

Contact

December 1979



The Winner (see centre pages)



Mr. Michael Metcalfe (*District Administrative Officer*), left, congratulates Mrs. Gail Ollier and Mr. Colin Barrow while Mr. Warwick Saunders (*Acting District Commercial Engineer*), right, congratulates Messrs. Ken Sandlands and Howard Snape who all received their First-Aid Certificates. Other 'first-timers' were Messrs. Bernard Kimpton and David Williams.



First-Aiders in our Mid-Cheshire District

Mr. Graham Zeiher (*District Engineer*), left, offers his congratulations to Miss Helen Haycocks, Mrs. Christine Forster, Messrs. Barry Harding, Gerald Clarke, Kevin Owen and Peter Roche on gaining their re-examination certificates.

End of a successful year for Lynne - our "Girl from MANWEB"

At the conclusion of her very busy and successful year of office as our "Girl from MANWEB", here we see Miss Lynne Joyce, centre, with her colleagues in the typing section at Dee Valley District office. They are, from left to right, Janet Evans, Sheila James, Rosemary Richards and Shirley Jones.



Contact

THE STAFF MAGAZINE
OF THE
MERSEYSIDE AND
NORTH WALES
ELECTRICITY BOARD

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December 1979

A Message from the Chairman

MY SECOND year as Chairman of MANWEB is coming to an end. Last year I said that the new senior management team would be pursuing a policy of gradual change rather than upheaval and I hope you will agree that this has turned out to be the case. However, much larger changes have been taking place around us—starting with exceptional winter weather and going on to include the accident at the Three Mile Island nuclear power station, a change of government and the turmoil in the oil market associated with the Iranian situation. Such things are sent to try us, and we have to try to take them in our stride in the electricity supply industry.

Fear of possible oil and gas shortages has been evident during the year and we have clearly gained some load as people switch to what they consider to be the fuel of the future—electricity. Although, so far, this is modest in scale, it is undoubtedly the shape of things to come and we expect continual growth in electricity sales. This, however, is likely to be at a much lower level than in the 1950s and '60s, since energy conservation will undoubtedly gain in momentum and, indeed, our industry will be continually stressing the need to conserve fuel and other resources in its marketing activities. In a world of rapid change and instability, we shall be continuing to try and maintain in MANWEB our reputation for reliability and stability both to our customers and to our staff. We will need to change with the times, of course, but preferably by a process of evolution rather than revolution.



During the year, it was clear from surveys of customer opinion about some aspects of our service, that MANWEB staff stand in high esteem in the public eye, no matter what critics may like to think. MANWEB staff clearly care for others, not only at Christmas, and, if we can all continue to have the best interests of our customers and our fellow-employees at heart in all that we do at work throughout 1980, we need have no fear of the problems and challenges that will continue to present themselves. I said much the same last year and make no apology for it, since it seems even more appropriate today.

I hope you and your families have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Ben Hastings



No. 11 L.A.C. MEETING

Delegates at Chester.

The Nuclear Future

DELEGATES to the Head Office Employees' Annual Meeting were left in no doubt that the future of the country would depend on nuclear power. They were also shown some of the ways in which the computer was being used by a demonstration on accountancy and engineering computer functions.

Mr. John Scudamore opened the conference and welcomed delegates and guests. Wearing his LAC Chairman's hat, he summed up the work of the No. 11 Committee during the year and thanked secretary Mr. Stan Gordon for organising the meeting. Changing hats to that covering the Board Secretary, and speaking on behalf of Board Chairman, Mr. Ben Hastings, who was out of the country, he commented on the MANWEB year just ended.

MANWEB is big business, with a turnover around £370 million and a profit of £11.8 million. Over the year the tariff increases had been less than the rate of inflation. The year had seen the introduction of the seven-hour tariffs for off-peak electricity, a greater emphasis on methods for easy payment of accounts and an improvement in the outstanding debt. The theft of electricity still posed a problem which the Board were determined to stamp out, there had been 1,300 cases reported to the police.

The guest speaker was Dr. Clive Smitton from the North Western Region of the C.E.G.B., who with an illustrated talk explained the present energy needs of the country and those projected for the near future.

Eighty per cent. of the nation's energy consump-

From left to right: Mr. John Scudamore, Dr. Clive Smitton and Mr. Stan Gordon.



tion was met in equal amounts by coal and oil at present. North Sea gas accounted for 15 per cent. and the remaining five per cent. was provided by hydro and nuclear power. In 1980, the country would be self-sufficient in energy and this position would last until 1990, when gas and oil would start to run out.

With the demand increasing, widening the gap left by the exhaustion of gas and oil, it was unrealistic to expect the new coalfields to meet the demand. There was the problem of opening up new fields and the cost of digging out the coal.

Cost was against the other sources of power, such as solar, geothermal, wind, wave and tide, with Dr. Smitton estimating the cost of electricity generated this way at 20 to 50 pence per unit.

By 1990, nuclear power would supply 12 per cent. of the nation's needs and by 2000 it would be 50 per cent. It was the only realistic way of filling the energy gap. Imported oil would be expensive and required for prime purposes such as air transport.

The British electricity industry had 20 years of experience in operating nuclear power stations, and there were nine Magnox type power stations producing electricity today, cheaper than coal or oil, and in complete safety. The advanced gas-cooled reactor stations had not been as successful but most of the problems had now been ironed out and Hinkley Point, now on part load, produced electricity at 1.2 pence per unit, cheaper than coal.

Dr. Smitton showed how the nuclear reactor produced electricity, and explained that there was no way a nuclear explosion could take place—the chemistry and the physics were not right for this to occur.

The disposal of nuclear waste had become an emotive issue, but only 2½ per cent. of the uranium ended up as radio-active rubbish. This was cooled before being stored in tanks at Windscale. The liquid waste could be solidified in glass and safely disposed of in drill holes in rock four to five miles below the ocean, or in suitable rock underground, on land.

The incident at Two Mile Island, Harrisburg, in the U.S.A., was termed by the news media as a disaster, yet no one was killed and no one was injured, and the emergency had been contained within the power station.



Three pictures of delegates showing keen interest in the computer terminal equipment which was demonstrated at the meeting.

Concluding, Dr. Smitton said that energy must be used wisely and efficiently, and that nuclear power was the safest, cheapest and the cleanest source for the nation's energy needs in the future.

After a lively open forum, the meeting adjourned for a meal—an excellently-cooked, piping-hot and well-served meal—provided by Taylor Plan, the Head Office caterers.

Following the refreshment, delegates were invited to see a computer demonstration on closed circuit television, initially showing its financial capabilities, and then the design and analysis applications being developed by the Engineering Department.

Another group of delegates.





Without Silicon Chips

A short story by Sheila Godden
(Revenue, Head Office)



IT WAS the weekly meeting of the Weather Board and they had reached the subject of Great Britain (Complete).

"Well," boomed Thunder (being the noisiest he usually chaired the meetings), "what did they have last week?"

"Me-e-e," Rain simpered, "I spent lots and lots of my time swirling up and down . . . I was heavy and hazy in the valleys and strong and steady along the coasts. It's my sixth week, you know . . ."

"Yes, we do . . .," broke in Thunder, "apparently Sir has been receiving complaints sent up by the earth-beings that they're becoming rather angry . . . something to do with yet another wet summer."

"Silly people," snapped Frost, "whatever we send them they always complain."

There was a murmur of agreement from Snow, who was just beginning to wake up from his summer sleep. He never said much until December, then he tended to dominate.

"Come on," said Showers, "we can't dilly-dally all day—we've loads to get through yet."

"Suppose," said Thunder ponderously, "we send Sun over . . . it's about time we dried Britain out, otherwise Autumn will be delayed, and that won't go down at all well with Sir."

"What about me?" came in Wind. In a whisper he began: "I'll start as a gentle breeze lapping off the western coasts, and then . . ."—he became louder and, puffing out his chest, went on—" . . . I'll begin to build up power, and speed, and force, and I'll roar around their houses and chimney-pots, and in no time at all I'll have the leaves on their trees dried out and . . ."

"Perhaps we ought to try something a little gentler," suggested Mist softly. "Maybe just a touch of Frost"—she nodded at her cousin—"in the mornings, then a warm sun until about tea-time, and then I'll come in and blanket everything down nicely for the night."

Sun beamed her consent . . . Mist's idea was good . . . Britain did deserve a better break after the long wet summer . . . and maybe until Fog came back from his Intensive Training Course next month . . . ready for his November

spell of duty, a misty autumn would do . . .

"Hurrumph!" came in Wind, "What about me? Am I not to blow the leaves off the trees?"

"Yes, of course," said Mist.

"It's just," boomed Thunder, "we did let you get in a good deal of overtime last April and May . . . it's really someone else's turn now."

"Whoo . . . Whoo," muttered Wind, stirring in his seat, "I see."

They could tell by his restless stirring he would accept Thunder's ruling, but only under sufferance. Probably he'd station himself out over the Atlantic or Irish Sea, blowing and puffing up and down like a nervous sentry . . . sailors had better watch out . . .

"All agreed then?" rumbled Thunder, looking around at all assembled. "Mist, Sun and Frost, you're on light duties over Britain next week . . . you can sort your times out for yourselves later. Now, will someone please give Snow a prod. Russia (Siberian Section) is next and we don't want him giving Britain a white Christmas before December . . ."

Talking Notes

GREENFINGER

FOR most people one garden, whatever its size, is enough to cope with but we have just heard of one enthusiast who has three gardens in his care. Our 'Mr. Greenfinger' is better known to his MANWEB colleagues as **Mr. John Jones**, a chargehand meter reader/collector based at our Chester depot in the Dee Valley District.

In addition to his own large and lovely garden at his home in Waverton, Chester, John also looks after a pensioner's plot and, for the past six years, he has worked on a Council allotment at Boughton Heath, near the A.41 roundabout.

For his highly productive work on this particular piece of

land, John was recently presented with the Claude Crimes Challenge Cup, principal trophy in this year's City of Chester Allotments Competition.

Since 1976, he has held 4th, 2nd and 3rd place in this competition and now tops off his proud record with an outright win.

Many years ago, when living at Broxton, John won many prizes for his flowers and vegetables each year at the local show.

A very active man, John has been a member of Waverton Parish Council for the past 16 years and is a former Chairman. He is also a very keen fisherman and has no less than 16 cups to prove his talent at coarse fishing. Nowadays, he has turned to trout fishing.

With his wife, Agnes, as his partner, they often trip the light fantastic at dances from old-time through modern ballroom to disco.

Among his other pastimes is bell-ringing and, for most of his life, has held the reputation as the area's champion mole and rabbit catcher!

John—a very happy man—can entertain for hours with his humorous anecdotes, most of

which have been gathered during his 26 years with the Board.

He has two daughters and a son **Nigel**, who also works for the Board as a clerk in the Superannuation section at Head Office—obviously looking after his father's interests! Nigel has been with us for the past five years.

Spreading Fame

In the September number of *Contact* we featured the pen-and-ink drawings of 23-years-old **Karen Good**, a tracer at Head Office.

Our commercial foreman at Oswestry, **Harry Blackwell** (whose poetic efforts we publish on occasions), was showing the magazine to an old friend in London, when the gent's wife, Mrs. Pearl Lee, saw Karen's drawings.

The result was a commission for Karen to draw the lady's much-loved Afghan hound.

Throughout December a selection of Karen's drawings will be on exhibition at Holywell library.

More Cash

The fact that there can be real money in ideas put forward under the Employees' Suggestions Scheme—and real benefits to the industry—is proved by the experience of Lister Drive meter mechanic **Evan Nelson**.

In the February number of *Contact*, we reported on his idea to modify single-rated pre-



Gardener John Jones with his latest award.

Photo by Chester Chronicle

payment meter covers to take two-rate coin calibration.

Evan's idea has now earned him a further award of £75, following a review by the District Joint Advisory Council—making a total of £165 to date. The idea will go on up the line for consideration at national level, so Evan may not have received his last cheque for his simple but effective and money-saving brainwave.

Bowling awards

High spot of the evening at the Liverpool District Annual Bowls Dance held a few weeks ago at the Thingwall Road Sports Club was the presentation of trophies to the winners of the inter-departmental bowls competition.

Charles Donovan, the District Engineer, presented the team award—a large silver cup—and commemorative plaques to **Stephen Pryce** (captain), **Doreen Alcock**, **Bill France**, **Sid Green**, **Cathy Joseph**, **Teresa Kelly** and **Gillian Smith**.

Then followed some lively dancing to **Ted Potter's** disco sound. Refreshments, prepared by **Gillian** and her mother, were served during the evening and the whole successful function was organised by **Cathy** and **Teresa**.

Volunteers wanted

The annual First Aid competitions organised by the Electricity Supply Ambulance Centre and covering the North Western and Merseyside and North Wales Districts will be held at Head Office, Chester, on Saturday, 9th February.

Writing to advise us of the date, the secretary **Mr. Arthur Priest**, asks us to mention that volunteer stewards will be needed to help with the various arrangements and to say that he would be pleased to hear

from anyone who would be willing to help in this way.

Arthur can be contacted at the Electricity Council's Industrial Relations Department, Thorne House, 36 Station Road, Cheadle Hulme, Cheadle, Cheshire SK8 7AB.

Return to Nursing

When a most enthusiastic and popular member of our staff at Oswestry District office, **Elaine Feeney**, left her job in the accounts section to return to her first love, it was **MANWEB'S** loss and the nursing profession's gain.

Elaine will also be missed for



Teg Williams (District Administrative Officer) presents **Elaine Feeney** with a parting gift from her friends. Carry on Nurse!

her active participation as a working member of the District Sports and Social Club committee.

Her many friends throughout the District wish her every success in her re-call to administer to the sick.

The Cruel Sea (Part 2)

You may remember the tale of our intrepid fisherman from **Llangefni Depot** in a recent issue of *Contact*. Flushed with success they decided that they would again enjoy a nice relaxing day's fishing, but this time the sea was waiting for them.

An early start was planned but never put into practice as

our current champion **Now Pritchard** decided to handicap himself by dropping all his fishing tackle into the sea. The fish were grateful for the jam sandwiches and piping hot tea!

When the trawler left the shelter of land the weather turned for the worse, and quite a few green faces could be seen peering over the side. As they could not fish, they had a competition to see who could throw their breakfasts the furthest.

Under threat of mutiny the captain returned to port so that the sick and wounded could be tended to. Out of an initial crew of thirteen only four could take part in the final rounds, and **Arwyn**, 'muscles' **Williams** (electrician) was victorious with a large cod.

Champion Friends

Former friends of **Mr. Richard Blackburne**, an installation inspector at Lister Drive, Liverpool, prior to his retirement some years ago, will be interested to know that he is now living near Lockerbie in Scotland, and, according to a letter we received from his wife **Mavis**, is "as fit as a fiddle" at 71.

Some years ago we featured the **Blackburnes'** absorbing hobby of breeding and showing prize Pointer dogs. **Mrs. Blackburne's** letter makes it clear that they have gone from strength to strength in this field, with championship successes as far afield as America, Canada, Italy and Brazil.

Mrs. Blackburne writes—
"Last year we travelled to Canada and America to find all our exported Pointers well and happy. Looking back it seems incredible that all these fine animals were born and reared in our warm cosy kitchen, and that we have managed to rear and train them so that judges all over

the world have given them so many honours.

"Each one has been a great wrench to part with, and now we have five, from great-grandmother downwards. We lost our first Pointer last winter, and although she lies under a glorious rose-bush in the garden she is really buried where all good dogs should be, and that is deep in our hearts!"

New Leaflet

"Using Energy Wisely" is a new Electricity Council leaflet which gives sound advice on how less electricity can be used in the home without depriving the family of its benefits.

Insulating the home against heat loss is rightly given pride of place because it can save most money. The leaflet also explains that 10% can be cut from the heating bill by turning the thermostat on heater controls down just 4 degrees F, and that a properly lagged hot water cylinder can save enough hot water for 16 extra baths a week.

Cooking, refrigeration, freezing, home laundry and lighting cannot provide economies on the same scale but many hints are given on the principle that every little helps to lighten the load without losing necessary home comforts.

Copies of the leaflet are available, free of charge, from all Electricity Board shops.

Determination

When two members of our Mid-Cheshire District disconnection staff arrived at a smallholding to do the necessary, they got out of their van to be confronted by a very annoyed goat.

Head down, it began attacking our two men until, distracting its attention, they quickly headed for the house.

As the front door was opened a couple of yapping whippets

shot out. A neat side-step and our intrepid team were inside.

After completing their work, they returned to their van—with the goat in pursuit. The goat won and nipped into the van first.

When they tried to get it out of the driving seat, Billy jumped into the back section. Quickly opening the rear door they tried to entice it out that way—with no success. Eventually, with some pushing and shoving they got the animal out of the van and on to the road.

Just one more little incident in the daily life of a diligent disconnection duo.

What next?

Our recent story about Northwich fitter's mate **Frank Parkinson**, claimed by his mates to have broken several sprint records when pursued by a swarm of angry wasps, has triggered off the inevitable response—this time from colleagues of Oswestry District linesman **Ronnie Anderson**.

In fact they think that a chal-

Copies of the Annual Report and Accounts for the Year 1978-79 for the **Electricity Supply (Industrial Staff) Superannuation Scheme** and the **Electricity Supply (Staff) Superannuation Scheme** are freely available on request from your District Administrative Officer or—for Head Office staff—from the Personnel Manager.

lenge match might produce the first-ever one-minute mile!

According to his pals, Ronnie showed his paces when a young Charolais bull appeared on the scene in which he was working.

"He was off like the proverbial rocket," says the report, "and didn't stop until he reached the sanctuary of one of the Board's vans, safely locking himself in and winding up the windows, just in case!"

Offering to stage the race of the centuries between these two MANWEB legends, Ronnie's mates add: "We will provide wasps and bull! Please bring ear-plugs, as the sonic boom was incredible."

We are now standing by for more tall stories—surely someone can cap this lot?

Cash waiting

Out of £23 million made available for home insulation by the government grants in 1978/79, only £8 million were paid out in the first six months. These figures were given by Sir Francis Tombs, Council's Chairman, when speaking to the Royal Institute of British Architects on Thursday, 25th October.

"Simple observation suggests that we have hardly begun to tackle the problem of remedial investment in a building stock which by common consent still has generally the most rudimentary standard of insulation anywhere in Europe," he said.

FOR SALE

Thomson Glenelg touring caravan. Four berth. £1,000. 'Phone J. Davies, Wrexham 840330.

Opel Manta 1.9 S.R. 1977 'S' reg. Red/black with sun-roof. Headlamp wash/wipe—ZX's—20,000 miles—immaculate condition throughout. Dinitrol protected. £3,050 o.n.o. 'Phone: Crewe 841676 (after 6 p.m.).

Great Meeting at Gwynedd District

Good turnout greets guest speaker



Some of the younger generation enjoying their 'pinta'. From left to right: Owie Roberts, Gareth Parry, Gareth Owen, Richard Thomas (kneeling), Arwel Humphreys, 'Guto' Stephens and Melfyn Jones.

LOOKING around the hundred or so members of the Gwynedd District staff attending their Annual Meeting at a Caernarfon hotel a short time ago, the impression of youth—and young at heart—was very strong. Indeed, of all our annual LAC meetings this year it is probable that this Gwynedd get-together boasted the lowest average age.

Raising the average—ever so slightly—was a quartet of pensioners, the first to attend a Gwynedd staff conference for many years.

Everyone was warmly welcomed by Mr. Glyn Dodd (*Group Manager*) who then reviewed the Board's year 1978-79, making comparisons between

MANWEB and Gwynedd District statistics. In almost every case, the District figures proved better than the MANWEB average.

Turning to the problem of thefts of electricity, Mr. Dodd commented that although our Liverpool District had troubles in this direction, Gwynedd too had a number of bad cases. He expressed the Board's gratitude to everyone engaged in the work of uncovering cases of theft and recovering monies.

He went on to thank all the District staff for their good work and achievements for the Board especially during the blizzards of last winter, when engineering staff in the field worked in the most atrocious condi-

Three retired colleagues with Lynne Joyce, our "Girl from MANWEB" and Malcolm Donaldson, extreme right. They are, from left to right: Ianto Williams, Griff Hughes and Roy Jones.



Ifor Nottingham, pint in hand, chats with pensioner Will Evans at the conference.





Snapped by our cameraman, left to right: Eric Phillips, Allan Owen and Dewi Birkett.



Some of the lovely ladies at Gwynedd District. From left to right: Morfudd Roberts, Pauline Jones, Sandra Whiting, Sharon Pritchard and Joyce Morris.

ions, but always ably backed-up by their colleagues at District Office.

After presenting the comprehensive Report of No. 8 LAC, prepared by the Secretary, Mr. Malcolm Donaldson, Mr. Dodd then introduced the guest speaker for the evening, Mr. Des. Lock (*Management Services Officer*).

Mr. Lock talked of his interchange scheme visit to the Detroit Edison Company in America to study their information systems. He found that the Company was responsible for the generation and distribution of electricity to an area twice the size of MANWEB. Like us, the Company was split up into Districts, some having a large concentration of customers and others mainly rural.

He made a point of explaining the publicising of the special telephone numbers reserved for customer questions. Teams of trained operators were able to answer queries on a variety of subjects with the aid of computer information brought up on visual display units.

In addition to identifying details about individual customers, their place on the network could also be pinpointed. "This information," said Mr. Lock, "is invaluable when it comes to tracing faults or breakdowns due to storm damage."

Two groups enjoying the conference. Opposite, from left to right: John Roberts, Cathy Jones, Anne Owen and Ieuan Davies. Below right, from left to right: Linda Owen, John Owen, Paul Taylor and Brian Watkin Jones.



'Caught in the bar,' we see, from left to right: Dennis Jones, Bobby Morris and Conrad Parry.

The operators' performances were illustrated on a section of a check-chart of calls received over a 24-hour period.

Mr. Lock then reported on the action being taken here in MANWEB by the 'Customer Care' groups in our various locations. He concluded by saying that, like the Detroit Edison Company, we in MANWEB need to care for our customers by being efficient, effective and competitive.

His in-depth and informative talk was well received by the District staff, judging by the pertinent and leading questions which followed. Mr. Lock's brief and brisk session helped show that there is tremendous interest in 'Customer Care' in our Gwynedd District.

An 'Open Forum' followed and then the meeting closed with a vote of thanks offered by Mr. Ifor Nottingham (*2nd engineer—System*), who hoped that everyone would benefit from Mr. Lock's talk—especially our customers.



Feeding Hungry Youngsters

SIX-AND-A-HALF thousand young people will have enjoyed an exciting and active summer break this year at the recently-opened Boreatton Park Adventure Holiday Centre sited at the border of our Oswestry District, just north of Shrewsbury.

The youngsters, aged between nine and 13, are introduced to a multi-activity or a creative-activity holiday tailored to give them the maximum of interest, safety and pleasure.

Boreatton Park is the pride and joy of the PGL Young Adventure organisation which had its beginnings 22 years ago when Mr. Peter Lawrence organised canoe camping expeditions on the River Wye.

This beautiful estate of more than 200 acres includes parkland, lots of woods, a river, two lakes farm building and—believe it or not—a heated indoor swimming pool!

The young guests can either spend their time on creative and recreational pursuits or take a fully-active holiday which includes fishing, swimming, abseiling, riding, canoeing, archery, sailing, rifle shooting and a host of other activities, many of which are organised into games and competitions.

MANWEB were called in initially to install lighting and sockets and re-wire the impressive mansion, built in 1855, which is the centrepiece of the estate. Our contract was worth over £3,000.

Then, from our Oswestry District, Mr. Don Wade (*energy sales engineer*) and Miss E. V. Jones (*demonstrator*) arranged a meeting with Mr. Geoff Highfield (*Building Executive, PGL Ltd.*) and Mr. Brian Knell (*Park Director*) to talk about electric catering. As a result of their conversations, the old kitchen situated in a side building adjacent to the mansion, was completely gutted in readiness for the installation of £20,000-worth of gleaming electric catering equipment.

The contract included a double-oven cooking range, a two-tier convection oven, two fryers, and a brat-pan forming a neat island site in the centre of the kitchen. Around the walls are boiling pans, a salamander grill, rotary toaster, slicer, mixer-mincer, pressure water boiler, two hotcupboards, potato peeler and chipper and the ever-necessary electric dishwasher.

An area formerly taken up by an oil storage tank has been successfully converted into a 'walk-in' deep freeze room via a cold room.

Mr. Knell, chef Mr. Alec Fisher and his assistant Mr. Mike Wilson are all well-experienced in catering. The chefs and their staff are kept very busy during the long season preparing and cooking breakfasts and evening meals—with a choice of menu—for up to 600 hungry youngsters. They also make up a similar number of pack-lunches every day together with 'cook-outs' and barbecues around campfires.

Alec is delighted with his all-electric kitchen equipment, especially the convection oven and the deep-freeze room.

Men from MANWEB involved in the installation work were Ray Appleton (*2nd engineer-Installation*), Harry Huxley (*foreman, electrician*) and Len Brookfield, Ron Chetwood, Frank Jones and Philip Morris (*electricians*).



In the well-planned all-electric kitchen at Boreatton Park, E. V. Jones chats with Alec Fisher and Mike Wilson.

'Contact'

Photographic Competition — 1979

AFTER a very slow start, colour transparencies, prints and photographs started to roll in for this year's 'Contact' photographic competition. When the closing date came around, we finished up with more entries from more competitors than we have had for over a decade.

Altogether, 386 entries were received from a record 62 competitors. It was a great effort all round, with entries from each of our Districts and from Head Office. One or two of our pensioners also had a go—one managing to win a consolation prize—and some family members also took part.

In the various sections, with the notable exception of Black and White prints, which continued its downward trend, entries were well up on previous years.

However, in preparing the massive entry for judging, we hit a few snags. A couple of envelopes arrived containing entries and the names of the competitors . . . that is all. No address, no titles, no section nominated. So, if you entered our competition and have not yet had your entries returned, please call us!

Incidentally, all entries went in for judging.

We do thank our judges who were, once again, Mr. John Lightfoot of *Messrs. Lightfoot & Newman, Photographers, Watergate Street, Chester*, and Mr. William Griffiths, chief photographer at Head Office. They were diligent and patient, devoting much time and effort to finding this year's most worthy winners.

We also thank everyone who took the time and trouble to send in entries for the competition.

Unfortunately, only a handful of prizes could be awarded. If you were not a winner this time, then we do hope that you will try again next year.

Black and White Section

BEST PICTURE

"Footsteps"

by Mr. Max Cooksey
Queensferry





'Contact' Photographic

Colour Transparency Section

OUR COVER PICTURE
1st PRIZE — *"Space Odyssey"*
by Mr. Neville R. Evans
Dee Valley District

◁ 2nd PRIZE
"On the Pennine Way"
by Mr. James D. Ashworth
North Mersey District.



(Commended)

◁ *"West View"*
by Mr. Albert R. Lovelady
St. Helens depot,
Mid-Mersey District.

"Morning" ▷
by Mr. Ray C. Stobbart,
Clwyd District.



Animal Section

BEST PICTURE — *"Mare and Foal"* by Mr. Alan Reid,
Mid-Mersey District



(Commended)

"Reflections"
by Mr. Steve W. Holmes
Head Office



Competition 1979

Colour Print Section

1st PRIZE

"Shanklin Village"

by Mr. Andrew Stubbs

Aberystwyth District ▶

2nd PRIZE

"Fachwen Pool"

by Mr. George R. Jones

Newtown depot

▽ Oswestry District.



Human Section

BEST PICTURE
"Hands"

by

Mr. Peter E. Swift,

Test Laboratory

Queensferry. ▶



(Commended)

"Look right, look left"

by Mrs. Kathleen McKenzie

formerly Area 3 (Chester).



Humour Section

BEST PICTURE — *"The Paradox"* by Mr. Ray C. Stobbart,
Clwyd District.



electric living

NEW IN THE SHOPS

HOSTESS CAROUSEL

Ekco have produced a new food warmer which has gone on sale in the MANWEB shops in time for Christmas. The Hostess Carousel is designed to make your dinner-party go with a swing, keeping the food nice and hot until you and your guests are ready to eat.

This very attractive piece of electric tableware is heated by a thermostatically - controlled element of only 110 watts, which is under the circular ceramic dish. The dish, divided into four sections, rotates so diners can help themselves and is covered by a transparent lid with a unique moisture control, which keeps food fresh as well as hot.

After cooking the food, you place it in the Carousel which you leave plugged in. When you sit down at the table, you can disconnect by means of an adaptor—like you can with an electric kettle—so you have no trailing flexes around



your feet at the table. For washing up, just take out the ceramic dish and wash it with other dishes.

Ekco say the Carousel has dozens of uses, as well as keeping casseroles and vegetables hot for everyday meals and informal dinner-parties, it is ideal for serving Chinese, Indian and other take-away meals piping hot.

This is an ideal Christmas gift and the MANWEB selling price is £36.95, which is reduced further for Supply Industry pensioners and employees with the staff discount.

HAVE A HAPPY AND SAFE CHRISTMAS

Take care when you are stringing those fairy lights. Examine the flex and leads carefully before plugging in. Don't do botch-up repairs to the wires—it is not worth taking chances.

If you buy new lights, make sure they are ones with the British Standards kite mark. If you need to change a bulb, switch off before removing the old bulb or placing a new one in the string. Make sure the lights are connected to the mains supply safely by a proper plug: avoid the use of adaptors. Don't let paper or other inflammable decorations near the fairy lights—or any other lights, for that matter.

If you receive electrical gifts for Christmas, if there is no plug on the appliance obey the connection instructions on the flex label.

Remember, the brown lead is live; the blue, neutral; the green and yellow, the earth.

Christmas Daffynitions ...



◀ Fairy Lights !!

Christmas Decorations ▶



Hot Trifle

As a cold sweet, trifle takes some beating, but at this time of year it is nice to have something hot to finish off the winter's meal, so here is a recipe for a hot trifle.

Ingredients

Half a Swiss roll
1 small tin of fruit cocktail
2 level tablespoons custard powder
1 or 2 eggs, separated
Sugar
 $\frac{3}{4}$ pint milk

Method

Slice the Swiss roll and line a glass oven dish. Cover with drained fruit cocktail.

Mix the custard powder, the yolks of the separated eggs and a tablespoon of sugar in a little milk, making a smooth cream. Place the rest of the milk in a saucepan to heat.

When nearly boiling, pour onto custard powder mix and stir well. Return the milk with the mixture to the pan and bring to the boil, stirring continuously. Pour the custard mix over the fruit.

Whisk egg whites until stiff and gradually whisk in two tablespoons of sugar for each egg white.

Cover the trifle with meringue, dust with sugar and bake for 10-15 minutes, or until lightly brown.

Christmas Mulled Wine

When that man in the red suit calls on Christmas Eve, or any other friends who drop in, dish out nice warm drink like a mulled wine.

If you visit senior demonstrator Ann Reney-Smith, here is the one she will be serving you. It is cheap, simple and a nice drink into the bargain.

You need:—

2 oz. brown sugar
 $\frac{1}{2}$ pint water
1 bottle cheap red plonk

A COOK'S TOUR — GREECE

On these cold winter days, it is nice to look ahead to summer holidays and lots of sun. One very popular sunspot these days is Greece, the cradle of democracy—although those colonels did rock the cradle a little hard a few years back.

Greece has the Parthenon, those beautiful islands, beaches, the sea and picturesque tavernas, where you might be served our travelling cook's dish—a sort of lamb stew they call:—

Arni Kapama

Ingredients (4 portions)

1½ oz. butter
1 lb. diced leg of lamb (1" cubes)
2 sliced carrots
1 green pepper—seeded
3 tomatoes—skinned and chopped



1 cinnamon stick
a tot of brandy or rum.

Dissolve the sugar in the quarter pint of water, add the brandy or rum, then the wine. Heat the mixture in a pan but be careful not to let it boil. Drop in a cinnamon stick and keep in a warm place for about 20 minutes while the ingredients infuse.

Serve with hot mince pies. Delicious! Oh yes, make sure you have another bottle of plonk—they will probably want more.

2 cartons yoghurt
4 oz. raisins
salt, pepper and chopped mint
water or beef stock

Method

Melt the butter in a saucepan, add carrots and meat, season with salt and pepper, cover with stock, bring to the boil, cover pan and simmer for an hour.

Add diced pepper and tomatoes and simmer for another hour.

Add more stock if required, stir in yoghurt and raisins, sprinkle with mint and serve, on its own, on a bed of boiled rice or with boiled potatoes.

Recipe—Dave Ollier, Taylor Plan Catering.

Game Casserole

What to do with the left-over turkey, chicken, goose, etc. Try a Game Casserole: for four persons you need:—

1 lb. diced or chopped meat
(turkey, etc.)
1 tin game soup
1 onion, chopped
1 oz. plain flour
1 oz. lard
vegetables—turnips, swedes,
carrots, celery, etc.
salt, pepper, mixed herbs.

Melt the lard in a pan and lightly cook the chopped onion; add vegetables, then add meat.

Meanwhile, pour the contents of the tin of soup and the flour into a liquidiser and blend. Pour this mixture into the meat and veg., add the salt, pepper and mixed herbs.

You can either simmer for half an hour on the cooker plate or, if you wish, pop into the oven for the same period.

Serve either on a bed of rice or with boiled potatoes and seasonal broccoli.



Our Mid-Cheshire District installation team, from left to right: Messrs. Jim Bird (installation engineer), Graham Dunn, Seamus Cronin, Ian Byrom, Graham Atkins, John G. Best, Steve Russett, Ken McDean and Bill Jones (foreman).

Rapid Re-lighting contract completed by Men from MANWEB

ANYONE who has driven along the roads of Britain—and Europe—will have surely seen heavy lorries and tankers with the letters E.R.F. spread across the radiator. Many thousands of these vehicles have been produced at the E.R.F. Ltd. factory at Sandbach, Cheshire.

It was there, a short time ago, that a team of MANWEB electricians moved in one Friday night, as the firm's work force left for a week's holiday.

Over the next nine days, the men from MANWEB removed the existing lighting circuits and fittings in

Instant installation by the Men from MANWEB with the new fluorescent system lighting one of the production bays at the E.R.F. factory.



The Importance of Staff Involvement

The *Customer Care* theme—a major topic at LAC-organised staff conferences this year—was continued at Clwyd District's gathering when the guest speaker was Board PRO Keith Baldwin, with "Keeping Them Happy" as his subject.

More than 100 staff and pensioners gathered at the Derbyshire Miners' Holiday Centre in Rhyl for the occasion, enjoying the customary excellent meal and a pleasant social get-together after the business side of the evening had been completed.

A warm welcome was extended by Group Manager Glyn Dodd, and this was followed by a report on the year's work by LAC secretary Denis Atkinson.

Analysing the events which led to the adoption of the *Customer Care* programme, Mr. Baldwin said that the last ten years had changed the role of the electricity industry in many ways, bringing new challenges to us all.

"Energy today is a burning issue—not just in MANWEB, not just in Britain, but throughout the world," he said.

"The rocketing price of coal and oil brought to an end the age of cheap energy, and resulted in a sharp rise in the price of electricity. These developments

dragged our industry away from its traditional position as the quiet, efficient provider of a vital public service into the blood and sand of the social and political arena."

The stresses and pressures brought about by rising fuel prices, combined with the trend towards centralisation and computerisation, had resulted in a deterioration in the relationships between the electricity industry and the public, said Mr. Baldwin. These problems had been recognised, and had led to the adoption of the *Customer Care* programme throughout the industry.

Summarising the work already carried out in the MANWEB organisation, the speaker said that there had been big efforts to improve our administrative system, to clear away methods of work which smacked of bureaucracy, and to draw the staff into consultation. But it was recognised that real improvements would only be brought about if the entire staff was committed to the idea, and involved in the process.

A great deal of work remained to be done, especially in the field of staff consultation, and it was recognised that the feelings of the staff about MANWEB as an employer were bound to affect their attitude towards the public.

Employees would soon be asked to take part in an opinion survey, which would be organised through *Contact*, designed to measure staff feelings about the good or not-so-good points of working for MANWEB, and it was hoped that everyone would respond so that the survey would be a true mirror of staff opinion.

Rapid Re-lighting—continued

the production bays and replaced them with a completely new fluorescent system. The installation involved the wiring and siting of 92 twin tube units in six banks, running the whole length of this section of the factory.

By the time the E.R.F. workers returned on the Monday morning, the whole job was completed and production of the world-famous vehicles continued.

The new lighting system now matches the high standard of 500 lux, previously installed by the Board's staff in the firm's assembly section.

Each vehicle coming off the production line at E.R.F.—the Rolls Royce of the heavy lorry world—is made to the customer's exact specifications. When one considers the many permutations of engines, gear boxes, axles, type of cab, etc., it is a credit to all concerned that each of the 16 completed vehicles leaving the factory every working day is perfect in every way.

Very soon, E.R.F. will be opening another factory

at Gresford, near Wrexham. From the very early stages in the planning of this new factory, the E.R.F. management have been in touch with MANWEB's Dee Valley District staff.

They obviously know that they will get the same excellent MANWEB service, advice and work as they have received from the Mid-Cheshire District team.

Mr. Bob Huxley (1st engineer—installation), left, chats with **Mr. Geoff. Simms** (Group Services Engineer, E.R.F. Ltd.).





At the opening ceremony of the "Power to Wrexham" exhibition we see, from left to right: Miss Lynne Joyce ("The Girl from MANWEB"), Councillor Michael Williams (Chairman of the Development Committee), Sir David Davies, Councillor and Mrs. John J. Myers (Mayor and Mayoress of Wrexham Maelor) and Mr. Ron Williams (Dee Valley District Commercial Engineer).

Powerful Exhibitions at Wrexham . . .

CLOSE on 2,000 people, including top management and senior engineers from local industry and commerce, plus organised parties of students, visited the three-day "Power to Wrexham" exhibition staged at the Memorial Hall a short time ago.

The over-riding purpose of the venture was to demonstrate Wrexham's welcoming approach to new industry and its helpfulness in furthering expansion in existing companies.

Organised and jointly-sponsored by MANWEB's Dee Valley District and the Wrexham Maelor Borough Council, the exhibition was officially opened by Sir David Davies, Chairman of the Welsh Development Agency.

He spoke of efforts being made in the Wrexham area to reduce the unemployment figure from 13 per

cent. to 12 per cent.—still well above the national average.

With this honest approach to the disturbing unemployment rate, the exhibition countered by showing some of the many advantages industrialists might gain by coming into the area.

A cross-section of some 25 local firms—large and small—displayed a wide range of goods made locally, demonstrating the wide diversity of industry which had come to Wrexham in recent years. Many of the new companies were proving the success of their gamble on their move to the area.

Exhibits had activity and interest with the use of models and craftsmen at work. Skills were highlighted and technology demonstrated to show how Wrexham was firmly staking its claim for a place in the

MANWEB installation men demonstrate their skills to a group of students visiting their stand at the exhibition. Tremendous interest was generated from this exhibit throughout the three days of the show.



new industrial scene.

MANWEB craftsmen working on electrical installations and equipment attracted a great deal of interest. On another section of our exhibit, demonstrations of micro-wave cookery were given to prompt questions and promote our service in the field of commercial catering.

In addition to advising and aiding industrialists in the conservation of energy, MANWEB specialist staff were on hand to explain new techniques for increasing production and reducing running costs in many manufacturing processes.

From the exhibition's opening, with a V.I.P. reception by Wrexham Maelor Borough Council with guest speaker Mr. John Clement (Permanent Under-Secretary of State for Wales—Industry), to its close, climaxed by an evening reception, hosted by the Board for 150 top engineers and managers who heard Mr. Alan Kirkpatrick, manager of Wylfa power station, speak about the future of nuclear power, the emphasis rested on promoting the area and its future.

With Wrexham's eyes now concentrated northwards to the skies of Shotton and the closure of the mighty steelworks, it is important that more events on the lines of the "Power to Wrexham" exhibition should be arranged to help introduce new industry to an area now offering increased grant aid.

Some time after the exhibition closed, Mr. Don Hinsley (*energy sales engineer, Dee Valley*) commented:—

"In meeting so many people in local government, industry, commerce—and even some of our domestic customers—I have the feeling that MANWEB's image in the District is riding high—higher than I have ever experienced before. I can only put it down to the success of our exhibition. All MANWEB staff were on top form throughout the three-day show. So much so that we must have made many new friends



A bird's eye view of the well-planned layout in the Memorial Hall, Wrexham, which housed 25 exhibitors.

in addition to strengthening our case with our old friends."

It was a double-headed event for Councillor John J. Myers, who attended the exhibition as the present Mayor of Wrexham Maelor and as a member of MANWEB Head Office staff.

Our Commercial colleagues in Oswestry District took stand space in the "Oswestry

at Work" industrial exhibition held recently in the town's Leisure Centre. Our picture, left, shows a group of V.I.P.'s on the Board's stand. From left to right, we see, Messrs. Don Wade (*energy sales engineer*), John Dugdale (*H.M. Lieutenant for the County of Salop*), Councillor Geraint Pritchard (*Mayor of Oswestry Borough*), Mr. Doug. Barnes (*industrial sales engineer*) and Dillwyn T. Davies (*Chief Executive Officer, Oswestry B.C.*).

... and at Oswestry



ALMA METER

by Harry Whewell

WHEN did you last talk to your meter reader? Lonely housewives on desolate housing estates are popularly supposed to feel differently, but I have never found the visits of the man from "the Gas" or his colleague from "the Electricity" conducive to cosy chats. They almost invariably arrive when I'm in the bath or lagging the roof space or am ten minutes late for wherever I'm going. So we don't usually get much beyond "Watch out for the washing" or "I'm sorry, the light bulb has gone again down there." But when the "electric man" came on Monday I was having a mid-morning cup of coffee and there was another left in the pot so he sat down in the kitchen and had it and we talked about morality.

I'd begun with something fairly banal about didn't he get bored with endlessly reading little dials and writing the figures down in his book. And when he wasn't bored, wasn't he frustrated at having to grope his way through dark cellars or into glory holes under stairs or beneath sinks in order to get at the dials. He dismissed the boredom by recalling some of the odder things he'd found under sinks and stairs and then explained that he wasn't always reading meters. From time to time he'd been called on to deal with people who had to be disconnected for not paying their accounts and there was nothing of the mindless routine about that process.

I mumbled sympathetically about how distressing it must be and he took me up sharply. If I had any ideas about old ladies living in one room flats being cut off without fires or radiators in the depths of winter, I could forget about them. If I had any visions of unmarried mothers being deprived of the means of

heating their babies' milk, I could clear these away from my mind too. He admitted that there might have been many such cases years ago, might even be the odd one today but he'd never come across one. If no one else summoned help for such unfortunates, there were people in his own office who would do it. Putting the response at its lowest level, the Board wouldn't want the unfavourable publicity that would follow from harsh dealing with people having hard times.

It was not hard times that caused the trouble, my visitor said, but hard cases. Not little old ladies trying to get by on very little but big strapping chaps not trying at all on a great deal. He went on to list cases, and though impressed by his fervour much of his evidence had that familiar ring that sets interest and concentration straying. Well, what was to be done, I said, did he have a solution? He had. A new code of morality which took account of the world as it was today, not as it was hundreds of years ago.

"Some of the people I have to deal with don't believe in paying anybody if they can help it. But they are not the majority. Most of them would pay their mates back if they borrowed a quid. They pay the greengrocer and the butcher, people they know and

can see. But the Electricity Board and the Gas Board, that's a different thing entirely. But why is it? They have had the service, why not pay the bill? I could understand people who didn't pay the rent years ago when it went to some private landlord who wouldn't spend a penny on repairs. But we are not in business to make big profits out of people and, of course, those who do pay have to pay for those who don't as well."

"But," I insisted, "what do you think should be done about it?"

"Look," he replied, "I go to church but I've never heard the priest tell us that using electricity when you don't intend to pay for it is stealing, just like taking something from Woolworths that you don't intend to pay for. My kids go to school but as far as I can make out, none of the teachers ever explains to them how the good payers are always carrying the bad payers. The newspapers don't help either. There's a lot they could do if they tried and weren't always talking about bureaucracy and hard hearted officials."

"And there's another thing," he concluded, "people forget that chaps like me are really doing their dirty work for them. I don't enjoy tangling with the bad payers and getting them cut off. But someone's got to do it, otherwise your bills would be even higher than they are. We deserve a bit of sympathy, I reckon."

I said that at least I had listened to him, and had even talked when I could get a word in. Try talking to your meter reader next time he calls. There may be more on his mind than units.

We gratefully acknowledge this article written by Harry Whewell for a Grassroots feature in "The Guardian".

Restaurant
&
Coffee House

the
Beefeater
LICENSED Tel 33566

Still All-Electric

**QUICK-OFF-THE-MARK
MOVE BY CHRISTINE**

WHILE going through her regular check of local council planning applications, our diligent demonstrator from Clwyd District, Miss Christine Hughes, found that the Board's former shop at 10 Station Road, Colwyn Bay, was to become a restaurant named 'The Beefeater'.

She was quick off the mark, making an approach to the new owner Mr. Christopher Lowe to suggest that the premises should stay all-electric.

Clwyd District demonstrator Christine Hughes, left, chats with a customer in the restaurant, with two of the attractive waitresses in the background.



The chef carefully prepares a dish in *The Beefeater* kitchen.

Coming from a local family well established in the catering field, Mr. Lowe knew of the many benefits afforded by electricity. He asked our Christine to design a working kitchen which would provide quick wine-bar meals to include pizzas, steaks, hamburgers etc., in addition to set three-course luncheons.

Among the items now installed is a cooker range with a special char-broiler which simulates the charcoal style cooking of steaks and hamburgers. This new appliance is probably the first of its kind to be utilised in our area.

Other equipment includes two micro-wave ovens, a six-kilowatt grill, two commercial toasters, a coffee-maker, steam-injection boiler, bain-marie and a waffle iron. In all, over £3,000-worth of electrical aids have been supplied and installed.

The dining area is efficiently heated by electric storage radiators and all the hot water throughout the premises is heated by electricity.

We wish every success to Mr. Lowe in his new all-electric restaurant now catering for many of the visitors to Colwyn Bay.

Christmas Crossword

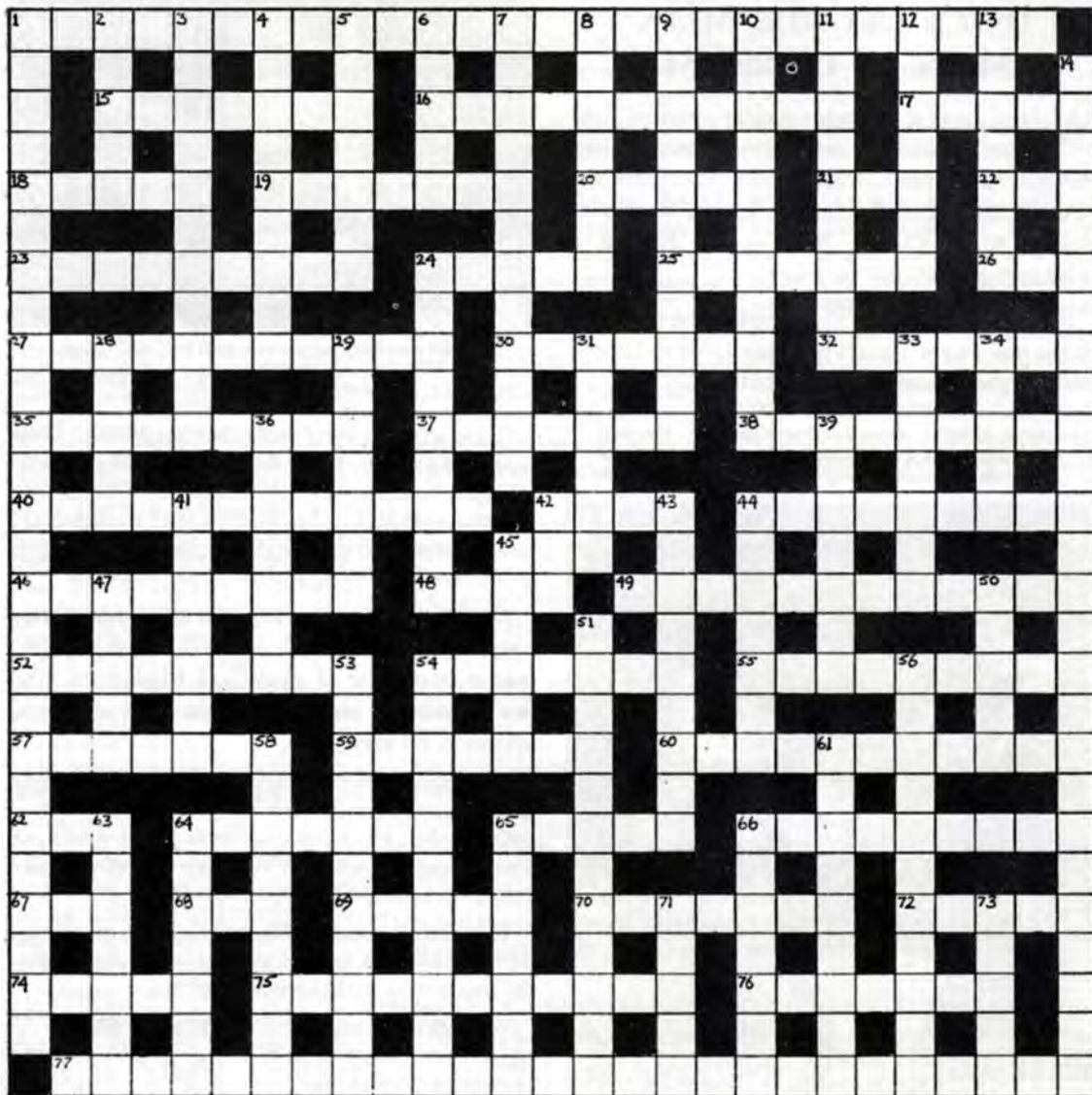
From past experience we know that all our crossword enthusiasts like nothing better than a monster puzzle to sharpen wits which may have become a little dulled with a surfeit of festive goodies.

Once more our crossword-setting genius Mr. F. G. Lott has achieved the impossible by coming up with a fresh set of clues and answers tailored to fit the same 'blank' which has now been used for five years on the run! Prizes of £5 will go to the senders of the first three all-correct solutions opened. Closing date—14th January.

Competition open to staff, pensioners, and their families. Entries to *The Editor, Contact, MANWEB, Sealand Road, Chester, CH1 4LR.* Plain paper entries will be accepted—but only one entry per person please. Please mark your envelope "Crossword".

Clues Across

- 1 Disoriented re-run of Robert the sweet poet's art film (3,8,2,7,6)
- 15 Claim to the nettle I grasp (7)
- 16 Prosaic perambulators (11)
- 17 End of Ted, a terrible man for bed (5)
- 18 Poets create hindrance in court (5)
- 19 Shaped like the London cricket ground around it (7)
- 20 Hope returns when children start to go in at this age (5)



- 21 Evita wouldn't be herself without it (3)
 22 Worn by Japanese in the West Indies? (3)
 23 Gladys' rig-out is in the ash-tree (9)
 24 Strap-back separates (5)
 25 Shorten a way over (7)
 26 Drunk (3)
 27 Mince chop they eat as an act of faith (11)
 30 Flimsy dress to line with egg (7)
 32 A tirade may wander from the point (7)
 35 State of a learner when put into a vice (9)
 37 Reach around on underground river . . . (7)
 38 . . . when you cross the divide (9)
 40 Tell-tale-tit language (6-6)
 42 See 7
 44 Should Orlando be a highway-man? (9)
 45 Così . . . Tutte (Mozart) (3)
 46 Odd like a disc with a slipped centre (9)
 48 Told fuddled stupid person (4)
 49 Impervious to attack; ill-abuse as an alternative (12)
 52 Decorate a bride more casually (9)
 54 Timor on ice? Not much sense in it (7)
 55 Musical instruments with tones on the outside (9)
 57 Crackle crackle (7)
 59 River of wine (7)
 60 Louisa's all zip so remove the stone (5,6)
 62 Some sophistry can be propitiatory (3)
 64 Drink and a Japanese coin note produces Chinese ivy root cure (7)
 65 Money-saver (5)
 66 Common quest of Lohengrin and Sir Galahad (4,5)
 67 Much abbreviated in Shakespeare (3)
 68 It gave Sinbad a lift (3)
 69 Police district in the underworld (5)
 70 Expects conkers to be broken (7)
 72 What Parisiennes say to the same thing (5)
 74 Board in medium use (5)
 75 Reduce perspective with stone for her (11)
 76 Not favoured by Mrs Spratt (4,3)
 77 "
 And the hunter home from the hill" (R L Stevenson) (4,2,3,6, 4,4,3)
- Clues Down**
- 1 "
 —A time to be born and a time to die" (Ecclesiastes) (2,5,5,5,2,1,6)
 2 Happens in an uneven test (5)
 3 City painter unlikely cure for fever (11)
 4 Turn up one's nose(9)
 5 Not a four-leafed clover (7)
 6 Said soft centre is savoury (5)
 7 and 42 across Busker with good pitch to play to the stars? (7,2,3,4)
 8 Spinster twisted right out of supports (7)
 9 A penny black hasn't got one (11)
 10 Australian friar-bird in Surrey (11)
 11 Holds up or hangs down (9)
 12 Departed in disarray without a penny with much formality (3,4)
 13 Jealous of some men and five holographs (7)
 14 "Stands the clock at ten to three . . ." (Rupert Brooke) (3,2,5,5,5,3,3)
 24 Successfully urged to deliver up about a poor start (9)
- 28 Centre half in football, for example (5)
 29 Not likely to decay (7)
 31 Waits in France (6)
 33 Plunder, kind of lop-sided and a penny short (7)
 34 " . . . no bigger than an . . . stone On the forefinger of an alderman" (R & J) (5)
 36 Rated it unconventional to wear clothes (7)
 39 Portuguese money (7)
 41 Green town (7)
 42 Animal's back salt (3)
 43 Cable railway (9)
 44 What people wait for at it (3,4)
 45 All for the Cornish dance (6)
 47 One of a pair of braces thrown in the Highlands (5)
 50 South African language (5)
 51 Reciprocal relativity of revised rate revision (7,5)
 53 Portrait painter visits swamp in Kent (6,5)
 54 They're no Lotharios . . . (11)
 56 . . . while his conquests are legion (11)
 58 They restrict one's grasp of things (9)
 61 Slack firs altered to fit round the neck (4,5)
 63 From provision take in a condition (7)
 64 Apposite for a Continental to head east (7)
 65 Inventor needs a micron (7)
 66 A rowdy (7)
 71 Triton's wreathed horn (5)
 73 Carries around end of 72 set-up (5)

Obituary

Mr. J. Bloomfield, aged 82, a St. Helens substation attendant prior to his retirement in 1962 after 33 years' service.

Mr. C. George Hansen, aged 54, Norris Green shop supervisor. George had worked in our industry for 30 years and he served as Chairman of the North Mersey District Sports and Social Club.

Mr. George Howell, substation attendant at Crewe Grid. He had been with the Board for 24 years.

Mr. George Lambert, aged 78, a former electrician at Runcorn until he retired in 1966 after more than 50 years' service.

Mr. Charles Anthony McCulloch, a joiner in the North Wirral District prior to his retirement in 1972.

Mr. John E. Podmore, aged 68, a labourer in North Wirral District until his retirement in 1976 after 28 years' service.

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



Mr. Kirkham (wearing glasses) has a farewell handshake from Mr. Grenville Roberts (foreman) as colleagues gather round.

RETIREMENTS

Mr. C. KIRKMAN

Mr. Charlie Kirkman, engineering assistant at Clwyd District, retired some little time ago after a 46-year career in the industry.

Charlie, who began as an electrician with Bolton Corporation, spent the war years serving with the RAF in North Africa. After the war, he joined MANWEB as an electrician, later being promoted to installation inspector, charge-hand and, finally, engineering assistant.

During his younger days, he was a keen footballer, but later turned to the more sedate hobby of stamp collecting. On behalf of his friends he was presented with an assortment of electrical goods.

Mrs. JESSIE WILLIAMS

After 14 years spent looking after the "inner man" (and woman!) of those patronising the Rhostyllen canteen, assistant cook Mrs. Jessie Williams has retired.

Jessie was accompanied by her husband at a friendly gathering when D.A.O. Arthur Ellinson presented her with a carriage clock on behalf of many of those she has helped to keep in fighting trim over the years.

Unfortunately, Jessie "got her feet up" a few weeks before her official retirement, when she sustained a broken leg. Her friends wish her a complete and speedy recovery and a long and happy retirement.

Mr. J. E. TAYLOR

After 48 years' service to the industry, Mr. Joe Taylor, installation inspector with our Dee Valley District based at New Crane Street, Chester, retired recently.

At a social gathering held at the Penyffordd Social Club, he was



Above: Surrounded by friends, Mrs. Jessie Williams (fourth from left) receives her retirement gift from Mr. Arthur Ellinson. Jessie's husband 'Pally' is in the centre of the picture.

Below: Our photograph, by courtesy of "The Wrexham Leader" shows from left to right: Mr. Joe Forrester, Mr. and Mrs. Joe Taylor and Mrs. Carol Clarke.



presented with a cheque on behalf of his colleagues by Joe Forrester, (installation engineer). Mrs. Taylor was presented with a bouquet by Mrs. Carol Clarke.

Mr. A. J. WATTS

Mr. Albert Watts, storekeeper at Crewe depot, has retired after nearly 20 years' service.

Albert joined the Board from the "Co-op", working at Sandbach prior to re-organisation, when he moved to Crewe, where he served as a member of the Local Advisory Committee.

On behalf of his many friends, he was presented with a wrist watch by D.A.O. Mike Metcalfe, together with their wishes for a long and happy retirement.

Mr. H. BOTT

After 30 years' service with MANWEB as a fitter mechanic, Mr. Harry Bott has now retired from his job at the St. Helens depot in the Mid-Mersey District.

Harry was an apprentice in the 1930's and he became a specialist on motor-cycles. Then, during the war years, he served with the Royal Engineers for six years, spending some of this time in Belgium and Ireland. He joined MANWEB in 1950 and, in the words of Mid-Cheshire Production Engineer Mr. Bill Evans, "has been a good servant for the Board, with hardly a day's illness in all of his 30 years."

Colleagues throughout the District subscribed to

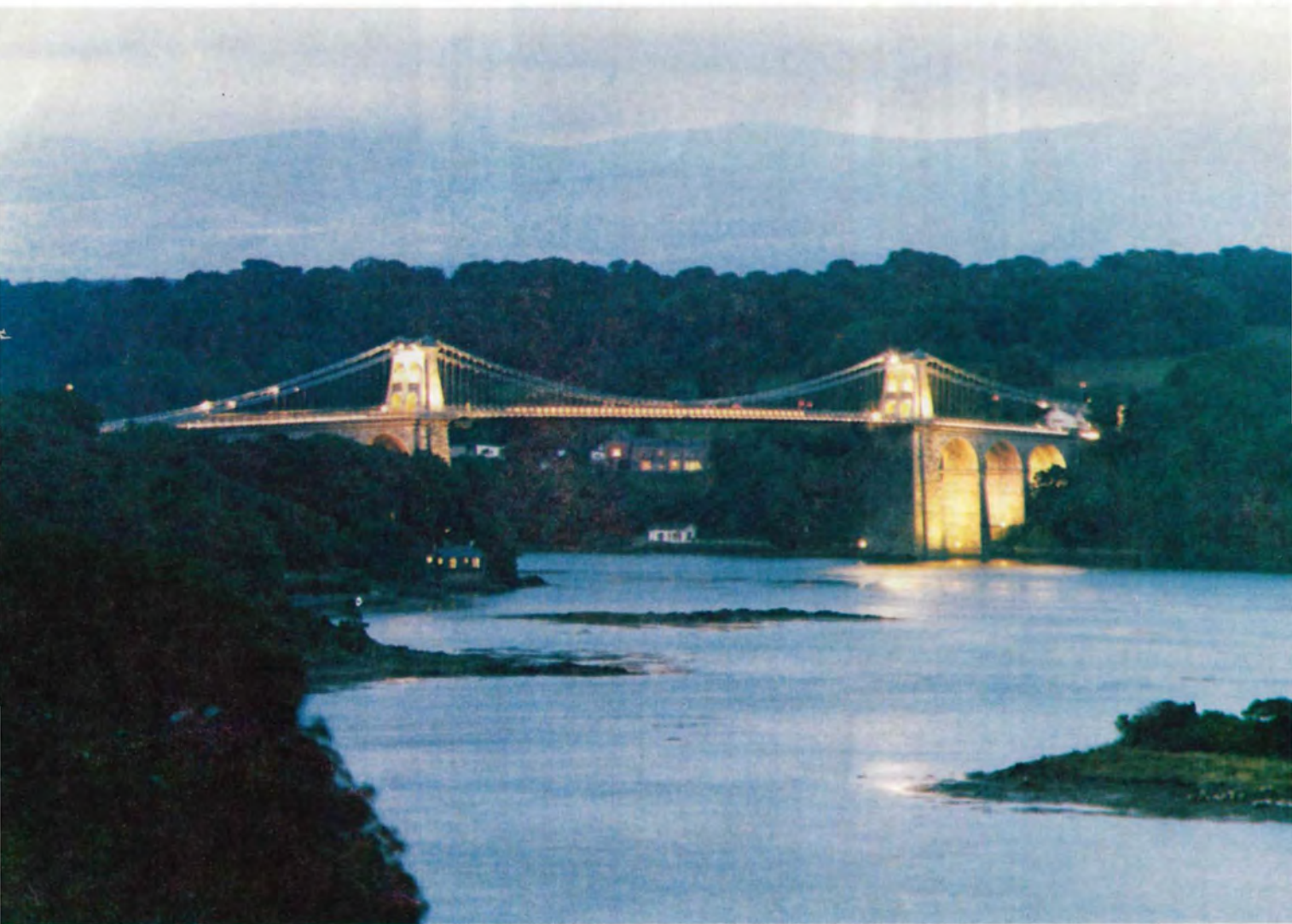
present Harry with a retirement gift of a carriage clock and some cash. His wife Elsie was handed a bouquet of flowers.

Among the host of friends at the farewell ceremony were Messrs. Jack Townsend (*former Area 2 transport manager*), Harold Thorpe (*former District transport supervisor*), Ron McShane (*2nd engineer, Pumpfields depot*), Ron Bilton and Ken Tatler (*District transport supervisors for Mid-Mersey and Mid-Cheshire respectively*).

In retirement, Harry will turn to his gardening and do-it-yourself activities. He is also looking forward to taking his wife on trips organised by the District's retired employees' group.

Friends gather round at St. Helens depot as Mr. Bill Evans, front left, presents Mr. Harry Bott with a farewell gift as Miss Molly Rochford, extreme right, hands a bouquet to Mrs. Elsie Bott.





"Menai Bridge by Floodlight." Picture by Mr. E. Rogers, A.R.P.S.(see story in next month's Contact)