



# CONTACT

## Privatisation talk poses the question

# HAS MANWEB A FUTURE ?

**SPECULATION** is rife over the future of the electricity supply industry. The news media continues to drum up pundits on power—some expert and some not-so-expert. Too many people are pontificating on how the industry should be privatised, creating confusion in the minds of staff and customers.

Uppermost in the minds of many MANWEB staff will be the future of the Area Electricity Boards. What are the facts and the options open to the Government?

One fact is certain: the Government intend privatisation of the electricity supply industry within the next two or three years. The Secretary of State for Energy, Cecil Parkinson, promised the Tory Party Conference earlier this year that he would introduce competition into the generation of electricity, and that the industry would not be privatised as one large monopoly.

There was a "natural monopoly" in the distribution of electricity to customers. He told his fellow Conservatives that he could not see a customer having two light-switches, side-by-side, in their homes, from competing distribution companies. Area Boards, such as MANWEB, only account for 20 per cent of total cost of the customer's electricity bill. It was in the area of generation that he thought greater savings could be made by introducing competition.

What, then, are the most logical and likely alternatives methods of privatising the Area Boards?

The three favourites are, firstly, to create a single holding company, with 12 regional companies—probably the easiest to sell; secondly, merge two or more Area Boards into one company; or, thirdly, create individual companies out of the existing Boards.

One man who should know the Minister's plans better than most is MANWEB Chairman Bryan Weston. He has been in contact with Mr. Parkinson, his civil servants and their advisers over the last few months. Shortly after listening to the Secretary of State, Mr. Weston addressed the Dee Valley LJCC Open Meeting. He said that he expected the Minister to make an announcement in the New Year—probably in March. It was difficult to predict the outcome, as there was no consensus of opinion in the industry.

The option Mr. Weston preferred was "MANWEB plc"—a separate company serving the same area now

served by MANWEB. He believed this would be the best option for the customers of the area and for the staff. Customers had a sense of identity with MANWEB and, as a private company, it would have a major impact on the economy of the region.

There were no significant technical or economic grounds for amalgamation with other Boards. The policy and administrative centre for Merseyside and North Wales must be in the area.

Mr. Weston and the MANWEB Board believed that MANWEB plc was a logical option. If it was to come about, everyone in the present organisation had to face up to the challenge. The "money men" of the City had to be convinced that MANWEB plc was a viable prospect. The return on capital investment had to be increased, and MANWEB had to be—and be seen to be—an efficient and modern organisation.

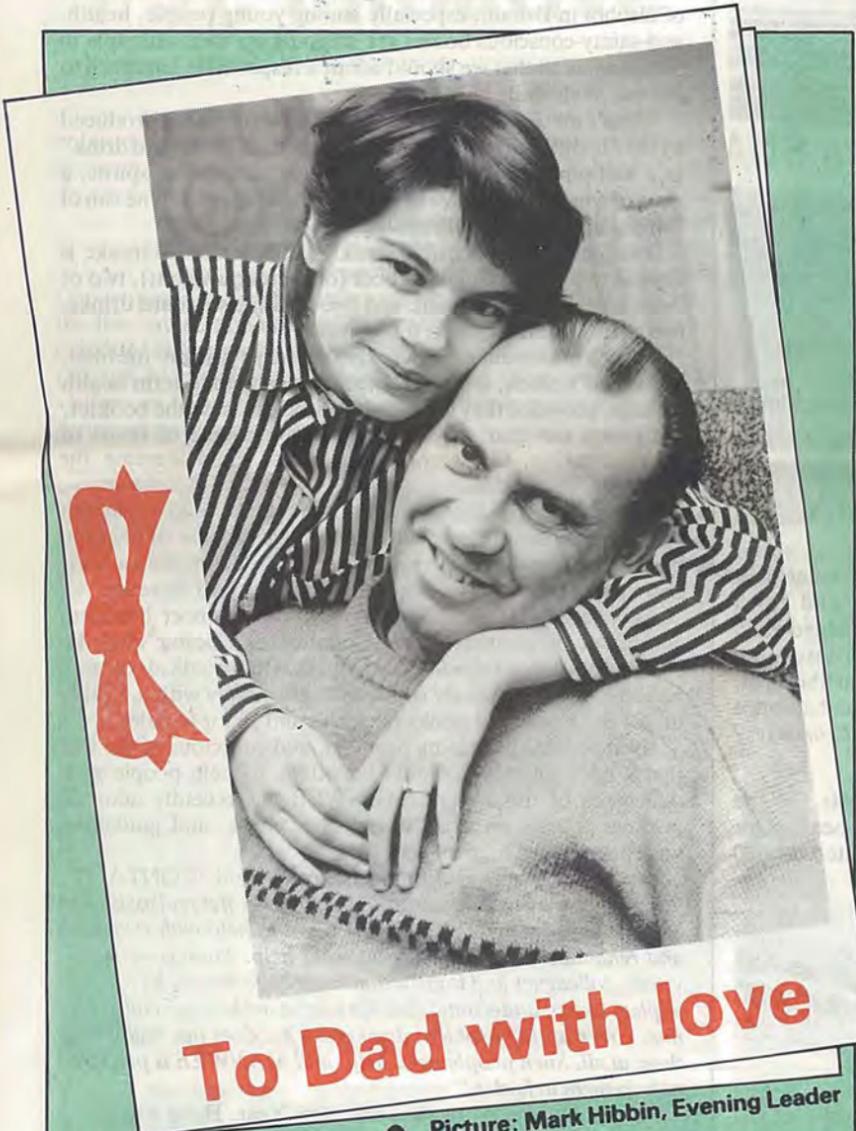
The Chairman has seen successful electricity undertakings in a number of other countries. In America, the

customer expected an exceptional service at a reasonable cost. There, the electricity utilities had to prove and convince the regulating body that price increases were necessary. Neither MANWEB staff nor customers should fear that privatisation will drive down standards. In the USA, standards had been driven up.

There were a number of factors in favour of MANWEB plc, number one being the loyalty and quality of the present MANWEB staff. In addition, there were also tangible objects to take the organisation into the future, like the new Computer Centre, to serve the whole of MANWEB, being built at Chester; the new telephone exchanges being introduced to give customers better service; the communications network and the asset replacement programme, to ensure a sound distribution system.

In addition, there is the meter modernisation programme, to tackle theft; the Ambassador Club and increased marketing, to improve sales; the number and training of apprentices, to provide staff for the future.

Mr. Weston told Dee Valley District staff at their open meeting: "We have everything going for us. We must persuade the Government that MANWEB plc is the right organisation to serve the region. We will then have two years to make certain that MANWEB becomes MANWEB plc as a successful profitable company, giving the best value for money to our customers and shareholders."



### To Dad with love

Picture: Mark Hibbin, Evening Leader

## Rachael's Gift

A LOVING daughter gave her father a special gift this Christmas—a new life—in what is thought to be the first child-to-parent kidney transplant operation.

Rachael Lewis, a 19-year-old catering assistant, donated one of her kidneys to her father, Dennis, a former driver from Queensferry. The operation was carried out at the Royal Liverpool Hospital recently.

Dennis was forced to quit his job as an HGV driver with MANWEB when his condition became too bad. He had been on dialysis treatment, but his health continued to deteriorate, and daughter Rachael could not bear to see her Dad suffer so much.

She offered a kidney, but Dennis refused; but Rachael was determined to be a donor, and eventually persuaded Dennis to accept.

The story of love and courage was picked up by the news media. After the operation, Dennis told *The Mail on Sunday* that he did not

● TURN TO PAGE TWO

## Ambassador Jackpot

### 100,000 Winner

Mid-Cheshire District Manager Ken Crabtree presents a "cheque" for 100,000 Ambassador points to electrician Craig Barley, winner of the "sign-on" draw

● 85% Join—p. 3



● FROM PAGE 1  
**Rachael's  
 Christmas  
 gift**

want her to take the risk, "... but Rachael decided it was what she wanted. She has shown incredible courage. They don't come any braver than my daughter!". Dennis left Queensferry Stores four years ago, taking ill-health retirement at the age of 47. No one at his former workplace knew about the operation.

Executive Officer Bobby Wright told 'CONTACT': "We read the news in the paper, and everyone here is absolutely delighted. Dennis was such a popular guy."

Financial Manager Peter Falcon commented, "I remember Dennis very well, and I was sad that he had to retire. Everyone at Queensferry liked him—he was such a helpful sort. He would do anything for anyone—and for MANWEB. It is really great news that he has a chance for a better life—and what a marvellous daughter he has."

To Dennis we send our good wishes with those of his friends at the 'Ferry, and to Rachael—we salute you, a young lady of great courage.



Commercial Director Peter Hopkins, left, shelters Mrs. Sally Frith as she receives the keys to her Metro Medallion from Chairman Bryan Weston. Meanwhile, young Amy finds the balloons a lot more interesting

## 'Gold Rush' car winner

A CHESTER mother found out that she had won a new car in an Electricity Council-organised competition on her daughter's first birthday.

Mrs. Sally Frith took her little lucky charmer, Amy, to pick up the keys from MANWEB Chairman Bryan Weston, at Sealand Road, and her brand-new Metro Medallion.

The Electricity Council organised the "Gold Rush" competition for house-hunters who visited the Medallion Award sites during the month of June. All visitors were entitled to enter an instant-win competition for lesser prizes. Buyers who confirmed their intention to buy a Medallion home were eligible to compete for the star prize—a new Metro Medallion. There

was one for each of the 12 Area Electricity Boards.

Mrs. Frith and her husband, Peter, bought their all-electric home at Bridge Court, Chester, which had been built to Medallion standards by Dean Brothers of Christleton. It was Sally Frith who entered the competition, winning the car by answering a series of questions and providing a tie-breaker.

The Frith's new home is a three-bedroomed end town house, which, like all Medallion homes, has a high insulation standard to keep in the heat, provided by less-than-half-price electricity on the *Economy 7* tariff.

The running costs for the heating and water-heating for the house are estimated at £4.20 per week.

## More Medallions

... In North Wirral, Ron Jones, Energy Marketing Engineer, below, left, presents a Medallion Award to John Lucas of Stier Homes for the 27 warden-assisted houses on the site of the former YMCA building in Hoylake, watched by Granada TV's Charles Foster

... In Mid-Mersey, District Manager Glyn Norbury, on the right of the right-hand picture, presents the Managing Director of Stirling Homes, Arthur Abercrombie, with a Medallion Award for 43 retirement/starter homes in Merrydale Mews, Lymm. Between them are Trevor Birchenough, Stirling sales manager, left, and John Ellis, Energy Marketing Engineer



# ALCOHOL

## 'That's the Limit'

### —a guide for health

THE approach of Christmas—"the Festive Season", as it is often referred to—means that countless barrels of beer and bottles of spirits will be poured down millions of throats.

Sideboards will be stocked up, parties will be thrown, pubs will be packed, and there will be long queues outside the off-licences—almost as though they were giving the stuff away.

And, as surely as night follows day, thousands of people will live to regret it.

Booze-inflamed fights will break out, inside and outside family circles. Blameless lives will be lost in alcohol-associated road accidents, despite the best that the police can do to try to persuade people that drinking and driving are a lethal combination. Licences will be lost, with all the inconvenience and expense entailed.

Against a background of rising concern over increasing abuse of alcohol in Britain, especially among young people, health-and-safety-conscious bodies are stepping up their attempts to persuade us all that we should adopt a responsible approach to our use of alcohol.

"That's the Limit"—a guide to sensible drinking, produced by the Health Education Council, defines one "standard drink" as a half-pint of ordinary beer, a single measure of spirits, a glass of wine, a small glass of sherry, or one aperitif. One can of "strong ale" counts as three standard drinks.

It suggests that a sensible weekly limit to alcohol intake is around two or three pints of beer (or their equivalent), two or three times a week for men, and two or three standard drinks, two or three times a week, for women.

Up to a maximum of 36 weekly "standard drinks" for men, and 24 for women, are unlikely to cause any long-term health damage, provided they are evenly spaced out, says the booklet, but points out that, concentrated into a couple of bouts of heavy drinking, that amount of alcohol could increase the chances of an accident.

Anything above those figures is likely to lead to health damage. Alcoholism is now the third biggest cause of death in Britain, costing the country a staggering £2,000-million a year, and sales of alcohol have doubled during the past 30 years.

At a recent Head Office seminar, Dr. Spencer Madden, consultant psychiatrist at the Countess of Chester Hospital Alcohol and Drug Dependency Unit, said that medical research had shown that the body could cope effectively with a weekly intake of 21 standard drinks for males and 14 for females.

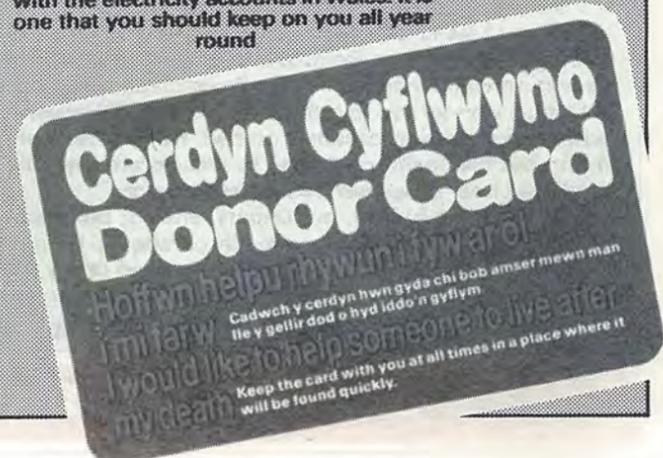
Aware of this increasing problem, and conscious of the fact that a good employer should be willing to help people with difficulties of this nature, MANWEB has recently adopted positive policies on drug and alcohol abuse, and guidelines have been issued to managers.

Personnel Manager Jim Barraclough told 'CONTACT': "Our objective in introducing this policy is to offer real assistance to anyone suffering in this way. We aim to help with treatment and rehabilitation for those who want help. Managers, supervisors, colleagues and trade union representatives all have a part to play. Out of understandable but misguided loyalty, colleagues may cover up for problem drinkers. This does not really help them at all. Such people need help, and MANWEB is prepared to help them to find it."

So—enjoy your Christmas and New Year. Have a drink or two, if you enjoy it—but do it wisely, and make your year-round resolution "Sensible Drinking".

## A card to keep all year . . .

This is the card that is being circulated with the electricity accounts in Wales. It is one that you should keep on you all year round





## North Wirral P.R. Initiative

Another successful public relations exercise initiated by North Wirral District resulted in a large number of visitors to the District office. On a series of open days in November, the District staff entertained various groups of customers. It coincided with the *Economy 7* Roadshow, the visit of the Engineering Exhibition and the Commercial caravan.

Our pictures were taken on the open day for schools, and over 200 young people saw the wide range of activities. They saw how MANWEB make use of computers in Financial and Commercial Departments and in the administration of services. They went into the live sub-station and visited the Engineering and Commercial exhibits. Saturday saw the visit by families and staff. A delighted District Manager Des Lock told us that there were over 400 visitors on Saturday, and some of the school visitors from Friday returned on Saturday for a second look.



# 85% JOIN 'OUR' CLUB

LAUNCHED only one month ago, the MANWEB Ambassador Club has really taken off. The number of staff who have become club members with the launch of the club has reached 85 per cent of all employees. The star District is Oswestry, achieving a membership of 99.6 per cent—238 of their 239 staff signed on the dotted line. Close behind are their neighbouring District of Aberystwyth, with 99 per cent, and in third place are Gwynedd with 96 per cent.

The Hoylake Ambassador-in-Chief, Alec Smitton, tells us that he has achieved the magical 100 per cent for staff and trainees at the Hoylake Training Centre. No one can top that, Alec; however, Brian Mather of the Transmission depot at Prenton has equalled it. After a quiet start, they have a 100 per cent sign-up. Transmission at Prenton is the home base for the four stars of the Anneka Rice video—the first Ambassadors. Our congratulations to both locations.

Commercial Director Peter Hopkins, whose staff master-minded the campaign, was delighted with the figures and the knowledge that his department's marketing effort was receiving such support. Other Area Boards have launched their own Ambassador Clubs, and the top result from any launch was by the Eastern Board, with 66 per cent. It was with some competitive relish that Mr. Hopkins was able to note that the MANWEB launch was 19 per cent up on that excellent figure, especially as he came from the Eastern Board to MANWEB.

The launch jackpot of 100,000 points went to Craig Bailey, a 20-year-old electrician in Mid-Cheshire District. Ken Crabtree was on hand to present Craig with a "cheque" with which to credit his Ambassador Club account.

Still in Mid-Cheshire, we hear from liaison officer Pat O'Neill that one of his members hopes to win 100,000 points for the first "Total Heating" lead to be converted into a sale.

For the first three "Total Heating" sales, there are three generous prizes: 100,000 for the first, 50,000 for the second and 25,000 for the third. Don't forget that it is double-points if your "Total Heating" lead becomes a sale—but, for this bonus, you have only until the end of 1987. It means at least 8,000 points for the smallest package. It works out a good deal for the customer, too. With the basic package of £565, he saves £100 on the price of the constituent parts than if they bought them separately—the bigger the package, the bigger the savings.

Club leads are coming in and the first sales are being made. A reminder—you must submit one lead per month to go into the two draws. There is a Board-wide one each month for 50,000 points, plus 11 draws of 10,000 points—one for Head Office and one for each District. The more leads you submit, the more chances you have of winning the draw, as the computer selects at random one of the leads for each draw each month.

The Ambassador Club is off and running. Let's see those leads pouring in—with sales to match.

## Gwynedd Cater-electric

AN exhibition aimed at the specialised catering market was planned by Gwynedd District at the Castle Hotel in Bangor. They successfully attracted 150 visitors from the trade.

Enquiries through the District added up to some £17,000-worth of sales, with £2,000 being completed at the exhibition. Suppliers of catering equipment and frozen foods were part of the

exhibition, and they reported keen interest in their products.

Geoff Scott and Dilys Leighton Jones organised the event.

## ST. HELENS INDUSTRY EXHIBITION

Glyn Norbury, the Mid-Mersey District Manager, left, explains to a visitor the advantages of a quartz heater, at the MANWEB stand in the St. Helens Industry Exhibition



Gwynedd staff, left to right, Jeff Scott, Energy Marketing Engineer; Dick Owen, District Manager; and Dilys Leighton Jones, Energy Sales representative; and, on loan from Liverpool, Diane Cain, Energy Sales representative



LJCC officials with the guest speaker, left to right: Sid Warburton, joint secretary, Alex Carlile MP, Dennis Hughes, LJCC chairman, Dennis Hughes, and Lyn Price, vice-chairmen and District Manager

## MP GUEST SPEAKER AT OSWESTRY LJCC

AN excellent meal at the Pedigree Hotel had the Oswestry District meeting off to a good start. It was a full house to hear local Member of Parliament Alex Carlile address the LJCC open meeting of staff and pensioners.

District Manager Lyn Price chaired the meeting, and opened up the proceedings with a review of the Oswestry District Year. He warned the staff that great changes may come about with the impending privatisation of the industry. It was difficult for him to predict what was going to happen, as no one knew, but electricity would be required and men and women would still be needed to serve the customer.

Mr. Price then introduced the popular, hard-working Member for Montgomeryshire.

Mr. Carlile, a Liberal, departed from his talk, to comment on the privatisation of the elec-

tricity industry. He was not a strong advocate of either public or private ownership. He did feel that, if an industry was to be a monopoly, it was right that it should be a publicly-owned monopoly. In the case of MANWEB, he hoped that its identity would not disappear. He and his constituents identified with MANWEB and its employees.

He said that he had, of course, had complaints concerning the electricity industry, but never one against MANWEB staff or their treatment of customers.

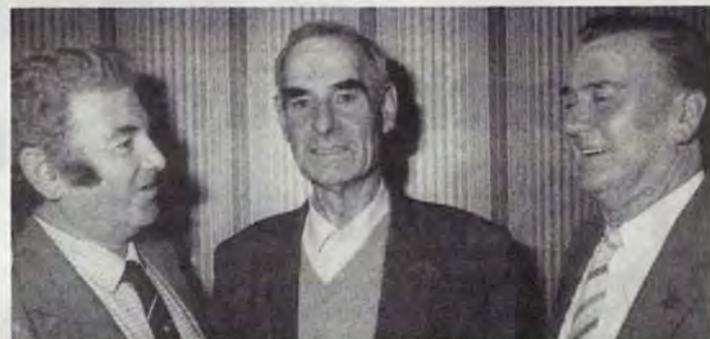
He then returned to his prepared talk, which was a witty and entertaining recounting of

his experiences as a new Member of the House. He also commented on two ladies from Head Office, who were using their feminine wiles to sell shares in a lottery.

The ladies were, in fact, Joyce Walker and Kath Jones, who, with Welfare Officer Jim Wilcock, were boosting the coffers of the EEIBA 200 Club. The EEIBA is the industry's benevolent organisation which helps members in trouble. One way of raising funds is by a regular monthly contribution to the monthly and annual draw. A pound is stopped from the member's salary each month, and half goes to the Association for its work. The other half is placed towards prizes in the monthly and annual draws.



No. 184 was the winner of the EEIBA monthly draw held at Oswestry, by the lovely ladies from the District and Head Office. Other pictures show members enjoying the social part of the evening



District Manager Dick Owen, left, says "Don't you dare . . .!" to our photographer—but he did. Guest speaker Dave Stephenson, above, on extreme right, chats with guests from CEGB and Norweb. EPEA representative Tony Aldous, above, with beard, and three of his constituents from Gwynedd. Our other pictures show the District staff enjoying the social evening after the conference.

## 'Helicopter Patrol' at Gwynedd LJCC

IT was a lively meeting at the Plas Menai Sporting Centre on the banks of the Menai Straits for the Gwynedd District staff open conference. There were that many in attendance, that the Centre had to arrange a double-sitting for the meal.

Employees past and present were welcomed, together with guests from Head Office, Districts, CEGB and Norweb, by District Manager Dick Owen.

Following a report on the work of the District, which was read by joint secretary of the LJCC Gwilym Parry, the guest speaker from Head Office, 1st engineer Dave Stevenson, was introduced by Dick Owen. He spoke on the use of helicopters in the maintenance of the overhead network.

The helicopter was not a substitute for walking the line—it was a valuable tool to spot faults and potential faults that could not always be seen from the ground. The view from the helicopter was amazing in amount of detail that could be seen. It was better than could be captured on film or video.

Norweb and the CEGB. This showed a helicopter in use for line patrol and surveying sub-stations.

Following that video, another was introduced by the District Manager, which was the first showing in MANWEB to District staff of a film made of the hurricane damage in the South of England. The video showed crews from many areas, including men from MANWEB, repairing the devastated networks. With Gwynedd District staff involved in the work, it was watched intently, and all the staff greeted it with applause, recognising the tremendous effort of the electricity staff force, including their own colleagues.

Before the social part of the evening, the traditional Gwynedd draw took place, manipu-

lated—sorry!—masterminded by principal assistant General Services, Malcolm Donaldson. The criteria for winning a prize were, rather loosely, your name had to be in the box, and you had to be present when the draw took place. One surprise winner was Keith Jones, Malcolm's opposite number in Consumer Accounts: he won a bottle of shampoo for his somewhat thinning locks. Said one wit: "If it's beer shampoo, he'll probably drink it!"

That ended the formal part of the evening, and what followed was a night of good humour and some dancing to a disco. A good time was had by all.

It was ideal in rugged terrain and through forests. Burn marks could easily be spotted on trees, and birds' nests could be seen in some strange places. The infra-red survey of sub-stations could be included in the normal line survey. An infra-red picture

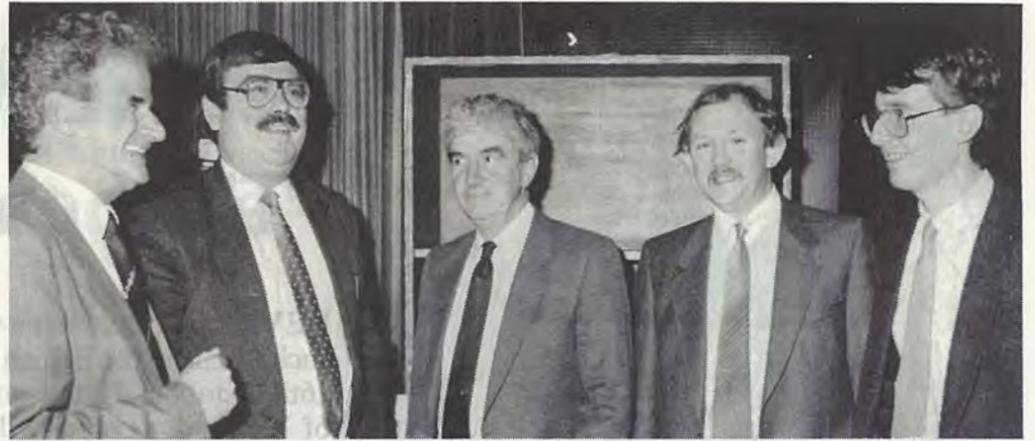
of the state of the equipment could be stored on film in a few minutes whilst circling a sub-station. This use had originally been pioneered in MANWEB.

During adverse weather conditions, helicopters had been used to fly in equipment and materials. Mr. Stevenson believed that the helicopter was a useful tool for the industry, and introduced a video made with the co-operation of MANWEB,





Pictured, left, are, left to right: guest speaker Mike Cannan, Con Nolan and Gerry Haughan. On the right are: Bill Allen, centre, the joint secretary of the LJCC, and his team, who helped to organise the conference—left to right: Phil Milton, Chris Edwards, Paul Glover and Mark Kemp



# Stay with 'Scheme'—urges guest at Liverpool LJCC

DOVETAIL Towers, in Liverpool's famous Penny Lane, was the venue for the Liverpool District LJCC employees' open meeting. The packed conference of staff, present and retired, heard the Chief Executive of the Electricity Supply Industry Pension Fund urge all employees to stay with the scheme, in their own interests.

LJCC Chairman Con Nolan, in the chair, invited District Manager Gerry Haughan to address the meeting. As vice-chairman of the LJCC, Mr. Haughan stated that Liverpool District had an excellent council, which was a good forum for discussing the District's problems. Relationships in the District were improving, thanks to the forceful but friendly expression of views in the council meetings.

The main speaker of the evening was Electricity Council Pensions man Mike Cannan. He introduced a video on how the money paid in by staff was invested. The fund was administered by 20 trustees, half of whom were elected by staff representation and the other

half appointed, to see that the fund was well managed.

The money was invested in stocks and shares; in forestry, property and some overseas investment.

One of Mr. Cannan's major concerns was for the future of the members of the ESI Pension Scheme. Legislation meant that insurance companies and other financial institutions were able to offer pensions, and that company pensions contributors had the option of transferring from their company scheme to a private personal pension plan.

The reasons why the ESI Scheme is better than personal schemes are being stated in a series of articles in 'CONTACT'. (No. 4 appears in this issue).

Mr. Cannan explained that, in addition to the retirement pension and a widow's (or widower's) pension, which was assured from both schemes, that other items which were part and parcel of the ESI Scheme were only provided at extra cost with a private personal scheme.

A lump sum, the option of early retirement with a pension, a lump sum for dependants for death in service, children's allowances and ill-health benefits, plus pensions increases were some of them.

There was considerable interest in the scheme, and the Dist-

RICT staff took advantage of Mr. Cannan's presence to clear up some queries. Each member of the staff was to receive a personal assessment of his own pension, and the Head Office pension team would be holding surgeries in the Districts in the near future—something that had been de-

manded by Liverpool staff earlier in the year.

The meeting, which was organised by LJCC joint secretary Bill Allen and his staff, ended with a social evening, at which a special drive was made to recruit members for the EEIBA 200 Club.

Below are some of the lovely Liverpool District ladies at their conference



Speakers at the North Wirral trade allies meeting, left to right: Dave Malpas, Head Office; Dave Makin, North Wirral; and Tony Owen, Head Office



In Liverpool's Albert Dock, speakers at the civic authority seminar, left to right: Hugh O'Hare, Gledhill Storage Tanks; Sid Bolland, architect; and Roger Critch, from Liverpool District



North Wirral District Manager Des Lock, right, chats with Robin Bird, left, Editor, Wirral Globe, and Phil Penn, Deputy Housing Manager of Wirral Borough Council, when the Roadshow visited Prenton

A ROADSHOW, sponsored by the Head Office Energy Marketing section, has travelled the area, holding seminars in each of the Board's Districts.

The object of the exercise was to support the local energy marketing effort, and there were 23 seminars at 12 different locations, each using local District staff and Head Office speakers, with an eminent local architect, Sidney Bolland, a founder member of the RIBA Energy Group.

There were two separate sections of the local community at which the seminars were aimed. Lunchtime meetings were held for members of the public sector housing community, to advance the cause of electric heating and the use of the Economy 7 tariff. In all, over 300 members of the civic authorities attended.

Another section of the locality at which the evening seminars were aimed was the electrical

contractors, plumbing and heating engineers. They were told of the many advantages of becoming MANWEB trade allies, brought about by the Economy 7 tariff. In both sets of seminars the message revolved around the use of well-controlled electric heating and hot-water systems and the opportunities for the Trade Allies whilst installing such systems. There were 220 members of the contracting

fraternity who attended.

Insulation and the problems of damp in public sector housing were a major feature in the public sector meetings. Mr. Bolland explained the solution to the cause of damp and mould in public sector homes. He praised the work done by MANWEB and the industry in combining heating and insulation—the main antidote to damp and condensation.

This was a highly successful series of meetings, and District staff and Head Office staff are to be complimented on their joint effort.

# The Economy 7 Roadshow

Just some of the audience at Albert Dock in the first of the Roadshows



# MANWEB 'STORM'

## They earn the gratitude of the people

NEVER has there been such devastation and on such a scale in the British Isles. On the morning of 16th October, a hurricane struck the South East of England. It smashed down forests, tore up huge trees, wrecked boats, blew off roofs. Roads were blocked and power lines were down—not just the odd pole or conductor, but whole sections of the rural network.

Worst hit were three Area Boards—Southern, South Eastern and Eastern. Between them, they lost supply to nearly five million customers. Hardly an overhead line was left standing. It soon became obvious that their networks, developed over 40 years, had been almost wiped out, and they needed help.

**... nothing like this**

The call went out to other Boards for overhead lines teams and engineers. Emergency procedures are laid down, but nothing like this could have been foreseen. Nevertheless, within hours of the call, teams were on their way, including men from MANWEB. As the roads were cleared by chain-saws gangs and the electricity men could follow the lines, men were called and more men came. Over 2,500 linesmen and engineers moved in on the beleaguered South.

From all over England, Ireland, Wales and Scotland, lines teams poured in, with their vehicles and equipment. Mixed teams from a number of Boards worked together on sections of network. Slight differences in procedure were overcome by the sheer professionalism of them all. The hours were long—from dawn to way past dusk

—up to 16 hours clearing debris and building the lines again.

Their hard graft and cheerful manner brought praise from the local Board's senior staff and many of their customers. As the customers went back on supply, letters of appreciation poured in. A postcard from Norfolk baffled the *Chester Chronicle* when the writer asked for them to publish thanks to the MANWEB men from Chester who had just restored their supply. It was nice to be able to explain that they were part of the Dee Valley contingent of 56 who went to the South as part of the 230 MANWEB staff who volunteered to help.

**... the Crawley Hilton**

The massive influx of men and vehicles caused logistical problems. Where were they to stay? The accommodation ranged from an Army barracks to the Crawley Hilton. One wag from

Dee Valley complained to his mates about the Hilton: "I had to walk around the flippin' room twice before I found the bed!". Many men turned up expecting to stay for a couple of days, and were there for nearly two weeks. They ran out of socks and underwear, and so the Eastern Board support team—who won praise from all MANWEB men—had a few words with the patron saint of underwear—St. Michael—and arranged a shipment from Marks and Spencer, and kitted the lads with a fair supply.

The supplies of overhead line, pressure joints, poles and scores of items of material were used

**... Concord was used**

up at an enormous rate. A year's supply of some materials was gone in one week. Even Concord was used to bring urgently-needed supplies from the United States.

All this effort was for one thing: to restore electricity to the customer. The effort cost us dearly, with the loss of MANWEB linesman Ian Price. It is perhaps fitting that this report should end with the words of a customer from East Sussex, who wrote to the Chairman:—

Dear Sir,  
I wish to write to you to express my thanks to both you and the men within your area who volunteered to come to our aid. They finally reached us last Friday—30th October—after more than two weeks without power.

*It was with deep sorrow that we learned from one of your men that one of their number had lost his life. Only those who have visited this area can perhaps understand the sheer devastation that has taken place, and the task therefore that all electricity workers undertook. The conditions under which they have been working have been extreme. It had been dark for some four hours when your men—together with a team from Derby—finally switched us on. They had been working on our lines for over 13 hours that day, and still had the long trek back to Brighton. Some men had been up poles, fixing cables, with only spotlights from the JCB—and this after what must have been two gruelling weeks under great pressure.*

*Our admiration for them is total, as much for their cheerfulness and good humour after such trying times as for their skill and determination to continue. I do not know the name of the man who so sadly lost his life—nor whether he has a wife or children. But I ask you to pass on to his family whatever comfort you may, and some idea of the depth of feeling of grateful thanks that there is here on the Kent/Sussex borders for those who came to help us. Their help was sorely needed. I hope that the rest of the country appreciates, as we do, just what they have achieved.*

Yours sincerely,  
(Signed)  
Janie and Meredith Broad



A MANWEB vehicle and MANWEB men working near Guildford—they are Roger Evans, left, and Bob Jones, from Oswestry District

A customer of the aptly-named Battle, in Sussex, surveys the wreckage left by the hurricane, and sees the combined effort by the electricity lines staff from all over the country who came to restore supply



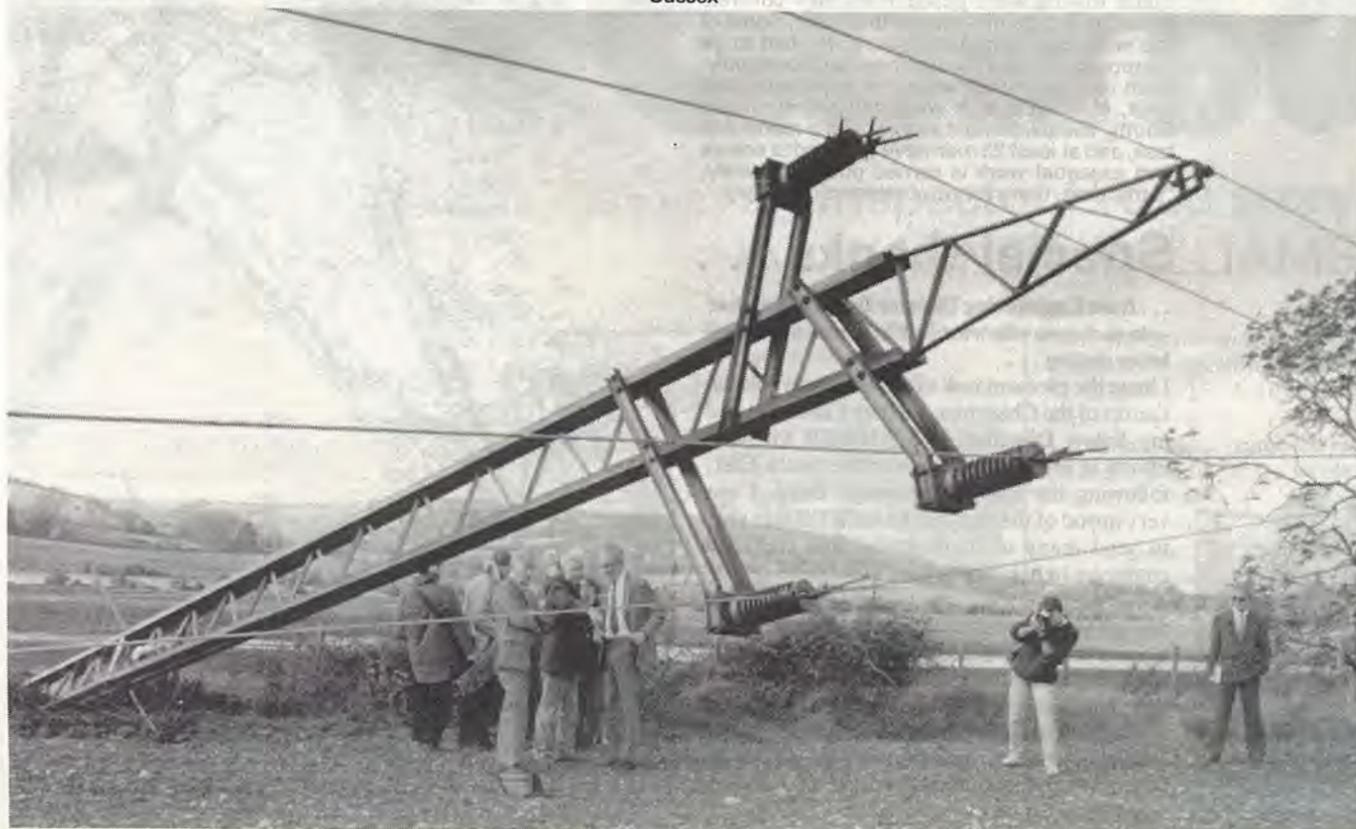
Busy with the hacksaw is engineer Chris Jones and craftsman Brian Speakes, left, and Ted Beach from Oswestry



# TROOPS RETURN

## of the South East for a job well done

The hurricane-force winds tore a 33,000-volt tower out of the ground, lifting the concrete base. This picture was taken in Shoreham, Sussex



# THE MAGNIFICENT 700



In the immediate aftermath of the storm that Friday, three-quarters of a million customers in the Eastern Electricity area were left without power. We had on our hands the biggest job in our history.

Aware that some regions of the country had been less badly hit, we requested emergency help from other Electricity Boards.

They responded superbly—as did indeed the 700 specialists from all over the map who rushed to our aid. Working flat out together through day and night, we had within 50 hours got 87% of those 750,000 customers back on supply. By the weekend there were only a few hundred to go.

We at Eastern thank the Boards for their instant and splendid co-operation. We thank the families of the men who came, for their moral support and forbearance during enforced separations. Most of all we thank the magnificent 700—for their tireless hard work and long hours, in extremely difficult conditions.

We cannot write our gratitude too large.

## THANKS

from

eastern electricity



## Letters of thanks . . . . .

. . . from MANWEB Chairman Bryan Weston

THE Secretary of State for Energy and the Chairmen of three Electricity Boards have written to me expressing their appreciation for the assistance of MANWEB staff in the recent emergency.

When the October hurricane ravaged the South of England, it destroyed much of the rural networks of the Southern, Eastern and South Eastern Boards. They asked for the aid of other Boards to help them to restore supplies of electricity to nearly five million customers.

In all, 230 men from MANWEB volunteered to go South. They did a magnificent job. They worked in arduous conditions and toiled for long hours to get the customers of the South back on supply. Their attitude to the work and their cheerfulness in carrying it out won praise from all quarters. They were truly first-class ambassadors for MANWEB and the electricity supply industry.

. . . from George Squair, Chairman, Seeboard

Now that the emergency in Seeboard is over and we are dealing with the "mopping up" operation, I hasten to write to express my appreciation to you, and to all members of staff in MANWEB, for the way in which they responded to our call for help.

Virtually every part of Seeboard's area was affected and the devastation that the gales caused really had to be seen to be believed. Nobody can recall anything like it in this country before.

Whilst Seeboard staff worked prodigiously to get things back to normal, the task would have been completely beyond them without help from other Boards and the industry, and I should be grateful if you would convey my thanks to all those concerned.

It is, of course, a cause of great sadness that one of your own staff, Ian Price, should have been killed whilst working to restore supplies in East Sussex. We have all, but particularly the contingent from MANWEB, been greatly affected by this tragedy and I would like to extend to you and all the staff of MANWEB our sympathy.

There have been many tributes to our men, describing them as heroes. To this, as Chairman, I add my personal thanks to each and every one who went South and to those left to cope in their absence. It was a marvellous achievement.

As we all know, tragedy struck the MANWEB contingent from Aberystwyth District. It was with great sadness that I learned of the death of our overhead lines craftsman Ian Price. He was only 20 years old, and died in an incident whilst working on an overhead line in Sussex. It seems so cruel that such a young life should be lost helping others. I extend my sincere sympathy to Ian's mother and father, his two sisters and his many friends and colleagues in the town and the MANWEB depot of Machynlleth.

Despite this tragedy, we can be justly proud of belonging to an organisation which has such a dedicated and professional workforce.

. . . from Jim Smith, Chairman,

Eastern Electricity

On behalf of the Board of Eastern Electricity, I would like to thank you and your Board for the crucial assistance given to Eastern Electricity in restoring our supplies to our customers.

It is not possible to praise too highly the work of your staff in the field. It is also important to recognise the excellent support work carried out within your own Board to service field staff and supply us with essential materials.

During the Secretary of State's visit to Eastern Electricity, he was impressed by the spirit, rate of work and total commitment of Area Boards' staff. It was a great privilege for me to introduce him to staff of other Boards. I was also able to inform him that, while Area Boards are underrated on the "London scene", they all performed to the excellent standard demonstrated during this emergency.

My thanks to you and your Board once again for this excellent support and for the demonstration of how essential Regional Area Boards are to the maintenance of a sound electricity supply to our customers.

. . . from Secretary of State Cecil Parkinson

I should be grateful if you would convey my thanks to all the staff in the industry who have worked so hard to restore electricity supplies to the enormous amount of consumers who were cut off as a result of the storm on 16th October.

I know that many staff worked long hours, often in arduous and hazardous conditions and in many cases away from their homes and families. The restoration of supplies in the face of such unprecedented damage was a magnificent achievement and the Government is most grateful to all the Boards for the tremendous effort that made this possible.

CECIL PARKINSON

. . . from Duncan Ross, Chairman,

Southern Electricity

Following the gales which struck the South East of England on Friday, 16th October, large sections of our overhead network were completely devastated, and almost half a million of our customers were without a supply of electricity. We could never have coped with the mammoth task involved in restoring supplies without the magnificent support and assistance we have received from other Electricity Boards throughout the UK; from the Electricity Supply Board, Ireland; from the Armed Services; from Local Authorities; from the media and from voluntary organisations.

We are now reconnecting the last of those of our customers who have been without electricity since the 16th and, as we reach the end of this operation, I would like to thank you for the assistance which you so readily made available to us. I know that all my colleagues in Southern Electricity join with me in offering our most heartfelt thanks for your help and support throughout the emergency, and we should all be very glad if you would pass on our thanks to all of your staff who helped us so ably and willingly.

## Memorial Fund

WITH great sadness, we reported last month the death of MANWEB linesman Ian Price. He was in his first year as a qualified craftsman, and was only 20 years of age.

He was one of 20 volunteers from Aberystwyth District who helped to restore supplies in hurricane-stricken South East of England. He died at Rushlake Green, near Horam, in Sussex, when working on an overhead line.

Letters and money have been sent by the people of Sussex and electricity industry staff to express sympathy to Ian's family and friends.

To receive the money, Ian's parents, Elfynd and Myra Price, have set up a Memorial Fund. All donations will go to some form of permanent memorial to Ian, associated with a new sports and leisure complex being built in his home town of Machynlleth.

Anyone wishing to contribute to the fund should send donations to: **The Ian Price Memorial Fund, Barclays Bank, Machynlleth, Powys.**

### TRAGEDY STRIKES AGAIN

SADLY, another electricity linesman died in clearing the aftermath of the hurricane. He was Gordon Marsh, aged 45, a married man with two children, aged 19 and 20. He was from the East Midlands Electricity Board, and—like Ian—was a volunteer working in the South. Gordon died when a tree fell on him. We extend our sympathy to his family and friends in the EMEB, where an appeal fund has been set up. Anyone wishing to contribute should send donations to: **Customer Service Manager, East Lincs. District, EMEB, Sleaford Road, Boston, Lincs., PE21 8EG. Cheques made out to "EMEB C. Foster".**

# MANWEB 'STORM' TROOPS AT WORK

*Pictures taken in Sussex, Kent and Suffolk*



Our pictures on this page show the MANWEB men in action during their fortnight in the South. The roads had to be cleared for them to reach their objectives. The trees then had to be cut from the mangled mass of line and branches. Poles as well as lines were down; even 33-kV metal towers were pulled from their concrete bases by the terrific force of the storm. Some of the work was permanent, but more had to be temporary to get the customers back on supply. Even into December, when the emergency was over, MANWEB men were still helping down South. The permanent work is still a mammoth task, and at least 25 men have returned to ensure that essential work is carried out. Fortunately, this time, there are no customers off supply

## Special thanks . . .

**. . . from Engineering Director Dennis Farquhar —to each man who went South, he sent a personal letter stating . . .**

I have the pleasant task of passing on to you the thanks of the Chairman, Deputy Chairman and my fellow Directors in MANWEB for your efforts in restoring supplies to the South East, following the hurricane damage there. I am very proud of the fact that MANWEB was able to send many of its overhead line staff and engineers to help out.

From the letters I have received, the effort was greatly appreciated. Customers, too, have written to say how dedicated they thought the MANWEB staff had been. This is something I have always known, but it gives me a great deal of pleasure to be told by somebody else.

Many thanks to you and to the people at home who helped, supported and encouraged you. Please let them know of our appreciation.



### THE DE-BRIEFING SESSION

Engineers representing Districts that sent men south were called in to a de-briefing session, to see what lessons could be learned from the exercise. The question of whether different operational techniques and regulations were a problem, observation of equipment and others Boards' working methods and transport were all examined. Should such an emergency strike MANWEB, the sort of help that would be needed and the logistical support were just some of the subjects hammered out in the session, which was chaired by Colin Ridley, Principal Engineer from Head Office



IT was coffee-break time in my office. I had been promoted to Inspector only six months earlier, and transferred to the Merseyside and North Wales frontier town of Deep Snoring-on-Dee, in a bid to stamp out meter-fiddling and sub-standard wiring installations.

I looked out of my office window, feeling smugly satisfied with my record here to date. Why, only last month I had single-handedly apprehended Three-Phase Lil, caught red-handed in a clothing factory with a piece of cornflake-box in her hand, about to jam the meter disc.

I had also, with the help of Jim "Two Torches" Flashman, our star meter operative, brought in Lenny-the-Loop and Wheatstone Bridge Willy, who were two of the most unsavoury self-appointed electricians I had ever had the misfortune to meet. They were doing grant work at the time, but hurriedly left the district after having been "warned off" by myself and the head shop steward.

As I mused over this, the phone rang. It was "Two Torches" Flashman.

He sounded nervous and excited.

"Boss," he whispered, "I've got reason to believe that Fred 'Wild Cowboy' Sparks is in No. 10 Clwyd Street, rewiring the place."

"Have you seen him?" I asked.

"No, Boss, but a man answering his description was seen by neighbours carrying rolls of cable and tools into the premises and, when I knocked on the door, I was refused access by someone who shouted 'Clear off!' from the open window. I said that I'd come to read the meter, but he just laughed and waved a Board meter and cut-out at me, with threatening gestures."

Fred Sparks was the last of the cowboy electricians left in Deep Snoring, the rest having left town in the face of my fearsome reputation.

"Okay, Flashman," I said, "keep the place under observation until I get there."

Just then I heard a series of thuds from the earpiece, which was followed by a loud groaning from Flashman.

"It's him all right, Boss—and he's armed."

"Good Lord, man, is the Board vehicle all right? Are you hurt?"

"Yes. You'll have to bring reinforcements. I've been hit in the cap-badge by a lead seal, and the van's been dented in the livery by a 60-amp cartridge!"

"I'll be right there!" I snapped, putting down the receiver.

# THE LAST COWBOY

an Inspector Probe story  
by WARNER WILLIAMS



Cartoons by Jeff Baker

I had no intention of bringing reinforcements. I'd been after "Wild Cowboy" for weeks now, and I knew that the showdown would be between just the two of us.

I sighed, took a lingering look round the office, loaded my avometer and torch with fresh batteries and made my way to the van—the big one with the loudspeaker on the roof.

It didn't take me long to get to Clwyd Street, Flashman was leaning against the van, his cap-badge ruined and his van's paintwork chipped just over the "N" in "MANWEB".

I nodded to Flashman. "We'll have to use psychology here, Lad—no violence if we can help it. We want him to come quietly. Pass me the 1986 Wiring Regulations and a test note."

I took the book that Flashman handed me and shouted at the open window: "Fred Sparks, this is Inspector Probe. Kindly read this book

and fill in the enclosed form, and send them back to my office by return of post."

So saying, I hurled the book and form through the open window.

"Shan't then!" came the reply, "and, in fact, I'm going to rewire the whole street, whether it needs it or not."

This rejoinder was followed by a salvo of home-made lead seals, several 60-amp fuses and a shower of rusty five-amp connecting blocks. It was time to bring in the heavier equipment.

I switched on the loudspeaker.

"All right, Sparks, listen to me. I've sent 'Two Torches' Flashman round the back with a fully-loaded avometer, and I've got you covered from the front with a test-lamp."

"Oh, is that all, Inspector?" he sneeringly answered. "Why, in my time I've done wiring that would have baffled Einstein. If you want me you'll have to come and get me!"

I turned sadly to my van and reached for my "Meg"—my faithful megger tester—a beautifully-tooled, oak-veneered, French-polished, hand-cranked 1937 model. A rare piece indeed. I unclipped the handle and walked slowly towards No. 10, the megger plainly visible in my hand.

"Wh... what's that you've got there?"

The quiver in the voice told me that Sparks had begun to crack.

I cranked the handle quickly. The megger emitted a loud whirring noise and, as the sound echoed round the quiet street, Flashman leaped into the back-yard of No. 10, furiously clicking

the avometer switches. Cowboy Sparks could take no more. He opened the front door and took a few steps towards me. We stood facing each other, I with my megger and he with a wicked-looking pair of pliers.

"Drop your pliers and accompany me to the depot," I said quietly.



As he dropped his pliers, Flashman appeared on the front doorstep. "Look out, Boss! He's got a roll of insulation tape in his back pocket!"

I took three swift steps towards him, quickly grabbed the tape and hurled it to the ground. In the same instant, Flashman tied all Sparks's rolls of cable together with green sleeving, and snapped an A66 lock on to his toolbox.

We took Cowboy Sparks back to the depot, where he was interrogated by the Foreman Electrician. It transpired that he knew nothing at all about Regulations, Ohm's Law, Faraday's Law, Lenz's Law or, for that matter, anything at all worth knowing. He had learned what little he knew from a pre-war handyman's manual and therefore was sentenced to be "turned off" that very day.

At the "turning off" ceremony, the apprentice electricians were assembled in a line leading towards the gates of the depot.

A melancholy tattoo sounded over the yard, beaten out by jointers with soldering-irons on empty Plessey cable drums. Sparks walked slowly along the line of jeering apprentices and, as he passed the last one by the gates where I was waiting, I held up my hand.

The drums fell silent and, in the silence, everyone heard the loud snap as I ceremoniously broke Sparks's neon-tester into two pieces and threw them to the ground. This was followed by the flash of cold steel as I drew my wire-cutters and, with a flourish, snipped the buttons off his overall-straps.

As he shuffled away from the depot with his overalls round his ankles, I felt a lump in my throat and could scarcely hold back a tear.

It is not an easy life being an Inspector at MANWEB.

IN my previous articles, I have introduced personal pensions to you, outlined the ways in which they differ from the Electricity Supply Pension Scheme, and explained how they vary in cost. This month, I aim to describe the actual benefits that our Scheme offers, and how they differ from a Personal Pension.

The basic difference between the Industry's Pension Scheme and a Personal Pension has already been explained as the difference between certainty and uncertainty, or guarantee and possibility. And, for certainty, you pay a little extra; for possibility, you pay a little less.

With our Scheme, which is a *final salary scheme*, you are offered a pension related to your earnings when you retire, so you know from the start the level of pension you can expect at retirement. With a Personal Pension, however, the level of benefit which you receive depends directly on the level of contributions which you have paid, and the success with which they are invested, but *not* on your earnings.

My message for this month is "You Get What You Pay For". It is a lesson that we have all learned in other areas of life, but which we may forget when applied to pension schemes. A pension is a pension is a pension.

Or is it?

What do you want for your pension? Sit down and ask yourself a few basic questions. What is the first thing? A pension for retirement, most obviously. But consider further.

Do you want a cash sum at retirement? Is there a possibility that you might retire early

## ESI Scheme and Personal Pensions

by MIKE CANNAN, Chief Executive  
Electricity Supply Pension Scheme

(and do not forget that these days early retirement is not uncommon?)

Do you wish to provide life assurance for your family, should you die before retirement?

If you were to have an accident, or become unable to work through illness, would you want a pension?

If you have answered "yes" to any of the above questions and are tempted by a Personal Pension, I urge you to think again. You may well find yourself without the level of benefit you thought you had.

The table below summarises the benefits that our Scheme offers, and contrasts them with the benefits that basic Personal Pensions can give, subject to satisfying the rules.

What do I want from my Pension Scheme?	Electricity Supply Pension Scheme	Basic Personal Pension
A Pension at Retirement	✓	✓
Lump Sum	✓	AT EXTRA COST
Early Retirement	✓	AT EXTRA COST
Death in Service Lump Sum	✓	AT EXTRA COST
Widow/er's Pension	✓	MINIMAL
Children's Allowances	✓	AT EXTRA COST
Ill-health Benefits	✓	AT EXTRA COST
Pension Increases	✓	

What does a basic Personal Pension provide? Just this: a pension at retirement, a widow/er's pension, and pension increases. What it means in practice is that your contributions accumulate over the years in a personal fund, along with the build-up of interest, and the resulting capital sum is used to buy a pension. But the level of pension will depend on the amount accumulated. The basic Personal Pension has also to provide a pension for your spouse, and pension increases of three per cent (or in line with the Retail Prices Index, if less). That is the law, and it is aimed at protecting your basic pension.

If you want any more than the basic, you will have to pay for it! And you may well be surprised at how much you will have to pay through a Personal Pension to receive the level and range of benefits offered under the Electricity Supply Pension Scheme.

What does the Scheme provide? Well, just look at the table again! A pension at retirement, even if you retire early, widow/er's pension, children's allowances and ill-health retirement pension, all of which are guaranteed and will rise at five per cent per annum, or in line with

the Retail Price Index if this is more. It also provides a tax-free lump sum on death in service or retirement, whatever the circumstances. Sounds far more attractive—and, believe me, it is!

Think of your pension scheme in the same way that you think of an insurance policy: you would not leave your house uninsured for long, would you? You do not *expect* it to be destroyed by fire, but you do insure against it. Well, you do not *expect* misfortune to strike but, if it does, you would not want your family to suffer unnecessarily. Financial security will not lessen the tragedy of any misfortune, but it will lessen the load that you and your family will have to bear.

In the event of the unexpected—an accident, illness or even death—you or your family will receive benefits from our Scheme even after a relatively short period of membership. The same is not true for a Personal Pension.

Remember the slogan—**You Get What You Pay For!** And also, as the Board pays a substantial amount of the cost of your pension, **You Get What THE BOARD Pays For!**



Norma, Bob and Karl Adamson, with the Lord Lieutenant.

## 'Merseypride'

### —Bobby gets his medal

IT was a proud day for the Adamson family—and Liverpool District—when Bobby Adamson received his British Empire Medal from the Lord Lieutenant of Merseyside, Wing Commander Kenneth Stoddart. Wife Norma and son Karl were present at the ceremony.

No one was more surprised than Bobby when he was awarded the medal in the Queen's Birthday Honours List. He thought that someone was pulling his leg.

As a foreman in the Financial section, he told 'CONTACT' at the time: "I know that it has my name on it, but this is a medal for the whole District".

Our congratulations once again, Bobby—you and Liverpool District deserve it.

### ... and there's more ...

SOMETHING of which the Liverpool District can be justly proud is their monthly contribution through their salary to Merseyside charities. In the last 12 months, they have collected over £1,800, and this is now helping institutions in the area. On the night of the LJCC open meeting recently, Con Nolan, LJCC Chairman handed out cheques for £250 each to the Fazakerley Hospital Fertility Trust for their work; the HCPT Trust, which helps the handicapped children to travel to Lourdes; and to the Shoestring Trust, which provides a holiday in its own house in Wales for deprived Liverpool families. The balance of the money has since gone to six other charities.

Con Nolan hands out the cheques



## THE QUALIFIED PROFESSIONALS

OUR congratulations to two members of Head Office staff who have gained professional qualifications.

**Malcolm Arthur** has been admitted as a Corporate Member of the Institute of Purchasing and Supply. He is an administrative assistant in the Head Office Plant Supplies section—a position he has held since 1980.



To qualify, Malcolm had to complete three years' service, in a responsible position—he is at present responsible for progressing stock control operations and fuel purchasing. He also had to complete four years' study, culminating in the IPS examination.

**Alison Eakins** is an administrative assistant in the Head Office Commercial Tariffs and Statistics section. In her own time, she has been studying for the Certificate of the Institute of Industrial Management. In the recent examinations, at the end of the two-year course, she had the top marks of any student—including husband Tony. In addition, Alison was presented with the Buchan McMillan Award, which goes to the top student in the South Lancashire area.

Her certificate from the Institute is considered appropriate for part of a degree course in Business Studies. Alison's aim is to continue studying in the evenings and, by taking holi-

## Charity Barn Dance

Liverpool District engineer Mike Jones, Chairman of the Research Trust for Metabolic Diseases in Children, hands a certificate of thanks to Head Office Administration Manager Tom Hamilton, for the use of the MANWEB Head Office Restaurant for a fund-raising barn dance. Watching are Mrs. Marion Hamilton, the dancers and the band



## Foremen's Course

Foremen pictured on their course at Chester are, left to right: Tony Gibson, North Wirral; Bill Barry, Mid-Mersey; Peter Talbot, Dee Valley; Eddy Quinn, Liverpool; Ian Taylor, Mid-Cheshire; Peter Simcock, Liverpool; Mike Davies, Oswestry; George Hogarth, Dee Valley; Geoff Lewis, Queensferry; and John Jones, Clwyd

## Long Service

OUR congratulations to five members of MANWEB staff who have completed 20, 30 and 40 years' service to the electricity supply industry during November.

**Brian Livesley**, a 2nd engineer in Management Services, Head Office, has completed 40 years.

A colleague of his, **Ron Berry**, a 1st engineer in the same section, has completed 30 years' service; as has **Roy Powell**, from Mid-Mersey, who is a meter attendant.

There are two 20-year men this month: **Brian Beacham**, a meter attendant in Liverpool District, and **Dennis Jones**, a storekeeper on the Head Office staff at Queensferry.



The speakers, left to right: Doug Gregg and Ernie Hankin from Head Office; Dr. Cedric Rodrigues, GEC; Rob James, Head Office; John Lindley, GEC; Ken Appleton, Utilisation Transfer Manager; and John Walker, Commercial Manager of Capenhurst

# MANWEB AND GEC HOLD SENIOR STAFF SEMINAR

OVER 20 electrical projects capable of reducing costs and improving efficiency and production were discussed at a joint MANWEB and G.E.C. seminar at the Mollington Banastre hotel at the beginning of October.

In the morning, senior representatives from six G.E.C. factories located in the MANWEB area were treated to talks on techniques of electro-production, environmental applications of electricity and electric tariffs tailored to the six G.E.C. factories.

During the afternoon, a tour of the Electricity Council Re-

search Centre was arranged, where the G.E.C. delegation was shown some of the amazing work that is currently under way at Capenhurst.

The seminar was the result of a joint venture between MANWEB's Utilisation Technology Transfer Department and the Energy Advisory Department of G.E.C.

Prior to the seminar, members of MANWEB's Head Office and District staff carried out surveys at the six G.E.C. factories, to identify applications for electro-technology. These applications were later highlighted during the seminar.

It is interesting to note that G.E.C. purchases just under £1-million-worth of electricity, and MANWEB—apart from buying G.E.C. metering—also promote many of G.E.C.'s other products, including Creda storage heaters, G.E.C. boilers and Hotpoint washing machines and dryers.

A group touring the Capenhurst site see the metal melting research unit



## Oswestry Golf

BEING born several hundred yards from the fifth tee of Llany-mynech probably turned Sid Pugh into a golfing fanatic. He is now President of the club—an office he will hold for three years.

Sid is a popular member of the Oswestry District staff, and is a switchboard attendant.

When he was born, there were only nine holes to the course, and he was one of those who helped to plan and develop the club into a full 19 holes—18 for sinking putts and one for sinking pints.

Recently, he played host to 26 MANWEB golfers at the club. It rained, but the hardy Oswestry men played on, and Ray Owen tells us that they all enjoyed a good day's golf. He says that everyone won a prize which District Manager Lyn Price was happy to hand out. The prizes were selected by Arwell Jones, and the event was organised by Dennis Hughes. Their efforts were very much appreciated by the participants.

## Wedding Belle

OUR picture is of lovely Jane Osborne, on her wedding day, with her groom of just a few minutes, David Cookson. Jane, who is 20, is a clerical assistant with the System Management section of Head Office Engineering Department.



David is 22, and is a records draughtsman in North Wirral District. Married at St. Ethel-wold's Church, Shotton, they had their reception in the High-field Hall, Northop. Then it was off to a romantic honeymoon in Paris.

## New arrival

OUR congratulations to Chris Tigwell and his wife, Roz, on the birth of their daughter, Rachael. Chris is a 2nd engineer in Liverpool District.

Rachael will make a welcome sister and playmate for Chris and Roz's first child, Richard.

## OBITUARY

IT is with deep regret that we record the deaths of the following former colleagues. We extend our sincere sympathy to their families and friends.

**Mr. Stuart Gates**, aged 63, who was a sales representative in Mid-Mersey District until his retirement in 1983.

**Mr. Hubert Griffiths**, aged 68, who was an engineer at Head Office until his retirement in 1975.

**Mr. Edward Hughes**, aged 66, who was a storekeeper in the Llangefni depot in Gwynedd District.

**Mr. Alf Kinrade**, aged 85, who was a chargehand installation inspector, in the former Liverpool South District.



Principal Engineer Harold Hague wishes Ken Wright "good fishing", and presents him with a rod

### Mr. K. F. WRIGHT

"GONE fishing" is the sign on the desk of Records Drawing Office Executive Officer Ken Wright. Ken has taken early retirement from Head Office after 33 years with MANWEB.

He joined the electricity industry at the former Area 1 office in Hatton Garden, Liverpool, in 1954, as a records draughtsman, moving to Head Office in 1970, with the Board reorganisation. He then became principal assistant in charge of the Drawing Office in 1974,

### MARGARET BRENT RETIRES

AFTER completing 21 years with MANWEB, and active involvement with NALGO and the consultative machinery, Margaret Brent, from North Wirral's Customer Accounts section, has retired. She was presented with a gold brooch on behalf of her colleagues.

### FOUR RETIRE IN MID-CHESHIRE

FOUR Mid-Mersey colleagues have retired recently on health grounds. They are:—

**Mrs. Chris Clutton**, who began with us in 1955 as a clerk, and later became an admin assistant. Married to Dave, a former engineering foreman at Crewe, Chris, who enjoys caravanning and walking, received gifts of pottery and china.

**Terry Watney** began with us at Sandbach in 1948, and progressed to become a clerk in the Meter Reading section. Terry enjoys river and canal fishing, cine-photography and coin collecting—sometimes with a metal detector. He was presented with a radio by his colleagues.

**Mrs. Jean Harris**, who was presented with a piece of crystal, began with us at MANWEB in 1974. She enjoys gardening, sewing, knitting and reading.

**Cyril Phillips**, who had been with us since 1966 as a general duties assistant, received a gift of cash, which is going towards a holiday.

In addition, **Dennis Lightfoot**, a painter since 1977, following time spent working for private firms, has also retired. Dennis served in the East Yorkshire Regiment during the Second World War, seeing action in North Africa and Sicily, before going on to Europe, where he was twice wounded during fighting in the Ardennes. Dennis enjoys swimming, tennis and walking.

being made Executive Officer in 1981.

Ken served an electrical engineering apprenticeship with a Manchester firm, before joining the RAF during the Second World War. He came to MANWEB from the Admiralty.

There is no doubt about Ken's major interest outside the office—fishing. Not the drowning of worms on river banks, but the real thing—man's stuff—down to the sea in open boats.

Ken is married, and he and his wife, Audrey, have a grown-up son, Kevin. One of Ken's plans for retirement is to go into partnership with Kevin, and operate deep-sea fishing trips with their own boat. Ken and Kevin plan to operate out of Anglesey, where they have a caravan at present.

The many gifts reflected his popularity among Head Office and District staff, and the new rod and reel which had been purchased with some of the collection had a few of his fellow fishermen a little envious. We join with his many friends in wishing Ken a long, happy and successful retirement.

### MID-MERSEY RETIREMENTS

FOUR members of the Mid-Mersey team retired recently, after long periods of service with MANWEB. They were:—

**Eric Hough**, a mains foreman based at Runcorn, after 40 years' service. Eric, a keen fisherman, was presented with a propagator at a farewell gathering.

**Herbert Martlew**, has retired from his position as a sub-station attendant at St. Helens, after 22 years' service.

**Brian Travis**, a craftsman joiner with 32 years' service, retired on health grounds. A widower, Brian put his collection from colleagues towards a microwaver cooker.

**John McNally**, a craftsman's mate at St. Helens, was a local shop steward. He received a fire and cleaner from his workmates.

**Mrs. G. SUTHERLAND GISELA** Sutherland, recently retired from Mid-Mersey District, had been with the industry for a relatively short period of 16 years, but she really left her mark, with active participation in many committees connected with the consultative machinery, and a prominent worker for her local sports and social club. She enjoys reading, knitting and walking.

### DEE VALLEY RETIREMENTS

THREE Dee Valley District colleagues who have retired recently are **John Hughes**, who has been a labourer at Legacy depot for 14 years, on health grounds; **Idris Macklin**, a meter reader at New Crane Street, Chester, after almost 32 years' service; and **Dennis Spruce**, a meter reader/collector at New Crane Street, with 23 years' service, following a road accident.

### Mr. W. E. THOMAS

THE principal assistant in Dee Valley District's Commercial Work Control, Bill Thomas, has retired early, after 38 years' service.

He joined MANWEB shortly after service in the RAF in January 1949, in the Stores Accounts section of the former Area 4 at Rhostyllen. He then moved to the Engineering Department. With reorganisation of MANWEB in 1970/71, he became responsible for the Commercial Work Control section when it was formed.

Since his youth, Bill has been interested in Scouting, and has always been involved. For the past 20 years or so, he has been the District Commissioner for Wrexham—the most senior post in the area.

We join with his many friends and colleagues in wishing him a long and active retirement.



Norman Mitchell, right, wishes Phil Milton a long and happy retirement, watched by Phil's wife, Win

### Mr. P. MILTON

AFTER 27 years' service with MANWEB, Phil Milton, who is an administrative assistant in the General Services section of Liverpool District, is taking early retirement.

He started at Lister Drive in 1960, moved to Hatton Garden, then went back to Lister Drive with the Board reorganisation. He was a very popular member of the District staff, which was reflected in the number of gifts

he received. One item was missing from the tableful of gifts—a Labrador puppy. Their new pet was staying in kennels until Phil and his wife, Win, returned from a post-retirement holiday to China.

Exercising his new pet and visiting the Thingwall Road club will ensure that he is active in retirement, and we join with his colleagues in Liverpool in wishing him a long and happy one.

Bill Thomas, surrounded by his Dee Valley colleagues



### Mr. D. G. PRICE

IN 1941, an apprentice electrician began his time with the Ministry of Supply. Now, 46 years later, Geoff Price retires as a senior engineer in the Plant and Construction section at Head Office.

He moved to the North Wales Power Company as a junior field engineer and, when that company became part of MANWEB

in 1948, he was an assistant engineer. He was involved with the huge rural development scheme for North Wales in the '50s and '60s, coming to Head Office in 1970.

Over the years, he has been responsible for the crossing of many rivers, canals and estuaries in the MANWEB area, with electricity cables.

He has also been involved at local and national level with the Electrical Power Engineers Association.

He is married, and he and his wife, Sylvia, enjoy caravanning and walking. Geoff is keen on photography and is a d-i-y man, with a project to refurbish a house as No. 1 item on his retirement agenda.

Engineering Manager Stan Roberts, centre, presents Geoff Price with his farewell gift



# FRED'S FUN AT CHRISTMAS

**ENTRIES FOR BOTH COMPETITIONS**  
 To: The Editor, 'CONTACT',  
 MANWEB, Sealand Road,  
 CHESTER CH1 4LR.  
 Closing date: 1st January  
 1988

## CONTACT FREE ADS

Study the sequence of numbers in the balloons.  
 The answer in each case is no more than one  
 of the days of Christmas. No prize  
 for this— just the fun.



### FRED'S CHRISTMAS ELECTRIC HAMPER

Find the five electrical appliances hidden in Fred's hamper—they could be up, down, across, forwards, backwards or diagonal. Turn your knowledge of "current" affairs into cash. The first two correct solutions opened by 1st January will

#### WIN A FIVER

M	T	H	E	F	R	E	T	S	A	O	T
U	D	T	F	G	R	L	Q	C	P	W	N
S	L	K	E	T	T	L	E	N	I	B	X
I	F	O	D	Z	M	G	L	W	O	Y	N
C	X	L	B	G	N	D	N	Q	Z	D	V
C	D	P	R	S	T	F	Z	O	V	Y	L
E	O	B	D	F	L	X	Y	G	R	Z	N
N	X	D	F	M	P	T	H	D	E	I	V
T	N	X	P	R	Z	Q	D	H	T	B	Y
R	F	T	Y	P	H	D	W	N	A	R	Q
E	Q	W	M	Z	W	N	D	Q	E	V	L
F	G	P	R	T	F	H	L	T	H	Y	W



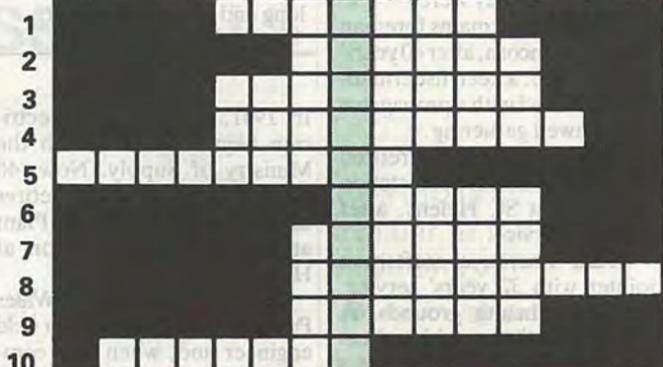
NAME ..... AGE .....

ADDRESS .....

CENTREWORD  
 .....

### KID'S KRACKERS

If you are 11 or under on Christmas Day, rearrange the letters on the Christmas tree crackers and place them in the grid below. Then read the Centreword. Send it with your name and address and age on the coupon on the tree, or on plain paper. First two opened on New Year's Day will win a fiver.



1. ....

2. ....

3. ....

4. ....

5. ....

Name .....

Workplace (or address, if retired) .....

**VAUXHALL ASTRA** — 1300 five-door A reg Special Edition estate. Metallic green/brown. Sun-roof, luggage rack. Taxed/MOT 29 Feb 88. 39,000 miles. One careful owner. £3,500. Tel Frodsham 32530 (W. A. Blease).

**ACORN COMPUTER**—With data recorder and games. Tel Colwyn Bay 532009 (D. P. Jones).

**BMX BIKE**—White, Skyway II wheels, coaster brake. £200. Tel 051-342 3113 (S. Pickering).

**BMX BIKE** — "Mongoose", black. Tel 051-342 3113.

**CANON "TYPESTAR"**—Typewriter, electronic, portable. Virtually unused and in original packing. £75 (no offers). Tel 051-638 4711 (Cliver Garner).

**CEILING HEAT-LIGHT UNIT**—Never used. As new. £14. Tel HO internal 2820 (Ann).

**CANAL CRUISES**  
 On *Golborne*—the electric boat. Available for charter by MANWEB employees at a discount of 7½ per cent of hire charges and food prices. Folk music and barbecue trips a speciality. Discount on scheduled public trips. For full details, telephone Northwich 48354 or 44672.

**HOLIDAYS**  
**FRENCH RIVIERA**—Six-berth caravan, all amenities on site, within easy reach Monaco, St. Tropez, etc. Golf, riding close by. SAE to M. Williams, The Lodge, Lingen, Bucknell, Shropshire, or phone 0544 267579.

**TREKKING AND FARM HOLIDAYS** — Accompanied one-hour to full-day treks. For novices or experienced riders. Holiday cottages available, self-catering, bed and breakfast, full or half board. Further details from Hwylfa Ddafydd Trekking and Farm Holidays. Tel Colwyn Bay 516965.

**PAIR PINE STOOLS**—Kitchen stools, as new. £12. Tel: 0758 85 444.

**PR. CIBIE SUPER OSCARS**—On mounting bracket, ex-Mini Clubman. £25. Tel: HO Int 2314 (K. Spencer).

**PROJECTOR** — Gnome 2x2 Slide Projector, 150w, plus spare bulb. New projection table; large screen on stand, camera tripod; camera accessories case. £40 the lot. Tel: 051-420 3440 (evenings).

**SAMURAI CAR**—Radio-controlled, plus one battery pack. Four-wheel dr., technipower motor, very fast. £30. Tel 051-342 3113.

PLEASE PRINT YOUR FREE AD. ON THIS COUPON OR ON PLAIN PAPER

(BLOCK CAPS PLEASE)

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.....

.....

Name: .....

Work place (or retired) .....

Send to: 'CONTACT' FREE ADS, MANWEB, SEALAND ROAD, CHESTER CH1 4LR.

## ... and finally, have a Christmas smile with MITCH

