK?** The feathered variety I mean. This is a question I have often asked myself. Sometimes I believe I have found the answer—sometimes I am not so sure.

Once, during the last war, I was almost convinced. It happened back in 1942 when I was a Petty Officer attached to Western Command Headquarters in Liverpool. I was billeted a few miles away in Bootle with Mark Forrest and his wife Jennifer. I considered myself very fortunate.

Mark was a hard-working docker and a most likeable chap. Jenny was an auxiliary nurse at the nearby Stanley hospital.

She was a very pretty woman, and *she* knew it. What is more, she had rolling hips and roving eyes and *he* knew it. And lots went on—or came off—when his back was turned. Not with me, let me hasten to add—remember I was a Petty Officer!

I met an assortment of blokes as time went by. Invariably they were in uniform from one of the three main services plus the odd

fireman or two. They arrived at the house at all times of the day—or night—depending on what shift Mark was working and when Jenny was off duty—from the hospital I mean.

They had no children, but there was a third member of their household—Brutus—a mynah bird.

As you know, these birds are marvellous mimics, often getting the exact tone of voice of the person they are imitating. Mark was a heavy smoker and had a distinctive dry cough yet many's the time I have heard the sound of this cough coming from Brutus in his cage. It was uncanny I can tell you.

The bird had been given to Mark by his father, a merchant



seaman, following one of his trips to India. On his long voyages the old boy's favourite pastime was reading the works of Shakespeare. He was so taken up by the Bard of Avon that he had named his only son, Mark Anthony. It followed that the mynah bird should be christened Brutus after another of his favourite characters.

Mark was twelve years of age when he was first introduced to Brutus. They took to each other immediately. Like his father, Mark loved Shakespeare and over the years, he and Brutus perfected a technique of reciting many of the great plays. When I say that, I don't mean that the bird simply repeated Mark's words parrot fashion—if you will excuse that remark—but Brutus seemed to have the powers of logical thought as he picked up his cue lines to carry on with the next piece like an experienced actor.

Their favourite play was *Julius Caesar*. It was pure poetry to hear Brutus reciting the funeral oration—“*Friends, Romans and Countrymen, lend me your ears . . .*” I've heard many great actors saying these words but none had the bite or feeling that Brutus was able to bring into that famous passage.

The rapport shared between Mark and Brutus however did not extend to Jenny. It was just the opposite. Jenny and Brutus loathed the very sight of each



other. I noticed this on my first day with them and I soon found out why she was quietly terrified of the bird.

You see when Tom, Dick or Harry arrived at the house, they had to cross the living room to get to the stairs. So, whenever there was a knock on the door, Jenny quickly covered the bird's cage with a large cloth. However, when Mark arrived home from work Brutus would often cry out, "She's covered my cage again. She's covered my cage again!"

The ever-suspicious Mark knew well enough what this implied and the terrific rows which followed were always most unpleasant.

Then, Jenny changed her tactics. She brought her admirers to the back door, through the kitchen and on up the stairs. It was so easy, she wondered why she hadn't thought of it before. For a while this worked to everyone's satisfaction. Then one evening, just as Mark sat down to his tea, Brutus called out in a decided American drawl, "Love yer baby . . . yeah . . . I love yer baby."

Jenny was stunned—in more

ways than one. For her, this was the last straw. She had reached the point of desperation.

Shortly after this episode I arrived home one morning after a spell of all-night duty and was shocked to find Mark slumped over the table. It was immediately obvious that he was as dead as a Dodo. The remains of his breakfast, including a half cup of tea, was scattered over the table and on the floor.

\* \* \*

I was just getting a grip on myself and turned to go and 'phone for the police when I heard Mark's voice gasping out, "She's poisoned me, tell the police. She's poisoned me . . ." I spun around again. Mark hadn't moved a muscle. I was shaking like a leaf in a wind. Then I slowly realised that it was Brutus the mynah bird who had mouthed the incriminating words.

What is left to tell is now legal history. The police had help in finding the bottle of poison—hidden in a vase on the sideboard. They found traces of it in the milk on the table—Mark took milk in his tea. What made

it easy for the police was that Brutus had seen Jenny 'doctor' the milk and then hide the poison in the vase.

It was quite remarkable to realise that the bird had managed to put two and two together and make four. A process of real thinking. The fact that he was able to talk and tell the police was a simple matter.

Jenny's alibi was shot to pieces. She was arrested, tried, convicted of murder and sentenced to death.

I remember thinking for a long time afterwards that if there is an affinity of feeling between man and other creatures, there might be an incentive to think intelligently on the part of the creature . . . in this case a bird.

A few days after the end of the trial, Brutus escaped from his cage and was never seen again. At least not around Bootle. However, I did hear a story, quite recently, of an ornithologist working in one of the Indian States who had come across a flock of mynah birds. According to his incredulous story, the birds were all reciting passages from Shakespeare — *with a Bootle accent!*





## WILD LIFE ARTIST

THREE paintings by one of our Men from MANWEB were accepted for 'hanging' in the recent "Search for an Artist" competition sponsored by the British Broadcasting Corporation and held at the exhibition centre in Birmingham.

Our man of talent **Mr. Hugh Richard Hughes**, a photographer in Display Section at Head Office, entered three of his wild life paintings.

Popular comedian and disc jockey Charlie Chester originated the contest and some 1500 entries were received. Of these, the three submitted by Hugh were in the final 200 selected to be hung.

Hugh, who is 28, only started painting four years ago, and has quickly developed his talent for capturing birds and other wild creatures in paint. His

work, in water colour, has been much admired and he sells quite a number of his creations. He has produced paintings on eggs and for a commission, on a plate, as well as on the conventional artboard.

Being a countryman at heart, he gained his interest in wild life from his father who was keen on observing the creatures of the fields and hedgerows. Hugh is a keen observer himself and often photographs subjects which he later paints. Chester Zoo is one source for his more exotic creatures such as the 'Bushbaby' reproduced on the back cover of this issue of 'Contact.' This was one of the three exhibited at Birmingham and has already been sold.

The two other paintings on our back cover (*in smaller scale*) are for sale. The 'Great Milky Eagle Owl' is 20" x 15" and priced at £50. The 'Kingfisher' measures 16" x 12" in its original form and is priced at £35. Anyone interested should contact Hugh at Head Office Display Section.

### Wedding

When on a clerical work measurement job at Rhostyllen some time ago, **Mr. Chris Kilfoyle**, one of our MSU analysts met **Miss Elaine Shaw**



Partners—  
**Mr. and Mrs. Kilfoyle.**

a clerk in the Dee Valley District Commercial section.

That meeting has led to their marriage which took place at Marchwiel Parish Church a short time ago. The happy couple spent their honeymoon touring in the Yorkshire Dales.

Chris has been with us for 12 years and Elaine for five years. We offer our congratulations to them and our best wishes for a happy future together.

### Quality Counts!

Eight teams of enthusiastic anglers took part in the first Electricity Supply Industry National Championships, held on the River Trent (in flood) at Hoveringham. Although the match was for teams of 15 (with the best 12 weights to count) MANWEB, unfortunately was represented by only three enthusiasts, in the persons of **John Tyreman**, **Dave Lewis** and **Stan Wright**.



Gifted artist **Mr. Hugh Hughes.**

In these circumstances our stalwarts could hardly be expected to head the weigh-in, but they did manage to avoid coming last, finishing seventh.

Individually we did better, and John Tyreman was fourth overall, with a weight of 4lb. 10oz., consisting mainly of small gudgeon and two large roach. Dave Lewis was eighth with 2lb. 11oz., and Stan Wright weighed in with 1lb. 9oz.

The team event was won by the East Midlands Board, but if MANWEB had mustered a full team with the same skill as our three representatives, there might have been a different tale to tell!

### Diamond Day

Congratulations to **Mr. Tom Lewis**, a retired jointer, formerly on our North Wirral staff, and **Mrs. Lewis**, who recently celebrated their Diamond Wedding.

### Speed and Efficiency

A weekend of hard work by MANWEB engineers and fitters on the North Mersey District staff brought a letter of thanks praising the "extremely quick and efficient service" from the managing director of Aintree printers Eric Bemrose Ltd.

Late one Friday evening the works was "blacked out" following a fault in a 750 kVA transformer, and standby engineers **Jack Kenney** and **Wyn**



Foreman fitter **Mr. Bill Stavely**, centre, with his 'mate' **Mr. Tony Fadian**, left, are congratulated on their speedy work by **Mr. Jack Kenney** (2nd engineer-system).

**Thomas** were promptly on the spot. Finding that the transformer could not be quickly repaired they set about disconnecting it in co-operation with MANWEB fitters **Bill Stavely** and **Tony Fadian** and members of the firm's staff. A spare transformer from another of the firm's substations was transferred, installed, tested, and re-cabled. By 4 p.m. on the Sunday the supply was back on again.

### Well Supported

Many members of our Oswestry District staff were invited as special guests to the wedding of **Miss Hazel Plimmer** and **Mr. Stephen Rogers** at St. Oswald's Parish Church, Oswestry a few weeks ago.

**Hazel** worked at various jobs around Oswestry before she joined the Board as a typist just over three years ago. Husband **Stephen** is the manager of a retail outlet.

We offer them both our best wishes for the future.

### New Arrival

Congratulations to **Raymond** and **Susan Hughes** on the birth of their son **John Raymond**. Proud Dad is a storekeeper at Queensferry and Mum was an accounts clerk in the Wages Section at Head Office.

### Four Aces

Four computer programmers and analysts from MSU at Head Office, all dedicated

The beautiful bride, **Miss Hazel Plimmer**, with her friends from Oswestry District. From left to right: **Ron Williams**, **Dot Lorenzo**, **Stella Jones**, **Mina Rodgers** (Matron of Honour), **Hazel**, **Susan Powell**, **Gwen Evans**, **Glenda Dixon** and **Ern Preston**.





Bridge over the lunchtime break with, from left to right: Messrs. Keith Prowse, Dave Croston, John Rogers and Bill Taylor.

Bridge enthusiasts, represented MANWEB in the Electricity Supply Industry's Bridge Championships, held at the Millbank headquarters of the Electricity Council a few weeks ago.

They are Messrs. **Keith Prowse, Dave Croston, John Rogers and Bill Taylor**, and they acquitted themselves very creditably by taking fifth place from a total entry of 22 teams, drawn from all sides of our industry.

None of our Men from MANWEB had experience of competitive Bridge before and they kept 'their hand in' by playing lunchtime sessions at Head Office.

### Calling Burma Veterans

Following the success of post-war Burma Reunions, branches of the Burma Star Association blossomed all over Britain, but for some reasons the Wirral, despite its big population, never produced a branch of its own. There are, however, branches at Liverpool and Chester.

Now MANWEB storekeeper **Mr. Ben Hardcastle**, who works at our Cleveland Street stores in Birkenhead, hopes that all interested Far East ex-servicemen will get in touch with him with a view to getting

a Wirral branch off the ground.

Many people think, quite wrongly, that only ex-Army personnel are eligible. In fact the Association is open to all holders of the Burma Star or the Pacific Star with "Burma" clasp, who served in South East Asia during the qualifying period. Many former sailors and airmen, nurses and others, are Association members.

Mr. Hardcastle served in the Royal Army Medical Corps in the Burma campaign, and asks anyone who is interested to get in touch with him at 3 Linden Grove, Wallasey, Merseyside.

### Lights Trip

Pensioners from St. Helens, Warrington, Runcorn and Frodsham enjoyed a very happy outing to Blackpool illuminations recently, despite atrocious weather.

After an enjoyable dinner at NORWEB's Blackpool office, and a tour of the offices conducted by Mr. G. Patchett, customer service manager, a leisurely trip through the 'lights' and an uneventful journey home concluded the trip.

A big vote of thanks went to the ladies of the NORWEB canteen for the much-appreciated meal.

### Strikes Gold!

December 2nd was a special day for **Mr. Norman Owen**, a tariff inspector with our Liverpool District, when he accompanied his daughter **Geraldine** to Buckingham Palace.

The occasion was the presentation of the Duke Of Edinburgh's Gold Award to Geraldine, who is at the C.F. Mott College, Liverpool. She has been studying for the Award since leaving Aiburth Vale High School. A family party was held to celebrate the occasion and also Geraldine's 21st birthday!

### YOU NEVER KNOW WHO'S WATCHING!

An anonymous photographer who happened to be on the spot when a street lighting column was damaged by a passing vehicle sent the picture, below, to our Northwich depot. In a brief note, he said he was astonished at the speed of MANWEB staff who arrived at the scene and removed the lamp standard—all in ten minutes! Facing the camera is Mr. Ken Leather (*joiner*) and his 'mate' Mr. Fred Percival is to the left of the policeman.





## Engineers Triumph

Teams from 12 Dee Valley District departments took part in the annual Quiz contest, organised by the local Sports and Social Club last month.

The contest was organised on a knock-out basis, under the control of **Mr. Jim Jones**, of Work Control, in the Quizmaster's chair. He also compiled the wide range of questions which kept the contestants busy, while the adjudicator was **Mr. Albert Roberts**, of System Engineering.

After a thrilling final between **Installation Engineers 2** and **System Engineers**, the former ran out worthy winners, hanging on to a slender lead to the end.

Along the way teams from Work Control Ladies, Drawing

**SUPERANNUATION SCHEMES**

The Annual Report and Accounts of both the Staff and the Industrial Staff Superannuation Schemes have now been printed and are displayed on our notice boards.

Additional copies are available and will be sent to any member (including pensioners) on request to *The Assistant Secretary (Personnel)*, MANWEB Head Office, Sealand Road, Chester CH1 4LR.

Office, Crane Bank, Energy Sales, System Engineers 1, Work Control, Legacy 1, Chester Shop, Junior Admin. and Legacy 2 were knocked out in the various rounds, leaving the field to the eventual finalists.

An appetising supper was provided by social committee chairman **Mr. Tudor Jones** and his willing helpers, and finally **Mr. Don Hinsley**, Chairman of the Club, presented the Shield to **Mr. Ben Dawson**, the winning captain.

## North Wirral Notices

"If you can keep your head in the midst of all this confusion, you don't understand the situation!"

\* \* \*

"Out of the gloom a voice said unto me—'Smile, and be happy, things could be worse.' So I smiled and was happy and behold, things did get worse!"

## Brains of Head Office

Our Computer section at Head Office took both first and second places in a recent contest of brains, skill and chance.

Out of the 20 teams who played their way around 20 games arranged by Messrs. **Gren Roberts, Hugh Farrow** and **Eifion Jenkins**, 'Byte it and See' became the winners.

In second place came their colleagues under the title 'No Chance' and in third place was 'Brain Strain' from our Legal section.



Receiving the 'Brains of Head Office' trophy from organiser Mr. Hugh Farrow, centre, is Mr. Dave Croston on behalf of his team, from left to right: Dave Griffin, Gwyneth Worrall, Cheryl Hunt, Brian Sheppard and Bob Draper.

**Gren Roberts**, left, joins the team who came in second place—'No Chance' who are, from left to right, standing: **Joe Pugh, Joe Norris** and **Martin Bazeley**. Seated: **Kim Bradley, Jill Hockaday** and **Liz Jones**.



Game arranger, **Eifion Jenkins**, right, with the team 'Brain Strain' who came in third place. From left to right, standing: **Phil Ryder, George Harrison** and **Malcolm Arthur** (inset). Seated: **Fred Owen, Carol Swinton** and **Dave Brayshaw**.



# Praise for our North Wirral District Staff

Proving yet again the ability of our staff to provide a good service and gain customer satisfaction, a customer from Rock Ferry, Merseyside, writes . . .

"Although customers with complaints probably write to you readily enough my letter to you is for the opposite reason.

"Last Tuesday two members of your staff came to the above address and installed a Bath Shower with great efficiency and speed. Although the installation involved taking up recently fitted carpets, this was done with care and everything replaced, with no damage to the decoration, to my entire satisfaction.

"I would therefore be grateful if you would extend this message of appreciation to the persons concerned."

And the 'persons concerned' were Messrs. **John Gibson** (electrician) and **J. Lloyd** (apprentice).

## Flying Squad

From a customer in Bebington who praises the work carried out by North Wirral District jointers Messrs. **James Egan** and **Michael Lavelle**.

"Re. the supply failure at my address reported to you at 1.30 and 7.0 a.m. this morning, and which was re-instated at noon today, may I express my very sincere appreciation of the speed and cheerful efficiency of your

"Flying Squad" in their repair of the fault, and the care they exercised in avoiding any damage to the recently-laid driveway.

"They really were first-rate and perhaps you would kindly pass on to them my grateful thanks."

## Prompt and Efficient

"My cooker has been out of action for a month because a contractor could not get a spare part . . . belatedly I rang your repairs department. The lady who dealt with my problem could not have been more helpful, and the gentleman who came to my house did the work promptly and efficiently. I wish to express my grateful thanks."

## Courteous Consideration

"In this age of grumbles and complaints I have had to do my share, so I think it only right to accord satisfaction when the service has been good and considerate.

"Please pass this to your foreman and two men who made arrangements for a change-over

on my meter yesterday. Thanks to their courteous consideration in arriving earlier than they could be expected to I lost a minimum amount of time.

"It is a joy in this day of couldn't-care-less attitudes to be able to pay tribute to good work and consideration."

*Bouquets to Messrs. John Butterworth (foreman), jointers John Blackburn and Anthony Robinson (mate).*

## Job Well Done

Another one of our million plus customers took the trouble to put pen to paper to express thanks to staff working from our North Wirral District Office.

"I would like you to place on record my appreciation for a job well done.

"Your engineer arrived and fitted complete a shower installation in a most excellent manner, no mess, dirt or rubbish.

"In these days of complaints, it's good to know MANWEB can still do a first class job."

## Memories of Oakeley Quarry

Our invitation for any former members of the staff who worked at Oakeley Quarry (July issue) was answered by **Mr. B. H. Coppert** who retired six years ago. He now lives at 62 Elworth Road, Sandbach, Cheshire, and his letter reads . . .

"Although I was not a substation attendant there, I worked quite a lot with the McDonald gang from August to December 1931. There were two other linesmen there as well as myself, Arthur Hunt and Tommy Rowen. There was also a Joe Good, and the engineers were Gethin Davies and Bob No. 1 (Robert Williams).

"I worked quite a lot with Bob at week-ends on repairs and

maintenance. There was one particular line, over the mountains, we had to walk through looking for rotten poles. They were rotten too, something to do with the weather conditions. Then we had to walk through again to show Mr. Mansfield, the transmission engineer. Bob wouldn't have it any other way!

"I am not quite sure which level we had our Stores on, but we looked down on to the larger substation. We were then taking supply to Davies' Llechwedd Quarry also to the Manod Stone Quarry.

"There were so many incidents, it would take too long to try and write them all down. But thanks for the article, it brought back a lot of happy memories."

*Thanks to you Mr. Coppert and may you enjoy many more years of healthy and peaceful retirement.*

# 'CONTACT' PHOTOCOMP 1976

## Record number of entries received

**C**OLOUR—in transparency and print—appears to be ousting black and white in the world of amateur photography if we take the evidence of the record number of entries for our competition this year.

The judges were given the hard task of selecting winners from the highest-ever number of entries—325—submitted by 48 members of our staff, or their families, in the six different sections.

Transparencies increased by over 60 per cent and colour prints by over 90 per cent on last year's entries.

Viewing the colour transparencies on a large screen was an interesting and pleasant experience. As usual 'Sunset' was a most popular subject and

title. On a number of occasions the judges expressed a view that much more thought should be given to titling the picture. Our winner could easily have been entitled 'Sunset' but the skill in catching the bird in flight—the attraction of the picture—was in the title 'Winging Home.'

In the 'Animal' section we had 49 entries—a few more than last year. However, we found that many of these were pictures of birds. When it came to the final decision, two pictures were left—'Feline Grace' and 'Cock Robin.' As both pictures were of an equally high standard it was decided to award two prizes in this section.

We had a good entry for the 'Humour' section, but in some cases it was difficult to see any humorous connotations either in the caption or the picture.

The judges agreed that the overall standard of this year's competition entries was very high indeed. It was because of this that we awarded some consolation prizes.

However, there were some competitors who had the opportunity of getting a really good shot but failed to give it any thought before pressing the button. They obviously didn't look carefully at the overall composition of the picture in the frame and invariably managed to get in far too much foreground or too much sky.

We now offer our sincere thanks to all of you who took the time and the trouble to submit your entries for this annual competition. We are grateful for your interest and enthusiasm and we hope that it will continue and so make next year's competition even better.

On the following pages we have reproduced examples of the winning pictures and introduce those who picked up the modest prizes.



## Black & White Section

### BEST PICTURE

"White Water"

by Mr. W. Chirgwin

# PRIZE PICTURES

## Colour Transparency Section

1st PRIZE  
OUR COVER PICTURE  
"Winging Home"  
by Mr. P. E. Swift



△ 2nd PRIZE  
"High Noon"  
by Mr. N. R. Evans

COMMENDED  
"Lime Street"  
by Mr. A. Griffiths



## Human Section

BEST PICTURE  
"Julie"  
by Mr. M. Cooksey

COMMENDED  
"Linesman"  
by Mr. R. H. Woodall





## Colour Print Section

1st PRIZE  
"The Canal"  
by  
Mrs. P. Smith

2nd PRIZE  
"Autumn"  
by  
Mr. R. J. McShane



COMMENDED  
"Early Morning"  
by  
Mr. E. J. Elcock

## Humour Section

BEST PICTURE   
"I wanna tell  
you a story!"  
by  
Mr. C. J. Kilfoyle



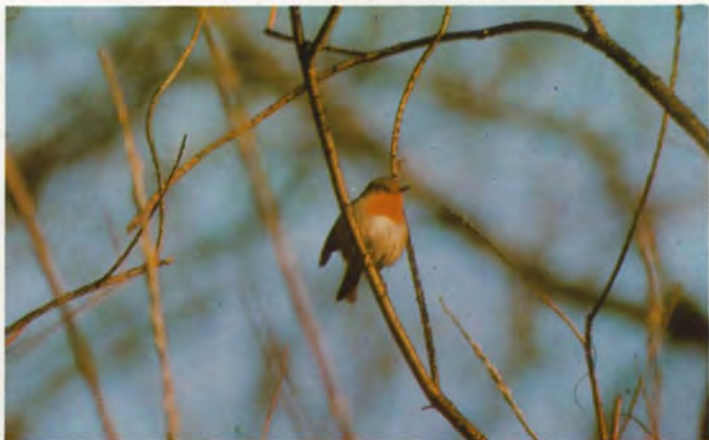
## Animal Section



"Feline Grace"  
by Mr. M. Cooksey

BEST PICTURES

"Cock Robin"  
by Mr. S. W. Holmes



## PHOTOCOMP WINNERS . . .

**T**HIS year, we show the faces behind the cameras held by our colleagues who won prizes in our 'Contact' Photographic Competition. There is also some brief background information on each of these prizewinners.

Their respective winning photographs are reproduced in this issue 'Contact.'

One of our few female winners was . . .

**Mrs. Pam Smith**, a part-time saleswoman at our Chester shop. She joined the Board in 1971. Pam was delighted to have won a prize and told us that she took her winning picture in Chester "on a tatty old Swiss camera given to me by my sister many years ago!"



*Take heart all you experts—it doesn't always happen. But it's nice when it does.*

**Mr. Philip Swift**, an electrician working in our Test Laboratory at Queensferry. He joined us as a craft apprentice at Hoylake in 1961. He has been interested in



photography for about ten years and he used a Russian Zenith camera—with a 135 mm tele-scopic lens, for his winning picture. He told us that he took many shots before hitting the right one.

**Mr. William Chirgwin**, a store-keeper at Queensferry for the past



eight years. A past prizewinner, Bill likes black and white work and does his own prints using a special developer. He has a number of cameras but took his 'winner' on a Praktica Nova.

**Mr. Max Cooksey**, an electrician at our Test Laboratory,



Queensferry. He scooped two prizes last year and completes his double again this year. Max

joined us as a craft apprentice at Shotton in 1953. He has had cameras for over 20 years and still uses one of his originals—an Ilford Sportsman. His winners however, were taken on a Japanese Canon camera.

**Mr. Steve Holmes**, a draughtsman at Head Office for the past three years. He bought an Olympus camera a couple of years ago and, as a very keen ornithologist, started taking pictures of his feathered friends. He has travelled



all over the country to get 'shots' of birds but his prize picture was taken only a few hundred yards away from Head Office!

**Mr. Chris Kilfoyle**, a clerical work measurement analyst at Head Office. He started work with us about twelve years ago and



shortly after this he became interested in photography. He used a Praktica Super TL in this, his first competition entry.



**Mr. Neville R. Evans**, a street lighting attendant based at Legacy has been with MANWEB for 21 years. He has won many prizes in our competition—three firsts, three seconds, two thirds and a consolation prize—since his first entry in 1965. He uses a Kodak Retina camera. Neville is also a keen oil painter which no doubt gives him a good eye for a perfect picture.



**Mr. Ronald J. McShane**, transport workshops engineer at Pump-

fields in Liverpool. He joined us in January 1975. Ron told us that he has been interested in photography for a long time but only got 'keen' about three years ago when he bought a Pentax camera. He recently changed from transparencies to prints and entered all possible sections of our competition. His first entry gained him a prize.

**Mr. Alistair Griffiths**, a records draughtsman at North Mersey



District, has been with us since March this year. An 'A' level artist, he looks for the unusual in his photography and has lots of patience. He took his interesting picture with a Praktica Super TL.

**Mr. Edwin J. Elcock**, a meter tester at Lister Drive since 1952. Ted has entered our competition many times before. For a while he gave up photography turning to tape recording, but now he is



back taking pictures. He was on holiday in Majorca when he took his prize picture using a Russian Lubitel twin-lens reflex camera.

**Mr. Robert H. Woodall**, system engineer for our Mid-Cheshire District. He has been with the industry for many years starting



at Eastbourne. He joined MANWEB in 1950 at Welshpool. His winning picture was taken while standing on a crossarm—with a Kodak Retina camera.

## ... and JUDGES

**Mr. John Lightfoot**, principal in the firm "Lightfoot and Newman" of Chester has been in the photographic business with his partner Mr. Bill Newman since 1948.

They are first class commercial and industrial photographers and a visit to their studios at 50 Watergate Street, Chester will bear out their expertise in portrait photography too. They have recently installed their own colour processing equipment.

**Mr. William Griffiths**, an ex-RAF photographer, joined the Board in 1950. He is now our chief photographer at Head Office.

Our picture shows John, left, and Bill at their task.



# MANWEB SERVICE TO INDUSTRY

OUR Dee Valley District energy sales team have been successful in breaking through the paper-thin curtain which sometimes hangs between our industry and the rest of industry. They achieved this by means of a three-day exhibition featuring a variety of local industries operating in the Wrexham area. Some twenty firms together with the Clwyd County Council Development Department and the Wrexham Maelor Borough Council supported the venture.

The objectives of the exercise were to strengthen the Board's existing relationships at decision-making senior management level in local industry, to increase the number of contacts and to make sure that all industrialists were aware of the full range of services offered by MANWEB.

The exhibition was open daily to members of the general public, providing them with an opportunity to see and learn more about what is manufactured in and around their own town. Young people, in or nearing their final year at school, were invited along—it was during their half-term—to see what industry



Mr. Roger Glover (*Industrial sales engineer*), left, chats with Mr. Desmond Jones (*Industrial Development, Wrexham Maelor Borough Council*).

locally had to offer. Career teachers were delighted with the idea.

Two special evening presentations attracted 'full houses' with representatives of many local industrial organisations in attendance. They heard how MANWEB specialists are always on hand to advise them on the economic use of electric power and how electricity could further help in their production processes. The Electricity Council film, "Rays Your Profits" was shown.

A senior member of one of the town's largest firms speaking to Mr. Roger Glover (*Industrial energy sales engineer*) said, "The exhibition was well staged and the evening meeting was excellent. We have been looking for a certain type of ceramic capacitor all over the country as well as on the Continent and in the USA. It was at the MANWEB exhibition that I was introduced to a man who makes specialised capacitors—and he has his business on a local estate. The exhibition certainly helped me—and him!"

A similar 'get-together' occurred when a firm searching for heating coils found a neighbouring manufacturer who could fill the bill.

Yet another example of co-operation was when a local firm manufacturing moulded polystyrene cartons needing larger premises, talked over their problem with members of

Mr. Ron Williams (*District Commercial Engineer*), right, chats with Metal Box Company representatives Messrs. V. Evans and M. G. Jones.





the local Authorities. Through their help and encouragement, the firm have their larger premises and have now decided to stay in the District.

This was the largest industrial exhibition to be held by a MANWEB District. It was an outstanding success—with Mr. Don Hinsley (*Energy Sales Engineer*) being interviewed on Harlech TV and lots of press coverage.

All the visitors were highly delighted with what they saw and heard. Many are already calling on the Board's energy sales team for help and advice. It is anticipated that, despite the economic depression at this moment in time, sales of electricity to industry will increase in the Wrexham area.



MANWEB hostesses adding a touch of charm to the exhibition, from left to right: Menna Roberts, Liz Swain and Christine Hughes.



Mr. Reg Buckley, left, energy sales, holds the attention of Messrs. Alf Buckley (*Weddel Pharmaceuticals Ltd.*) and Les Morton (*Country Produce Ltd.*).

## THE MEDIA

*Right:* Energy sales engineer, Mr. Don Hinsley, seen here right, being interviewed by Mr. Mike McEvoy and filmed for HTV. He did a number of 'takes' before his piece was finally 'in the can.' On the following evening, just over one minute of air time was taken up with the interview on the 'Report Wales' programme.



*Bottom right:* Our cameraman catches a colleague from a local newspaper lining up his picture showing, from left to right: Messrs. I. Flack (*Laminex Ltd.*), A. Kilday (*Clwyd County Council*), Roger Glover and, in front, Don Hinsley.





## STAFF CONFERENCE AT RHYL

# CLWYD COLLEAGUES BEAT THE WEATHER

**G**ALE FORCE winds and roads blocked by flooding and subsidence failed to stop a good turnout of Clwyd District staff from attending the District staff conference organised by No. 7 Local Advisory Committee, and held at a Rhyl hotel.

Guest speaker for the evening was Board Chairman Mr. Denis Dodds, who "made it" after a tricky journey from Liverpool, and expressed his appreciation of the big number who had successfully battled with the elements to arrive at Rhyl on time.

The possible implications of "joint management," the cost of coal and its effect on electricity prices, and the need for the electricity industry to tailor its use of resources to match the prevailing level of demand were among the topics touched upon by the Chairman during his talk.

Our industry, he said, had given a lead to the whole country many years ago in the field of Joint Consultation, but there was a "great Rubicon" between Joint Consultation, on the one hand, and Joint Management and decision-making on the other. If trade unions were to share in management, on a 50—50 basis with professional management, they would have to share in unpleasant decisions as well as pleasant ones. Trade unions had the traditional role of getting the best possible deal for their members, but big economic decisions had to be appraised and assessed by management—no matter who did the managing.

On the subject of coal as a fuel, Mr. Dodds said that our industry was largely tied to coal, with many power stations unable to burn anything else. Every time coal prices went up electricity consumers



**Mr. Jim Barraclough** addresses the conference, flanked by Mr. Dodds third from left, and members of the Clwyd District Local Advisory Committee.

mainly had to pay the bill, and last year MANWEB's coal bill went up by £25 million.

"If the miners deserve their wage increases, others must bear the cost of them," said the Chairman. "At the end of the day the increased price of coal must be met either by the electricity consumer, through higher prices, or the taxpayer, through higher taxes."

Dealing with our own problems, created by reduced demand for electricity, the Chairman said we must cut our coat in accordance with our cloth.

"We can't afford any slack in our system. It must be taut, disciplined, controlled and efficient," he added.

Our industry was now trying to climb out of deficits amounting to about £500 million, accumulated due to false pricing policies by Governments of both parties.

The Chairman continued by saying that it was still our job to sell electricity, especially in situations where it was sound economy to use it, often making savings in other precious resources.

"By so doing we shall do a good turn to the country, as well as ourselves," concluded Mr. Dodds.

The year's work was reviewed by Group Manager Mr. R. J. Barraclough, who made the point that last year MANWEB paid £3.8 million in rates of local authorities—more than the cost of either consumer service, meter reading and collecting, or administration.

Mr. E. Griffiths, LAC secretary, reported on the Committee's work, and the evening concluded with a lively Open Forum session.



## LONG SERVICE AWARDS

Earlier in the day, Mr. Jim Barraclough presented Long Service Certificates to members of the District staff. More than 500 years' service to the industry were accounted for by the Awards, gained as follows:

**40 Years:** Messrs. S. L. Hislop (*Commercial supply engineer*), A. W. Price (*3rd engineer—Installation*), T. W. E. Walton (*foreman—Engineering*) and R. H. Williams (*substation attendant*).

**30 Years:** Mr. H. Parry (*meter reader/collector*).

**20 Years:** Messrs. I. W. Griffiths (*retired*) and I. J. Nethercott (*chargehand electricians*), E. G. Moxon, R. E. Moxon and W. V. Owen (*electricians*), H. Evans (*fitter's mate*), B. Davies (*installation inspector*) D. W. Evans, J. S. Jones and C. Rogers (*joiners*), W. S. Jones (*labourer*), W. P. Kirkby (*linesman*), T. E. Davies, E. Evans and R. H. Waring (*substation attendants*) and H. Sines (*3rd engineer—Installation*).

*Above: Some of Clwyd District's 20-year men with their wives. Below: A handful of 30 and 40-year recipients with their wives are pictured here with Mr. Jim Barraclough, third from right, and District Officers.*



## Last Line-up for

# Christmas Catering . . .

by Anne Roney-Smith (*demonstrator Head Office*)

ASSUMING that you have now made—and iced—your Christmas Cake and followed the 'Countdown' programme detailed in last month's 'Contact' I now offer my suggestions for the final week.

First check your plans and menus very carefully. Make up any sweet recipes such as scones, shortbread, sponge cakes, etc., and store in tins or the deep freeze.

Shop for any non-perishables such as sugar, flour, rice, pasta and any extra canned foods. Check your milk and bread order—remember bread keeps beautifully in the deep freeze.

A couple of days before the big 'eat-in,' buy semi-perishables such as fruit and vegetables, cheese, yogurt, eggs and butter. Bacon rashers or joints will keep for a week, but note the date marks.

Make sure that you have sufficient soft drinks, tonics, etc. Check that you have plenty of ice cubes in the deep freeze.

Plan thawing out times carefully for frozen oven-ready poultry. When ready to thaw, remove the bird from its wrapping and place on a grid or large dish, cover loosely with foil to prevent drying out. Remove the giblets as soon as possible.

Thawing times in a cold larder. Large turkey—over 12 lbs.—up to 36 hours. Medium turkey or goose up to 12 lbs.—allow about 24 hours. A large chicken, duckling or small turkey up to 8 lbs., up to 16 hours.

Arrange bowls of fruit, check cutlery, china, glasses and the serving dishes.

*On Christmas Eve you should be completing your shopping for perishable foods and your fresh turkey if you are not using the frozen. Prepare green salads and store in crisper compartment of your refrigerator.*

Make up stuffings and place in the bird. Truss and keep it cool ready for roasting. Prick sausages and prepare bacon rolls. Place these on skewers ready for grilling or roasting. Peel potatoes.

Remove from the deep freeze any prepared foods required for Christmas Day.

Re-cover the Christmas pudding with fresh buttered papers.

### The Big Day

Now you are all ready for Christmas Day, and if you haven't got an automatic-timer oven you are going to be up early, if you are to lunch at a reasonable time.

A guideline timetable goes as follows—for a 15 lb. turkey:—  
8.45 Pre-heat oven to 375°.

9.30 Place pudding in saucepan to steam. Allow water to simmer gently during cooking time.

10.45 Collect vegetables, brandy butter, from the freezer or 'fridge.

11.30 Lay table—place plates and serving dishes in warming compartment of cooker. Bake mince pies—already prepared.

11.45 Dry potatoes—dip in melted fat and place in oven.

12.00 Complete bread sauce and cranberry sauce. Cover with dampened greaseproof paper to stop skin forming.

12.30 Heat up first course—consomme with wine added just before serving.

1.00 Cook all vegetables.

1.15 Remove turkey from oven and make the gravy.

1.30 Serve main meal.

Here now are a couple of great recipes to make your Christmas or New Year party go with a swing.

First—the rum punch.

Take one pint of rum, a pint of brandy,  $\frac{1}{2}$  pint sherry, quart of boiling water, three lemons, teaspoonful ground ginger and four ounces of sugar.

In a large heat-proof bowl, mix sugar, grated lemon rind, lemon juice and ginger. Add in the following order—rum, brandy, sherry and boiling water. Mix well. Sweeten further if desired. Allow to stand in a warm place for 20 minutes. Serve in punch cups.

This recipe will serve about 20 and is quite potent. The secret is to keep the punch hot.

### Russian Dish

Now to food again, this time a dish called Pashka—a traditional Russian dish. It is a very rich and delicious type of cheese cake. But it must be made in advance and kept in a refrigerator to allow the flavours to intermingle.

The ingredients are:—*One pound of cottage cheese, half-pound cream cheese, half-pound butter, three egg yolks, one cup of chopped-mixed candied fruits, icing sugar, two teaspoonfuls of cognac, pinch of salt, angelica, crystallised orange and lemon, blanched almonds and glace cherries for decoration.*

A serving dish or silver cake board—about twelve inches across—is required for presenting the Pashka.

Combine the cottage and cream cheeses, butter, egg yolks, the cognac, pinch of salt and icing sugar to taste. It takes quite a while to blend all these ingredients.

Next add the chopped mixed fruits. This should make the mixture quite stiff but pliable and ready to shape and decorate.

Now comes the tricky part. Take about a third of the mixture and work this on the serving dish or board into a circular shape about nine inches across by about

*continued on page 284*

# ADVENTURE COURSES

*“Two weeks before the mast”*

by Steve O'Brien



**T**HE PURPOSE of the venture was to effectively train 39 raw recruits to handle a full-sized sailing schooner and to follow a set course. In doing so certain qualities of the crew—endurance, leadership and common sense—would, hopefully, become apparent.

This was the theory which I and my fellow crew members set out to put into practice. We were under the scrutiny of 16 members of staff, including Captain, Chief Officer, Navigator, 3 Watch Officers, Medical Officer, Chief Engineer, Bosun, Chef, and 3 Watch leaders.

The ship was due to sail on Sunday, 18th July from Greenock on the River Clyde, and in order to meet the ship I had to depart on the Saturday night to arrive in Glasgow for 7.25 a.m. I had until 2.00 p.m. to reach Greenock, but I decided to join early due to the lack of activity in Glasgow at that hour in the morning.

On arrival at Greenock station the ship was found to be berthed at the New Quay Dock, some 200 yards away. Before reaching her I met up with one member of the crew who assured me that I was indeed at the right dock, and about to go aboard the right vessel. I remember the ship seeming very small as I went aboard and wondered how I was going to survive in this apparent lack of space!

I was summararily marked as “present” aboard, and was customarily given my new title as “Mizzen 9.” This title meant that of the 3 masts on the ship, I, together with my Watch Leader and 12 crew were to take care of the furthest aft sail.

Due to the odd arrival times of certain members of the crew, the ship stayed berthed overnight at Greenock. When the full complement were assembled, the bravest of us had reservations on the outcome of the venture.

Steve O'Brien, who is 20, has worked at Lister Drive for the past two years, first on consumer liaison work and latterly as an administrative trainee. He joined MANWEB straight from school and is busy at present working for his HNC Business Studies examination next May.

His hobbies include football (*an Everton supporter!*), fishing, travelling, and (*in his own words*) “generally messing about.” His ambitions are to succeed in every endeavour, and to try to write more in his spare time.

The entire ship was a nightmare of dialects and foreign languages, for the crew was assembled from cities far and wide. The new “sailors” came from all over the UK and some came from Spain, Italy, Germany, Austria, Sweden and Belgium. The first morning, assembling for breakfast, was organised chaos, but this was subdued over the two-week venture.

## Into the Atlantic

The ship eventually sailed on Monday, 19th July, at about 2.00 p.m. We sailed through the night to arrive at the mouth of the Clyde at Campbeltown at roughly mid-day on the Tuesday. We had sailed some 86 miles down the huge channel, but had deliberately delayed our arrival in order to familiarise the crew with some of the intricacies of seamanship. During the first 24 hours the Captain and his

Officers had told us what he expected of us and some details of the ship. We also had to learn to tie the various knots, to climb the rigging, and generally to handle the ship. We were given shore leave in Campbeltown to send cards home before we were off into the Irish Sea and to the Northern Atlantic.

We set sail from Campbeltown, not realising that it was to be Friday before we would set foot on dry land again. Our destination was the Western extremity of the UK, an island called St. Kilda. All that it boasted of was a missile tracking station, on a stark desolate rock. By the time we had covered the 180 miles to this island I was experienced in getting up at odd hours at night and early morning to take over the "watch" on the bridge. The watch composed of five people—helmsman, two lookouts, messenger and notebookman. Owing to the odd hours on duty it was essential to snatch sleep in the odd hours that were allotted to you.

The voyage had started pretty badly for me. The weather was perpetual rain and I was badly seasick for 36 hours. Through not eating during this period I was feeling pretty weak, but once I had discovered my "sea-legs" things started to improve.

We arrived at St. Kilda on Friday about mid-day and were "piped-in" by a lone Scots piper standing

to use the engines for much of this trip as we had hit an area of low wind, which was throwing out our itinerary. In order to present a well-groomed appearance to the natives of Tobermory, we had to climb the mast in true "button-boy" fashion as we entered harbour. My position in our spectacle was on the top baton of the rigging, just below the crow's nest.

We were allowed ashore until midnight, owing to the existence of a discotheque in the town that night. The time limit was fully enjoyed by the crew, the only drawback being the Scottish public bars hours of 10.30 closing. However, everyone arrived back safely, a good night being had by all.

The next day (Sunday) was a pleasure jaunt to Fingal's cave which is to the South-west of the island of Mull. This was a fascinating experience, for it was a 200 yard cave which had been eroded out of a volcanic islet in the Atlantic ocean. The scene was impressive and the Captain took full advantage of the acoustics of the cave to play his ukelele. We anchored off the islet and took the long-boat in, owing to the water being so shallow. Much of my camera film was used here in a unique insight into the power of the elements. We left this islet to return to Tobermory by night-fall, where we anchored overnight.

The next day (Monday) we were to travel down the sound to Mull, to Oban on the Western Scottish Coast. This was especially pleasant as it was the first time we had touched the mainland of the UK for a week. On entering the port, we again climbed the rigging in our now-accustomed manner of entering harbour, standing neatly to attention on the yard-arms and shrouds of the ship. Under full sail this was very impressive and a naval helicopter took full advantage of the spectacle by taking numerous pictures.

Everyone felt good at being once more on the British mainland and this was shown in our enthusiasm once ashore. Presents were bought, girl friends rung, and everyone was in excellent spirits, especially when it was discovered that one of the lads was celebrating his birthday. The price for our one-night fiesta was heavy however, when work was to be done the following day on leaving port. Our aim now was to reach our designated positions at the right time.

#### Homeward Bound

We were now travelling on our way home towards Liverpool, but things took an unusual turn for the better, for with the following wind the ship was able to sail almost twice as fast as anything previously achieved. During this time we were able to top 12 knots, just 3 knots below top speed. Consequently, we were now 24 hours ahead of schedule



The S.T.S. "Malcolm Millar"

on the hillside. We were allowed a barbeque ashore, after which we were shown around the island by a National Trust Warden. The island was shown to have buildings which went back before the pyramid era, and also boasted of the world's largest colony of gannets.

We left this island on Friday night at 6.00 p.m. to sail for Tobermory which is on the island of Mull off the west coast of Scotland. We arrived here on Saturday night after a 100-mile voyage. We had had

and this gave us the opportunity to sail into Douglas, Isle of Man, on Wednesday, 28th July.

The crew were divided into two, with the first batch spending the rest of Wednesday up to 8.00 p.m. ashore and the rest the following day until 2.00 p.m. I was in the first batch and we sampled just some of the things the resort had to offer. It was strange to hear from the other London lads that they had never heard of the Isle of Man!

The excursion here went off with no hitches and a full crew was reported on deck at 2.00 p.m. on Thursday. The ship was still ahead of time, and so it was decided to circumnavigate the Isle of Man in order to delay long enough for us to enter Liverpool on the 2.00 p.m. tide on Friday. However, as fate would have it, we missed a weather report late on Thursday night and encountered rough weather and an unexpected tide change on returning to Douglas. Consequently, we had to turn back and go around the island again and head directly for Liverpool.

By early Friday morning it was obvious that we would miss our target time, and so the engines had to be used. By these means we were able to arrive in port roughly on time, and we were brought in by the Liverpool pilots to end our voyage at the Bromborough dock, near Birkenhead.

#### Physically Tired

The voyage had covered over 1,000 miles, and everybody was physically tired on the voyage's completion. The watch system had meant that people were forced to train themselves to get sleep at varying hours in order to keep reasonably alert on watch. It was evident, in my watch at least, that some were able to manage better than others. There were some who slept on watch and also some who never seemed to tire, but in general, all of us were ready for a bed that didn't rock at the end of the voyage.

The trip did succeed in pushing one to achieve things that one would not have considered formerly. This resulted in a sense of achievement and satisfaction at the end of the voyage. Personally, I was pleased to keep going, even when I was seasick, for I am sure this gave me better satisfaction than just giving up. I was also pleased in being invited back again as the Chef's Assistant, for it was pleasant to have been noticed, especially as the ship seemed very impersonal at times. However, things may well change if certain people were to find out, who put the roast potatoes in the apple pie and custard!

All-in-all the voyage was a unique experience, and one which I fully enjoyed. The memories of those two weeks are still with me today and I dare say they always will be. For me the ship was the ideal form of escapism, and barring sickness is truly the only way to travel.

## "Outward Bound"

by Carol Jones



Carol Jones is a clerk in the Head Office Registry and Mailing Section, she is 18 years old and enjoys the outdoor life, listing swimming, canoeing and hill walking amongst her favourite pastimes. She also enjoys dancing the night away at discotheques.

Gliding is one pastime which gives her a big thrill—or maybe the thrill comes from the fact her boyfriend, Chris, is a qualified glider pilot, and he takes her aloft.

I ARRIVED at Rhowniar Outward Bound School, Aberdovey, on a hot summer's day at approximately 5.30 p.m. I was introduced to thirteen other girls, with whom I was to share a dormitory, and our instructor for the course. Everyone was very friendly and I settled in very quickly. I had gone with the intention of enjoying myself and putting as much effort as I could into everything I did.

One of the subjects on the course was canoeing. I had tried this before but had never had such expert tuition. The first session was in the river and we were taught how to cope when the canoe capsized, which came in very useful during the course.

I learnt the different types of rowing strokes and the technique of handling a canoe. In addition to the river work we tried surf canoeing in the sea. This was fairly difficult as the sea was quite rough and there wasn't much surf, but it was fun trying to stay upright.

We always worked in pairs when canoeing in the sea. One girl would stand knee deep in the water so that if the person in the canoe capsized she could help her get out and pull it ashore to empty out the water.

#### Four-Day Expedition

During the course we went on three expeditions, of which I enjoyed the final one the most. We were in groups of seven, each group taking a different route. The instructor gave us no assistance on the final one. We prepared everything that was necessary for the four days in the hills.

The second day of the expedition was the hardest. We toiled our way up Plynllymmon Mountain, then we got lost in a forest and tramped for fifteen hours before reaching our campsite. There were times during this trek when I would have given anything to be back home. Thanks to the team spirit engendered on the course we kept going.

We cooked our food on a Primus stove, and despite burning the dehydrated meat at first, I eventually became quite an expert at using it.

The day that we had our first rock-climbing lesson was cold, raining and very windy. I had never tried any rock climbing before so I did not know what to expect. The rock face was very slippery, this made things more difficult but I enjoyed the challenge and managed the climb quite easily. I was a bit apprehensive about abseiling down, but once over the edge of the cliff I enjoyed it.

Abseiling is a fast way of descending a cliff using a rope. When the experts do it it looks spectacular, coming down a sheer drop in great leaps. The novice just walks down horizontal to the cliff using the friction of the rope to control the rate of descent.

The highlight of the course for me was a visit

down a large mine. What we had learnt from our previous rock climbing sessions came in very useful. We did three abseils down into the mine. We were told this was the most dangerous part of the course. No-one could be scared as they could not see where they were abseiling to. It was completely dark except for the occasional candle.

In order to get out of the mine we had to climb up a very long rope ladder. I found this the most difficult part as the ladder kept twisting around making it hard to climb.

I got most satisfaction from the ropes courses. I had thought I would never have the courage to climb to such heights. It gave me a lot of confidence and got over some of my fear of heights.

During the course the school had a visit from the BBC. Disc jockey Vince Saville, brother of the more famous Jimmy, interviewed three of the girls. I was one of them. He invited us to read requests for his Thursday morning BBC Wales record programme. A girl from Holland and another from Bermuda were the others. Most of the girls came from Britain although several came from abroad. I was the only Welsh girl there, that is why I was picked for the show. I managed to get a plug in for my sponsor, MANWEB. I thoroughly enjoyed the course and I am very grateful to all those who made it possible for me to go.

\* \* \*

Carol and Steve are just two of the 27 young people from MANWEB who have attended adventure training courses this year. They are drawn from all sections of the Board—both lads and lasses—and attend one of the land based adventure schools, or for those of a nautical turn of mind, one of the sail training ships, the *Malcolm Millar*, or the *Winston Churchill*.

Should any of our readers be interested in joining one of these courses, you should be between 16 and 21 and let the head of your department know you are interested, as they are circulated for nominations from the Education and Training Officer at the end of the year.

#### Christmas Line-up

—continued from page 280

an inch-and-a-half deep. Make the top as smooth and flat as possible. This is your base layer. Then take about a quarter of what is left of the mixture and fashion this into another disc—about seven inches across—on top of and in the centre of the base layer.

Repeat the process for another three layers, each one getting

smaller and being placed on top of each other. The final disc should be about an inch across and an inch deep.

Finally, decorate each shelf made by the concentric discs with cherries, angelica, blanched almonds and crystallised fruit. The result is a delightful piece of edible Russian architecture.

Place the completed work in a refrigerator for two or three days before serving.

This dish will well and truly satisfy fifteen people.

\* \* \*

If you have managed to use only some of the 'Countdown' hints published during the last couple of months, I know that your Christmas will be less exhausting than usual.

My good wishes for a happy Christmas and New Year . . . and Bon appetite—and only one glass of punch!



A group of 40-year men from Head Office. From left to right, standing: Messrs. Jack Fishwick, Cliff Houlbrook, W. Elwyn Griffiths, Percy Roberts and Harry Sharples. Seated: Messrs. Tom Jones, Jack Pilkington, John Woodhouse and Frank Trask



## HEAD OFFICE LONG SERVICE

The Board Secretary and Solicitor Mr. M. M. Parker, presented members of the various Head Office Departments with their long service awards recently. He congratulated the 35 recipients on service to the industry and on completing nearly 1,000 years among them.

Mr. Parker, who is a Board member, in addition to his position as MANWEB Secretary announced that he was in a position where he could terminate his service with the industry and he said it was his

intention to retire from MANWEB before the end of the present financial year.

In addition to those present, all of whom are pictured on this page, there were eight other members of Head Office staff who were unable to attend the presentation, they are as follows:

40 years service, Messrs. J. M. Griffiths and R. Slack. 30 years, Mr. H. Shepherd. 20 years, Miss B. Johnson and Messrs. J. G. Dalton, L. A. Lightowler, R. W. Roberts and R. Williams.



Above: A quartette of 30-year award recipients, from left to right: Mr. Vic Heard, Miss Marion Adams, Miss Connie Jones and Mr. Fred Brown.

Left: Mr. M. M. Parker presents Mr. Tom Jones with his Certificate.

Some of the 20-year recipients. From left to right, standing: Messrs. Ben Sturley, Brian Garland, Colin Boston, Denis Farquhar, Derek Sankey, Ron Thompson, Tony Davies and Keith Spencer. Seated: Messrs. John Ebbs, George Hogarth and Bill Daniels, Miss Ann Arden, Messrs. Bob Palin and Roy Pickavance.





An alternative source of power—from the wind!



An Elizabethan Hunting Lodge at Eglwyaeg, near Llangollen.

## The Art of Scaperboard

Drawings by Mr. Stan Jones, *assistant storekeeper at Legacy*

Equestrians meet on a cold Winter's morn.



## ENGINEERING APPOINTMENTS

There have been two senior engineering management appointments at Head Office. **Mr. Gerry Haughan** has been appointed Assistant Chief Engineer Plant and Construction and **Mr. Denis Farquhar** has been appointed Assistant Chief Engineer Systems Management.

Mr. Haughan takes over the duties formerly performed by Mr. Arthur Perry and Mr. Maurice Garrett, both of whom have reached retirement age. Mr. Garrett's services are being retained for a short while as Plant Advisor, and Mr. Perry has already retired.

A native of Carlisle, the young Gerry Haughan started his



Mr. G. Haughan



Mr. D. Farquhar

## ELECTED

Our Deputy Chief Engineer, **Mr. James Fisher** has been elected as Chairman of the Mersey and North Wales Centre of the Institute of Electrical Engineers for the coming year.

Mr. Fisher has been with the Board for the past 26 years.



career as a technical apprentice for the town's Corporation Electricity Supply Department, completing his training with the newly nationalised North Western Electricity Board. Since his training he has held a variety of appointments covering most aspects of electrical engineering in other Boards.

At some time he has worked for the Y.E.B., M.E.B., S.E.B., and N.E.E.B. He joined MANWEB from Norweb in 1965 when he was appointed District Engineer in the former Liverpool South District, and later the enlarged Liverpool District. He was appointed Assistant Chief Engineer Systems Management in 1973.

Mr. Farquhar, who succeeds Mr. Haughan as Assistant Chief Engineer, Systems Management is a Scot and started his working life as an apprentice electrician, joining John Brown Shipbuilders on the Clyde as a qualified tradesman in 1953. He worked on ships including the Royal Yacht *Britannia* installing communications equipment.

Two years later he came to Merseyside and became a mem-

ber of MANWEB staff at Run-corn as an assistant consumers engineer. He has since held a number of engineering appointments covering most aspects of the Board's engineering work.

Prior to his new position he was the Principal Engineer for Special Projects at Head Office, in which capacity he led the Board's side of a development, in co-operation with the University of Manchester Institute of Science and Technology, which allows MANWEB engineers to use the Board's computer linked to visual display units, to plan and operate schemes for the electricity network in a diagrammatic form.

## Held Over

Due to pressure on space in this bumper Christmas number of 'Contact' we have had to hold over reports and pictures of Employees' Meetings at North Mersey, Liverpool, Mid-Cheshire, Gwynedd and Head Office.

These will be published in our January 1977 issue.

# CHRISTMAS CROSSWORD

The thought of MANWEB people sitting around at Christmas time with nothing to occupy their minds is something that our compiler of giant crosswords, Mr. F. G. Lott, just cannot bear, so he has once more occupied his brain to keep yours busy while the roast turkey settles down!

Even more ingenious, however, is our compiler's achievement in creating an entirely new monster brain-teaser to fit the exact 'blank' of last year's puzzle. Our printers—who never throw away anything that might be useful—managed to dig out the 'block' of last years' puzzle from the attic, so that saved us a few new pence as well!

Here, then, is the 1976 version, guaranteed to keep enthusiasts busy for a couple of days, and with it go three prizes of £5 for the first three all-correct solutions to come out of the hat. Closing date—January 10th.

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 only one per person please. Open to all MANWEB employees, pensioners, and their families.

## Clues Across

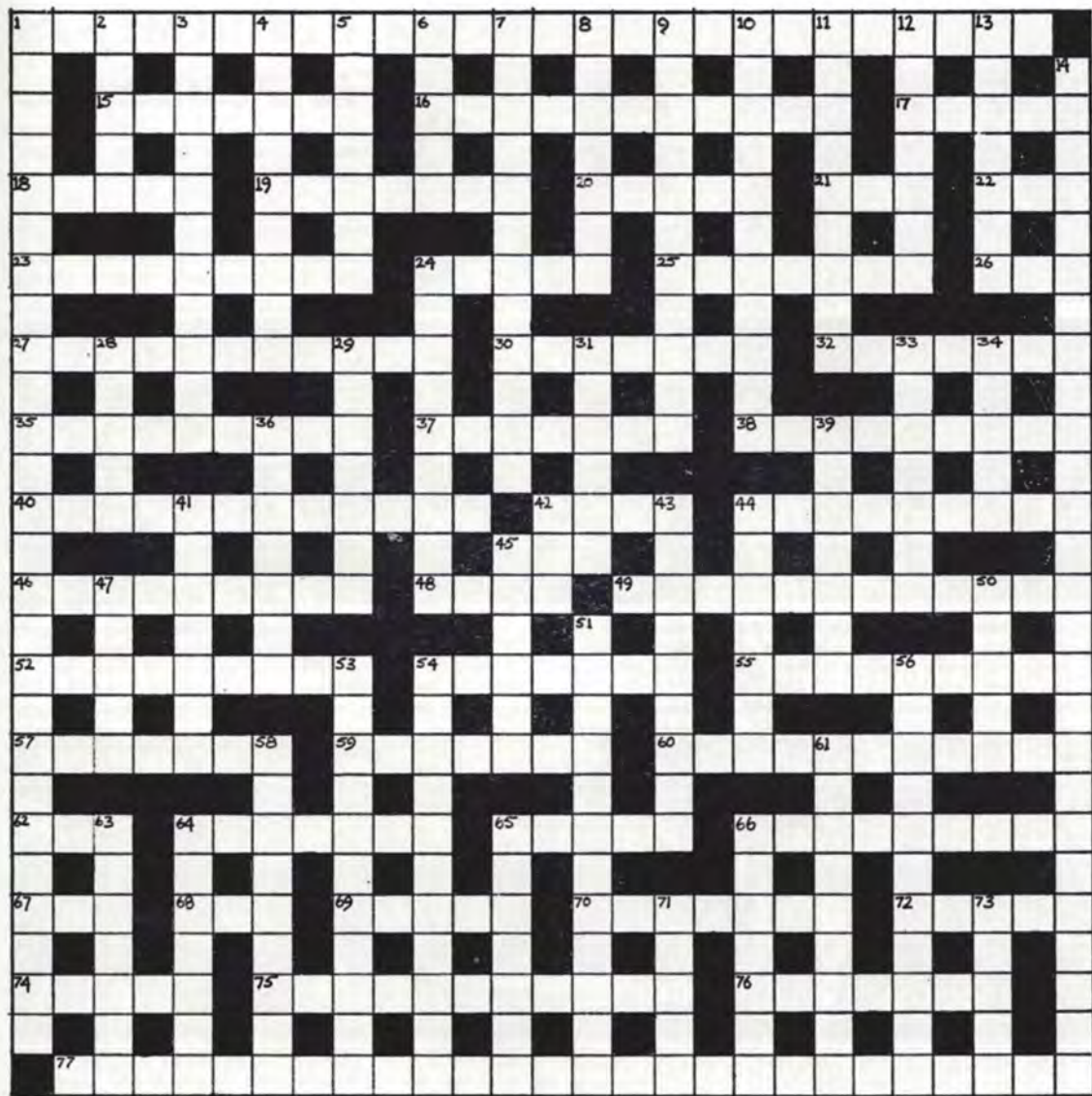
- 1 Sunny bank sitting time in 2 (2, 9, 3, 2, 3, 7)
- 15 A larger dose of arsenic (7)
- 16 Of no great significance in Lambeth? (7, 4)
- 17 On which the sun should not go down (5)
- 18 Established church student at social gathering (5)
- 19 Pout about Len being loaded (7)
- 20 There's no sense in one in Scotland (5)
- 21 The old bird did not reach King Meshah's country (3)
- 22 The greatest part of the regalia (3)
- 23 Quiets our frenzy for precious stone (9)
- 24 "Their . . . . were brushed, their faces washed, their shoes were clean and neat" (Carroll) (5)
- 25 Poor hen starts to increase its value (7)
- 26 Her ways are proverbially wise (3)
- 27 Dibbler extraordinary (5, 6)
- 30 Reference to one's finger the foxglove is without (7)

- 32 Begins and ends with a cause of listlessness (7)
- 35 Presidential picnicker (5, 4)
- 37 Realign realign like a queen (7)
- 38 Threads we twist along the dividing line (9)
- 40 Top assistants (3, 9)
- 42 The jejune aspect of a Mata Hari dance (4)
- 44 Correct a capital lie (9)
- 45 Never this where the apple reddens lest we lose our Edens . . . (3)
- 46 They're repeated at the end of part II of the Chorus (9)
- 48 Nine pecks of apples on horseback (4)
- 49 Tap-line motor re-routed on London's underground (12)
- 52 Half of one little duck (6, 3)
- 54 Like my wife, first class back in Luxor, but unsettled (7)
- 55 Not that immortal flies wouldn't melt in their mouths! (5, 4)
- 57 Settled by the police indeed (7)
- 59 I leave lilac tea stirred like milk (7)
- 60 Little scope here for an unemployed curtain-closer (3-4, 4)

- 62 Where the mome raths grabe (Carroll) (3)
- 64 Sweetbread as provided by the Chip Inn (7)
- 65 400 sheep on wheels (5)
- 66 An old pal series appeared differently on TV (6, 3)
- 67 My! A gaping mollusc! (3)
- 68 Water baby (3)
- 69 Udubo's back in Nigeria (5)
- 70 "In Scarlet Town where I was born, There was a fair maid . . . ." (7)
- 72 A scratching complaint letter (5)
- 74 Chaucer's cook (5)
- 75 Viking mission analysis material? (3, 8)
- 76 Tangential pressures on necklaces or nuts (7)
- 77 Couldn't meet corgi in taxi? A lie literally compounded (14, 12)

## Clues Down

- 1 Some oil risk at Haverfordwest is not how Bumble put it (6, 5, 3, 5, 3, 4)
- 2 She waits for Christmas (5)
- 3 'Try our Steak—done this way' as the Christmas menu might say (5, 6)
- 4 Italian gentleman in a sex change (9)
- 5 Noble residence (7)
- 6 Both wild bears . . . (5)
- 7 . . . and these sometimes bite! (8, 4)
- 8 Hardy's life's little ones (7)
- 9 Team's latent qualities are biblical (11)
- 10 Disappear when you see a policeman (5, 3, 3)
- 11 D Ts (9)
- 12 Where people were wont to hang around (7)
- 13 Returns again to the unit on Goat Island and falls down (7)
- 14 When and where they clocked off for 3? (9, 3, 2, 3, 9)
- 24 The general officers commanding enter, manoeuvre, and salute (9)
- 28 Reptilian summer! (5)
- 29 Presses truth's distorted point (7)



- 31 The people upstairs (6)  
 33 Thus may one of 40 receive the message "Irma, Irma, I love you!" (3, 4)  
 34 Hamid was too devious for Gordon (5)  
 36 Tie it with string (7)  
 39 Helps to keep 5 up (or down) (4-3)  
 41 We yodel away like a bird (3-4)  
 42 In defence of farm produce (3)  
 43 70 stringless 'G' strings are accommodating (9)  
 44 In the main the old city's right bad for cattle (7)  
 45 One doesn't expect it to be broken (6)  
 47 Time for a London musical (5)  
 50 The hollow of Jacob's was out of joint in Genesis xxxii (5)  
 51 The Mikado's would be difficult to pot . . . (8, 4)  
 53 . . . shaped in this fashion (11)  
 54 Banting? (11)  
 56 Liz and Paul sail away into the blue (5, 6)  
 58 Ten day story-teller (9)  
 61 The car in five hundred to accommodate god or man (9)  
 63 Gent, law-breaker of loose guitar string, for example (7)  
 64 There's merit of a sort in starting the time between one thing and the next (7)  
 65 Composer takes French bird to North Carolina—to see "Les Biches"? (7)  
 66 Parrot licence per capita? (4, 3)  
 71 An essential part of the Ruhr (5)  
 73 Found in an aqua-fortis substitute fabric that's French but could with point be English (5)

## RETIREMENTS *in Pictures . .*



Cleaning colleagues at Bridle Road pictured on the occasion of Mrs. Edith Donnelly's retirement. *From left to right:* Mrs. Joan Quadrio, Mrs. Margaret Spence, Edith, Mrs. Teresa Currin and Mrs. Margaret McCourt. Edith's close friend, Mrs. Kay Keogh, was unfortunately absent on sick leave.



An emotional farewell took place at Bridle Road recently when North Mersey District staff gathered to say goodbye to their friend Miss Joan Abraham on her retirement. Joan, *holding flowers*, received their parting gifts from Mr. G. Shoemith.

Top man in our Stores at Lister Drive, Mr. John Ramsey, *centre wearing glasses*, was presented with a farewell gift of a set of golf clubs from his friends and colleagues by Mr. Colin Leonard (*Assistant Chief Accountant—Administration*).



One night, a short time ago, after closing the Birkenhead shop doors, staff gathered together and were joined by many more friends from North Wirral District to say their farewells to long service colleague Mr. Jack Casson, *seen here seated centre*, with all who could squeeze on our photograph.



## .. and in Words

### Mrs. E. DONNELLY

After 17 years' service with the Board Mrs. Edith Donnelly, a cleaner at our North Mersey District office, has retired—to start a new life in Australia!

Her daughter Edith, son-in-law Richard and grandchildren Stephen and Alan already live in Elizabeth Downs, South Australia. Edith and her husband Bill decided to take the plunge and join them when he was offered a job 'down under.'

At a ceremony at the District office Mr. George Shoemith (D.A.O.) presented Edith with a gold Mizpah ring on behalf of the staff, while individual friends presented her with other gifts.

### Miss J. ABRAHAM

When young Joan Abraham started work with Liverpool Corporation as a records clerk way back in 1942 she was told that her job was purely a wartime post and wouldn't last long.

A few weeks ago, after nearly 35 years' service with the electricity industry, Joan retired from her post on the staff of our North Mersey District—before her normal retirement date, for family reasons.

After many years working for the Corporation and later for MANWEB at Derby House, Liverpool, Joan and her staff stayed on at Derby House after re-organisation, looking after North Mersey's prepayment collection cards. They moved on to Bridle Road in September 1973.

Colleagues from Lister Drive, North Wirral and Head Office joined North Mersey friends in bidding an emotional farewell to Joan, and on their behalf, Mr. George Shoemith (D.A.O.) presented her with a double string of pearls and flowers for her mother and father. Her many friends, gained over a working lifetime, presented other gifts.

They all hope that she will find time from nursing her parents to visit Bridle Road from time to time.

### Mr. J. H. RAMSEY

After 19 years' service with MANWEB Mr. John H. Ramsey, Stores superintendent at Lister Drive, Liverpool, retired recently. He should have retired nine months ago but was asked to stay on during re-organisation of the Stores.

After serving with the Scots Guards as a young man, Mr. Ramsey went to work in the banking world, but rejoined the Army in 1939 and served until 1955, reaching the rank of Major.

In 1957 he became a member of the MANWEB

staff at Eversley, moving to Chester when Areas 2 and 3 were amalgamated. In 1970, during the re-organisation of the Board's structure, he was appointed to head the Stores complex at Lister Drive.

On behalf of his colleagues he was presented with a full set of golf clubs by Mr. Colin Leonard, Assistant Chief Accountant. We understand that he intends to get in plenty of practice to bring down his 22 handicap, and to start his retirement in fine fashion by taking a long holiday with a nephew who lives in South Africa.

### Mr. J. CASSON

A lifetime of service to the electricity supply industry ended recently with the retirement of Mr. Jack Casson, from his post as supervisor at MANWEB's Birkenhead shop in Grange Road West.

Jack began his career with the former Wallasey Corporation Electricity Department in 1936 and worked at the Poulton power station. A few years later saw him as a radar technician with REME serving with the 8th Army in North Africa and Italy.

He returned to Wallasey and soon got his first showroom job. In 1961 he was promoted as second-in-command at the Birkenhead shop and took over full control in 1965. He was noted for his prize winning window displays.

He once played football for Wallasey schoolboys and a few local amateur clubs. For many years he was secretary to the Board's football team at Wallasey. Now, he is a long term season ticket holder with Everton A.F.C. We hear that the referee never starts a match until he sees Jack in the stands!

A past President of the local branch of Nalco, Jack is a 'do-it-yourself' enthusiast as witnessed by the parting gifts from his colleagues of a power saw and sander.

Another of his interests is taking holidays abroad in non-commercialised countries. He has already visited Russia and Turkey and intends keeping up his travelling in retirement, providing he can still find places which have not been 'taken over.'

### Mr. G. McAULEY

Retiring on health grounds after 16 years' service with the Board, Mr. Gerald McAuley, jointer's mate at Runcorn depot, was presented with an electric shaver and a lighter on behalf of his friends and colleagues.

### Mrs. N. M. HOLDER

Mrs. Nora May Holder, a cleaner at Widnes shop during the past four years, retired recently and was presented with a table lamp and box of chocolates from colleagues and friends.



Great Milky Eagle Owl



Bush Baby

The three paintings by Mr. Hugh Richard Hughes which were accepted and 'hung' in the recent Charlie Chester "*Search for an Artist*" competition held at Pebble Mill, Birmingham and sponsored by the British Broadcasting Corporation.



Kingfisher