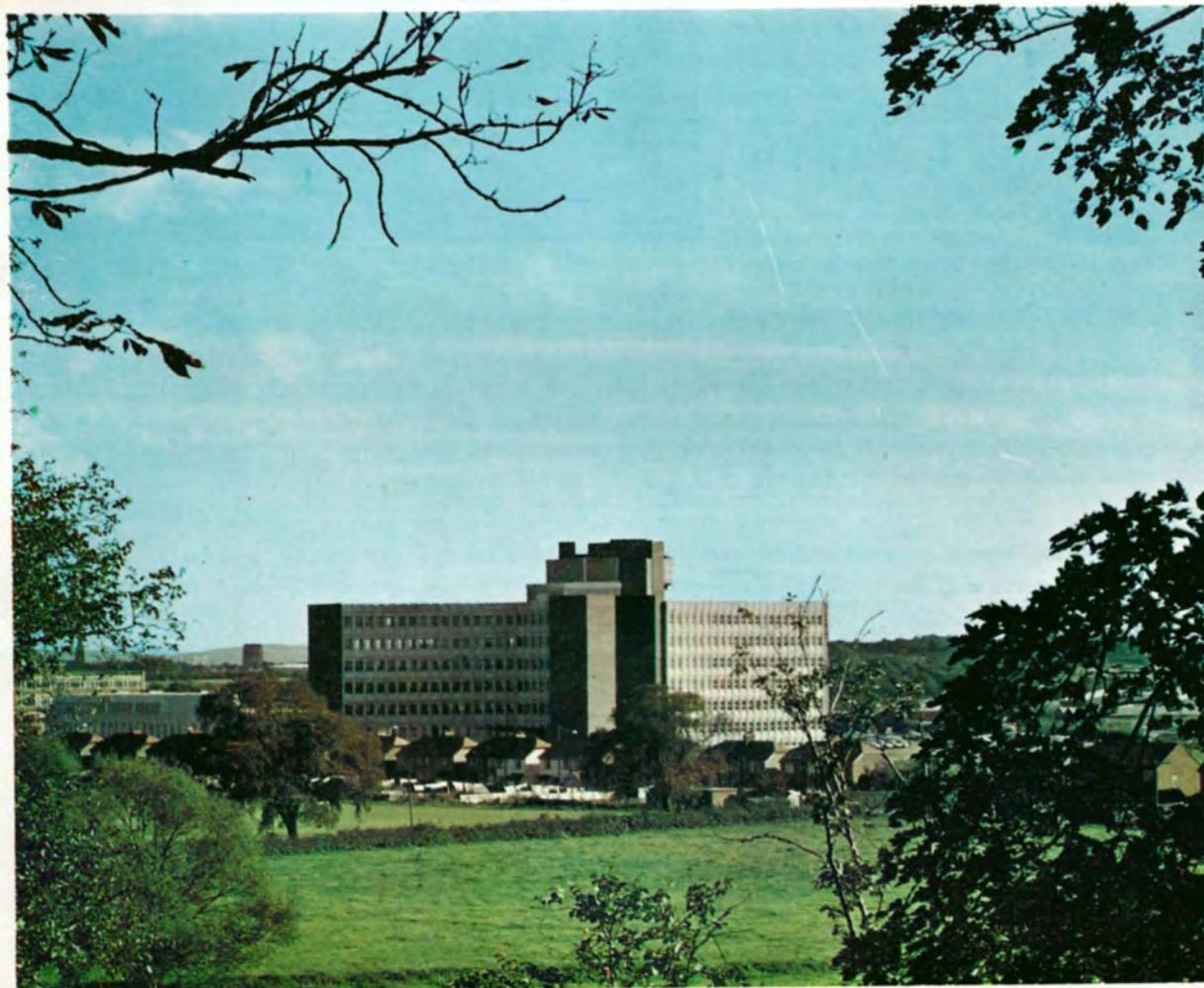




CONTACT



Christmas 1970

*The
Chairman
writes . . .*



I AM WRITING this Christmas message immediately after the announcement of a Court of Inquiry into the manual employees' pay dispute and the abandonment of the "work to rule." It would be inappropriate, in this sort of message, for me to express opinions on the merits of this dispute. Electricity Boards have, however, always accepted the verdict of a Court of Inquiry and will, I have no doubt, do so on this occasion.

We are deeply concerned about the well-being of our own people but are inescapably concerned too in judging this in the context of the national interest. If our judgment is wrong, the Court of Inquiry will correct it.

At this period of "peace and goodwill" let us, however, be grateful for the sense of responsibility in all quarters that has now brought the submission of outstanding differences to an independent assessment.

The Board have asked me to express their sincere appreciation to all those who, in the face of undeserved public abuse, and for long hours, have maintained available supplies and the stability of the organisation, or have courteously dealt with thousands of consumer complaints.

By the time you read this message I believe that order will have been restored and that we shall once again be doing our utmost collectively to ensure that a happy and electrically secure Christmas is enjoyed by all families (including our own) throughout the Area.

Lewis Jones.



THE STAFF MAGAZINE OF THE MERSEYSIDE
AND NORTH WALES ELECTRICITY BOARD

CONTACT

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December 1970

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Greetings from the

Editorial Staff
Keith Baldwin
John F. Perry
Sam Doughty

An Important Year

FOR MANWEB, 1970 was a year of great importance. The events of the past few weeks have thrown into sharp relief the key role played by electricity in almost every field of human activity, and it is probably true to say that many people did not realise the full extent of their dependence on electricity until they suddenly had to get along without it.

Failures of supply on the scale recently experienced are, fortunately, very rare occurrences. When our recent troubles have faded away to an unpleasant memory in the public mind, we shall still be engaged on our day-to-day task of maintaining and improving electricity supplies, and it is when viewed in relation to this long-term picture that MANWEB's 1970 is seen to be a year of particular significance.

Much progress has been made in our re-organisation programme. Last Christmas the first major stage was just beginning, and our new Head Office was occupied only by a "skeleton staff" from Liverpool.

Today the situation is very different. The integration of the former Head Office and Area functions is approaching completion. Substantial sections of Area work have been moved to Chester, and very shortly the Areas will formally cease to exist.

Progress has been made towards our objective of reducing the number of MANWEB Districts from eighteen to ten. Key people have been designated and have commenced their new duties, though the completion of the District programme will still occupy a fairly substantial time.

1970 was also a year during which economic pressures caused by rising external costs have continued to increase sharply. In particular, rising coal prices have been responsible for these pressures, and the inevitability of raising our own tariffs has been made clear.

This situation is a disappointment to us all, but we can take some satisfaction from the successful delaying action which has been fought on the tariffs front over the past three years.

Success in this field has been due substantially to increased cost efficiency within MANWEB, and this would not have been possible without the hard work and support of the whole of our staff.



Some of the ladies who went along.

Anglesey District Staff Conference

“UNLESS increase in wages is matched with an increase in productivity, the economy of the country will not be stable,” was the topical note struck by Mr. L. J. Scudamore (*Management Services Officer*) during his address to the 65 members of our Anglesey District staff who attended the recent Employees' Conference at the Bull Hotel, Llangefni.

After tracing the history of incentives and bonus schemes in the electricity supply industry and how the N.J.I.C. Pay and Productivity Agreement was born, Mr. Scudamore explained the purpose of productivity payment schemes saying that they were not simply to provide increased earnings, but were to give bonus payments in return for measured increases in productivity.

He went on to say that in order to provide opportunities for increased earnings the Board's Pay and Productivity Schemes recognise the different levels of skills within any particular grade so that a person who works hard and does a good job can now earn more than someone who *‘just gets by.’*

Another trio of the fair sex at Anglesey Conference.



Mr. Scudamore said that he was sure that this would improve the morale of the staff concerned.

On the increased productivity side of the deal, the speaker pointed out that we had to reduce the cost of doing a job so that we could remain a competitive industry and we should fight increased costs by greater efficiency and productivity.

“With increased productivity,” went on Mr. Scudamore, “the industry would benefit, the employee would benefit and the customer would benefit—the last being the most important because if there were no customers we would not be required.”

He then went on to explain the subtle difference between production and productivity. “Production,” he said, “is the amount of useful work done—for example, the number of meters read or the number of services installed, while productivity is the amount of useful work done in a specified unit of time—for example, the number of meters read each day or the number of services installed per week.”

He said that production schemes must be based on work study, which he explained, consisted of three parts. Firstly there was method study whereby we looked for the best way to do any particular job, then came work measurement which took into account the time element in doing the job and finally came the application of the results obtained and making practical use of the information.

Mr. Scudamore then talked of work measurement, how standard times were arrived at and the staff used to bring about the final plans for any productivity payment scheme.

Joint Consultation Essential

He stressed that at all stages, from start to finish, joint consultation was essential—otherwise the whole scheme would fall flat. He urged everyone concerned with the schemes now being processed in the Anglesey District to keep information flowing both ways.

He closed his remarks by telling his audience that the Board now had 35 schemes in operation affecting 820 members of the staff—20 per cent of the total work force of MANWEB—and that all Districts, with one exception, had schemes in operation or in the processing stage.

Mr. Scudamore hoped to have almost all industrial staff on pay and productivity schemes by the end of next year or by early 1972 at the latest.

Earlier in the evening, after an excellent dinner, the District staff heard Mr. K. Helliwell (*Manager, Area 4*) as Chairman of the Local Advisory Committee, give a brief and concise report on the work of the Board during the past year.

He made a special mention of the large increase in profits from our contracting side and went on to say that our financial results would have been much

(continued on page 266)



While some concentrate on their meal, others find time for a happy smile for the cameraman at the Anglesey staff meeting.

Members of the Anglesey District Local Advisory Committee with guests who attended the recent staff meeting. From left to right, standing: Messrs. A. Kidd, A. Bunton, N. Maden, A. Rowlands, F. Hannath, A. Williams, D. J. Howarth and A. Pharoah. Seated: Messrs. L. J. Scudamore, D. G. Gwyn, K. Helliwell and Mrs. M. J. Winterburn. Seated on the floor, Miss Peggy Francis ("The Girl from MANWEB") and Mr. A. R. Shaw.



better but for the increase in the prices of coal and that our balance was not sufficient to meet the target set by the Government. He also forecast an increase in the price of electricity.

Mr. Helliwell said that money paid out for rates by the electricity supply industry amounted to some £1,336,000, which, in effect, meant that we paid £1.6.8d each year in rates for every customer we had. As the annual revenue per customer was only £33 then this £1.6.8d was quite a slice.

He went on to inform his audience that MANWEB had now taken over the 132 kV network system from the CEGB, and said that on the generation side of our industry we now had 17—500 megawatt sets on circuit in the power stations throughout the country. He compared these with the demand for all Area 4 which was in the region of 750 megawatts, equal to one-and-a-half of these new sets. He said that new sets were to be rated at 660 megawatts which augured well for the power supply of the future.

Then Mr. L. C. Jones, as Secretary of the No. 16 Local Advisory Committee reported on the work done by the Committee during the year under review. He said that in the few moments at his disposal, he found it very difficult to convey to his audience the 'rhetoric' which gave atmosphere to each Committee meeting. The cold print of the Minutes were a poor substitute for what really went on, for they only dealt in fact.

Mr. Helliwell then thanked Mr. Jones for his

efforts in preparing and presenting the Reports and went on to thank all members of the L.A.C. individually for the part they had played in formulating agreements and sorting out the many and varied problems presented to them.

Questions from the staff

The very successful meeting concluded with an Open Forum session with questions from the staff concerning work study, meter readings, protective clothing and re-organisation, with frank and direct answers coming from the officers involved.

There was even a suggestion for an award to be made, on a weekly or monthly basis, for the happiest employee! This in turn led to a question concerning the alleged low morale among members of the staff. The reply came from Mr. D. G. Gwyn, the Board's Deputy Chairman.

He said that he fully appreciated the touch of humour which preceded the more serious question. He went on to say that in running a multi-million pound industry, outside influences often tended to hold back job satisfaction for the staff and he urged that we should all have an appreciation for each other and an appreciation for our customers.

A great deal of unhappiness is caused by the pressures on people in an inflationary environment. It was sad to witness continual conflict in some industries which was self-defeating to all the participants.

Mr. Gwyn contended that the image of MANWEB in this respect was a very good one compared with many other large industries.

Presentation to Mr. Morris, B.E.M.

Workmates from our Llanberis Operations Gang gathered at a Llanberis Hotel recently when Mr. D. G. Dodds (*Board Chairman*) called in to hand over the B.E.M. awarded recently to the gang foreman Mr. Ernest Morris. Mr. Morris was unable to go to London to attend the official presentation ceremony, so Mr. Dodds, accompanied by Mr. M. M. Parker (*Board Secretary*), went along to see the gang and at the same time presented Mr. Morris with an inscribed salver on behalf of the Board.

Thanking the Chairman, Mr. Morris paid glowing tribute to the men who had worked with him, often in the most difficult conditions, over the years, and thanked them warmly for their loyalty and discipline.

Our picture shows the Chairman (*centre, right*), making the presentation.

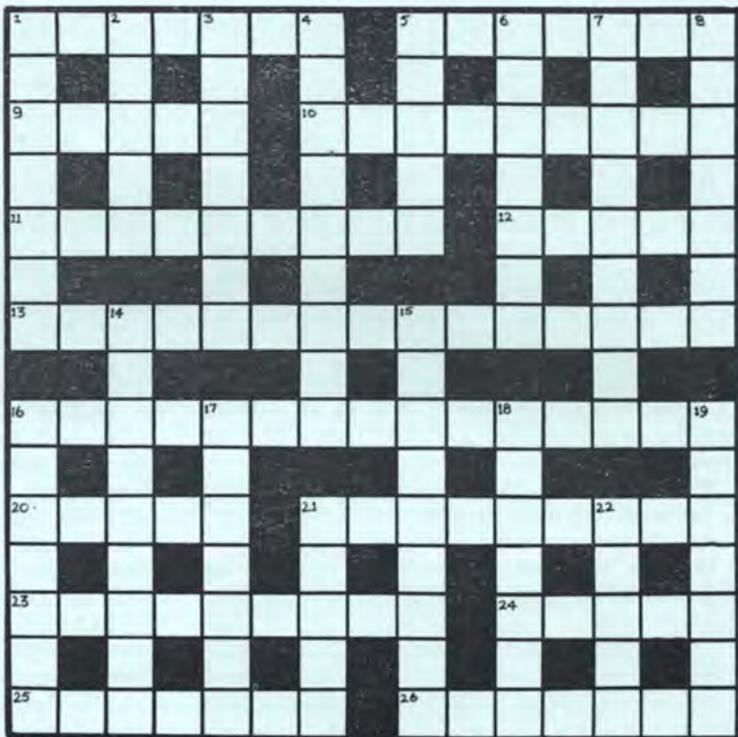


CHRISTMAS PRIZE CROSSWORD COMPETITION

Here is a little brain-teaser for you which should take up the few idle moments you may have during the Christmas holiday.

We offer prizes of £2 (200p) each to the senders of the first three all-correct solutions opened on **January 11th, 1971**. The competition is restricted to members of the staff, pensioners and their families, but only one entry per family please.

Send your solution to *The Editor, Contact, MANWEB Head Office, Sealand Road, Chester CH1 4LR.*



Clues Across

- Lear's owl was said to be this kind of fowl (7).
- It is evident the salesman does not give straight answers to the question (7).
- A late Christmas present of . . . maids a-milking (5).
- Poor man's weather glass (the Baroness's was scarlet) (9).
- A reverent way of putting what does not often happen (4, 5).
- Old English (5).
- Clears a path in the driving rain (10, 5).
- Useful when the word's on the tip of your tongue (6, 9).
- Another late Christmas present (5).
- When you have finished it, there is always a bit left (9).
- Pin-point a star from a wrecked laser boat in a bay off the N.W. coast of New Guinea (9).
- Cambridge College (5).
- Most of it is at the end . . . (7).
- . . . where I reach a mental standstill (7).

Clues Down

- The subject of a woeful ballad is sometimes raised (7).
- Enigmatical variationist (5).
- Falstaff lost his voice with the hallooing and singing of them (at Christmas possibly?) (7).
- Indicates a restricted circulation (3, 6).
- Relax and come up for use with a boiled egg, for example (5).
- Foresight? (7).
- Belloc's Miranda may have remembered him (9).
- You would expect him to dress properly (7).
- Disregarded part of a long lecture about need (9).
- Christmas tree (9).
- Concerning the fireplace bought and sold in the same market to put up the price (7).
- Musical quiver (7).
- Nationality of the screen queen (7).
- Three-dimensional sound effects produced by Electra's brother (7).
- 'How can ye . . . ye little birds, And I sae weary, fu' o' care?' (Burns) (5).
- You can hit it (5).

COMPETITION WINNER

The competition concerning the distribution of a £500,000 Christmas present, featured in the October 'Contact' attracted only a few entries. Most set out varying amounts to various charities

(just what we didn't want), but one special entry, neatly typed out and argued merited the £5 prize, and we have pleasure in telling **Mr. C. Armitage**, a salesman in our North Wirral District, that his prize is on the way.

LONG SERVICE WITH AREA 4 MANAGER PRESENTS AWARDS

MR. K. HELLIWELL, Manager of Area 4, performed a very pleasant duty recently when he presented Long Service Awards to 57 members of his Area staff who had amassed a total of 1,795 years' service in the industry.

Watches, canteens of cutlery and numerous electrical appliances from cookers to 'fridges were displayed in the canteen at Rhostyllen as recipients and their families gathered together and waited to be called forward to receive their award and the Board's congratulations for their long and loyal service.

The occasion was notable in that it was the last to be carried out on an Area basis.

Awards were presented as follows:

45 Years: Mr. T. N. Farmer (*District Commercial Engineer, Oswestry, now retired*) and Mr. D. Jones (*meter reader/collector, Llandudno*)

35 Years: Area Office: Messrs. C. A. Formstone (*ch/hand meter repairer*), W. E. Griffith (*assistant engineer-Construction*), P. B. Roberts (*senior clerical assistant*), E. Rogers (*ch/hand electrician*), F. E. Trask (*administrative assistant*) and J. H. Walker (*higher clerical assistant*). Crewe District: Messrs. J. Burgess (*clerk*), J. Hough (*installation inspector*), A. S. Meeres (*section engineer*) and N. McIntosh (*assistant section engineer*). Wrexham District: Messrs. W. H. Arkinstall (*driver*), F. Harrington (*foreman*) and I. Roberts (*linesman's mate*). Oswestry District: Messrs. R. A. Boyling (*electrician*), A. R. Edwards (*installation engineer*) and D. P. Jones (*storekeeper*).

Clwyd District: Messrs. L. Griffiths (*District Engineer*), D. L. Hayes (*section engineer*), T. Hughes (*installation inspector*), E. E. James (*linesman*), J. Lonsdale (*fitter*), J. Parry (*clerk*). A. W. Price (*assistant consumers' engineer*), A. T. Snook (*assistant consumers' engineer*) and W. E. Williams (*electrician*).

Conway Valley District: Messrs. J. C. Jones (*consumers' engineer*), T. R. Jones (*assistant consumers' engineer*) and T. W. E. Walton (*foreman*).

Caernarvon District: Messrs. T. E. Hughes (*salesman*), D. W. Jones (*electrician*) and W. H. Morris (*inst. inspector*).

Anglesey District: Messrs. F. J. Keen (*foreman*) and T. C. Rowlands (*foreman*).

25 Years: Area Office: Miss F. Edwards (*typist*), Mrs. G. Jackson (*cook, now retired*), Miss C. M. Jones (*higher clerical assistant*), Mrs. P. M. Reed (*senior clerical assistant*), Mr. A. Hollins (*ch/hand fitter*) and Mr. W. T. Thomas (*assistant engineer*).

Crewe District: Mr. E. Dean (*clerk*). Wrexham District: Messrs. E. Charles (*senior clerical assist.*), J. A. G. Harris (*installation inspector*), I. A. John (*installation inspector*) and J. J. Morris (*electrician*).

Oswestry District: Messrs. A. G. Gray (*joiner*), G. H. Hall (*linesman's mate*) and R. R. Hughes (*consumers' engineer*).

Clwyd District: Messrs. J. T. Davies (*installation inspector*), F. Sharp (*linesman's mate*) and R. Walley (*installation inspector*).

Caernarvon District: Messrs. W. K. Hall (*installation inspector*), O. J. Hughes (*electrician*), G. R. Jones (*meter fixer*) and W. Williams (*linesman*).

Anglesey District: Mr. E. Evans (*salesman*).

E.E.I.B.A

Over £1 million has been spent in grants and allowances by the Electrical and Electronics Industries Benevolent Association since 1958. This was announced in the programme of the Electrical Industries Ball held recently at Grosvenor House, London.

During the evening Mr. D. G. Dodds (*MANWEB Chairman*) won a French silver-plated wine and matching bread basket. Another Board Chairman, Mr. A. N. Irens (*South Western*) came away with a deep freeze and some champagne.



"Pretty Polydactyl!"

Cartoon by Vic Hooson, Mold



Some of the recipients of the 25-Year Long Service Awards with Mr. Helliwell, *centre, backrow.*

SOME OF OUR STAFF WORKING IN AREA 4
WHO RECEIVED
AWARDS FOR
25, 35 & 45 YEARS'
SERVICE IN THE
ELECTRICITY SUPPLY
INDUSTRY



Mr. A. Kidd, *centre,* with two 45-Year men.
On the left is Mr. T. N. Farmer and on the right is Mr. D. Jones.

The all male group who received their 35-Year Long Service Awards with Mr. Helliwell, *standing far right.*



WE GET LETTERS . . .

from the retired . . .

An extract from a letter to Mr. M. M. Parker (*Secretary*) from Mr. S. C. Harling (*former Manager of Area 2*):

'I read with interest in the current copy of *Contact* about the new design of water heater launched at the Harrogate Conference, it appears identical with the one I designed and installed at my previous residence in 1946 and which is still giving excellent service. The only difference is that my heater was designed to store water at 120 degrees fahrenheit to reduce heat losses in the storage tank and pipework and to boost the temperature to 165 degrees when a higher temperature was required. Reversing the thermostat temperature settings is all that is necessary to adapt it to use on the night tariff.'

. . . about goodwill . . .

Dear Sir,

I thank you for your letter of the 2nd inst. and very much appreciate your "gesture of goodwill" in arranging for me to be a recipient of one of your free heaters which I look forward to receiving shortly.

I might add that the 3 *Havana* storage radiators have now been installed and connected and I am well satisfied with their performance and appearance. The electrician who did the installation did a first class job.

Thanking you once again for your courtesy in this matter,

Yours faithfully
(Signed)

. . . a kettle . . .

Dear Sir,

Will you please call for my kettle, it has been most unsatisfactory. It isn't stainless steel it's

a big kettle holding little water. I told you I had torturous pain. I have been in hospital when it was emptied. I cannot stand on my leg, although it boils quickly, I have to go and sit down. When I go to see if it is boiling, everything is wet and I haven't the strength to push it back and it always looks dirty.

Yours faithfully
(Signed)

It needs washers. Will you please bring a couple. I have used for a long time.

. . . home heating . . .

Dear Sir,

Thank you for your letter of the 9th Nov. I appreciate your gesture in allowing me to receive a free radiator. The radiator will now complete my home heating requirements. May I take the opportunity to thank your staff and installation engineer for the excellent quality of the services I have received, and may I thank you again for your kindness.

Yours faithfully
(Signed)

. . . good work . . .

Dear Sir,

May I thank most sincerely, all of the workmen who have been engaged in the installation of the mains supply here throughout this week.

All of the work has been carried

out in an exemplary and efficient manner by courteous servants of the Board who worked sometimes through appalling weather and yet with the minimum amount of disturbance to us.

As we have learned from experience, servants of your particular Nationalised Industry do not spend much time in tea-breaks and their lunch-breaks were much shorter than the customary hour.

To the Board I must say a heartfelt thank you for restoring my confidence in the power supply so quickly. The cost must have been considerable and I am grateful that I may now use as many kW's as I fancy without having to assess the Amps first.

Yours very sincerely
(Signed)

and fine effort.

Dear Sirs,

Re: Old Hall Street
Development, Liverpool

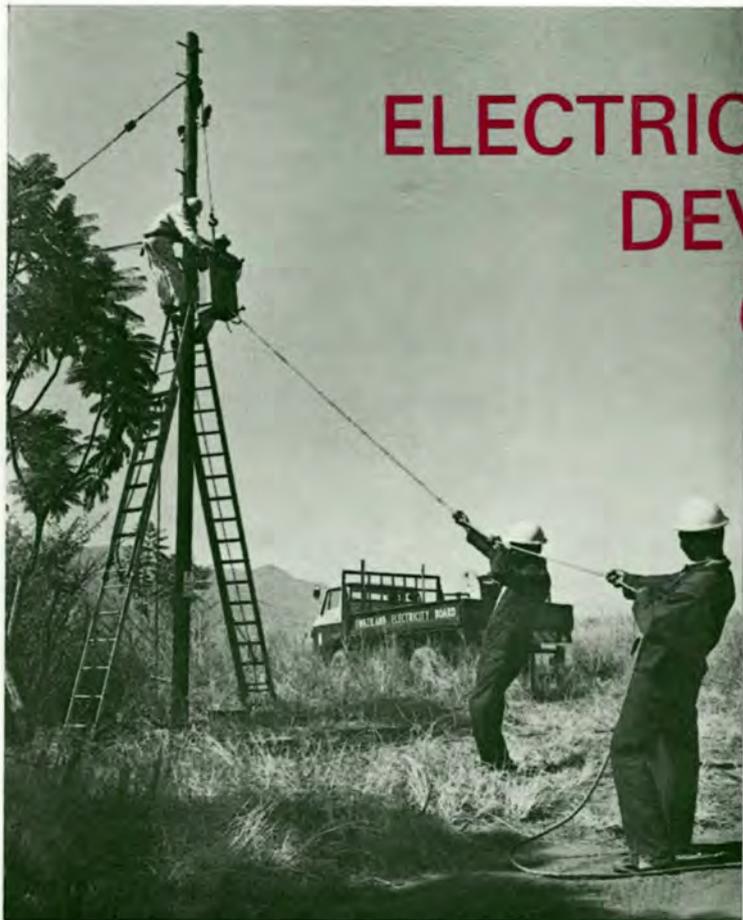
From our observations it would appear that your work in commissioning the new premises is approaching completion, one month ahead of programme.

May we, on behalf of our client, Royal Insurance Co. Ltd., Messrs Tysons and all members of the professional team congratulate you on this and record our appreciation of the efforts made by you. We would especially like our thanks to be passed on to all your employees who have worked on this contract.

Yours faithfully,
(Signed)

Please save the **Stamps** from your Christmas Card envelopes and send them to—
Mr. John Shallcross, Head Office, Room 3S1.
He will make good use of them for a particular charity.

ELECTRICITY IN A DEVELOPING COUNTRY



A STORY
from
Mr. Brian Woodcock

who is at present on a two-year secondment from MANWEB to the Swaziland Electricity Board where he is employed as a Development Engineer.

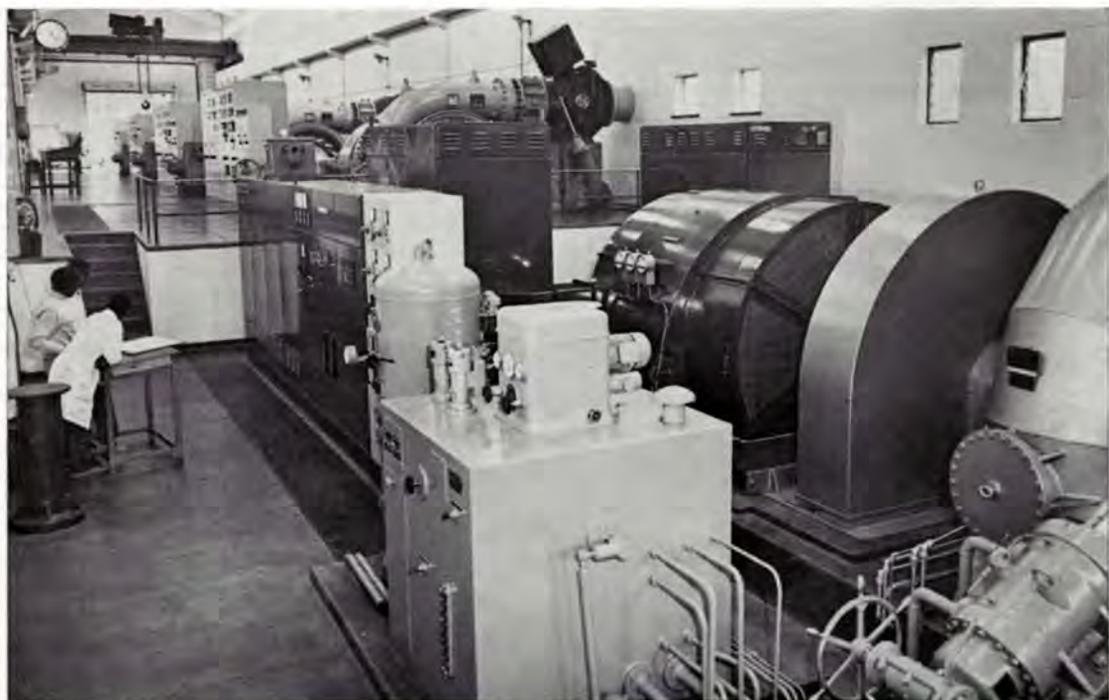
SWAZILAND IS A small land-locked country, about two-thirds the size of Wales, and lies between the Republic of South Africa and the Portuguese overseas province of Mozambique. Until Independence in 1968, Swaziland was a British protectorate. In the years leading up to Independence a start was made in developing the many resources in this small country.

Electricity consumption has always been an indication of the degree of development of a country. Before 1963 public electricity supply was only available in the two main towns, Mbabane the administrative capital and Bremersdorp (since renamed Manzini). This was generated by the Government's Public Works Department in two small 500 kW hydro stations with an additional 500 kW of diesel plant. Several studies were made of the feasibility of setting up a national public electricity supply authority, but it was only in 1963 that it became an economic proposition.

It was the development of the Iron Ore Mine in

1963 that justified the formation of the Swaziland Electricity Board by guaranteeing a sufficiently large market for electricity. The Iron Ore Mine also justified the construction of a 134 mile railway to the port of Lourenco Marques to carry the 2.5 million tons of iron ore exported each year to Japan. As the first stage, a 10 mW hydro generating station was built. A diversion weir was erected across the Usutu river, diverting the river into a 7 mile canal to the power station at Edwaleni. At Edwaleni, four 2.5 mW hydro generators were installed, together with five 500 kW diesel generators and 66 kV transmission lines were built to link the two main towns and the Iron Ore Mine. Cheap, relatively unlimited supplies of electricity were then available to domestic and industrial consumers for the first time.

The transmission system was extended to the lowveld, to the sugar growing area at Big Bend. At Big Bend, power for the sugar mill and village was generated by the mill's own generating station. After crushing the cane and extracting the



A general view inside Edwaleni hydro generating station turbine hall.

sucrose, the remains of the cane (bagasse) are burned to raise steam for the processing. Electricity was generated as a by-product.

Sugar, citrus fruit and vegetables are grown under irrigation in the Big Bend area. The S.E.B. promoted a vigorous sales campaign in this area, purchasing many of the diesel engines from the irrigation pumps and converting them to electricity. These diesels were later sold to other farmers in isolated parts of Swaziland. In 1968 the transmission network was extended to sugar growing areas in North East Swaziland and this sales drive was repeated. Today the irrigation load is growing at the rate of 15% per year as more land is developed or diesel pumps are replaced by electric.

In 1960 the Commonwealth Development Corporation opened a pulping plant in the Usutu Forest. The Usutu Forest was first planted in 1955 on the slopes of the mountains in S.W. Swaziland. This is one of the largest artificial forests in the world. At the Pulp Mill waste wood not suitable for pulping is burned to raise steam for electricity and processing. The balance of the electricity required is purchased from the S.E.B. The construction of the transmission lines to the mill posed some difficult problems. The lines cross a mountainous area and several spans are nearly one mile long.

By 1969 Edwaleni had been extended by the

addition of a 5 MW hydro set and a 4.5 MW diesel generator. A second power station at Maguduza with a 6.5 MW hydro set was built downstream of Edwaleni. Water from the Edwaleni power station passes down a second canal to Maguduza. In this way water is used twice to generate electricity. Edwaleni is a "run on the river" hydro power station. Unfortunately, there is not always sufficient water flowing in the river to meet the system demand. Diesels are used to meet the peaks in demand that cannot be met by hydro. Fortunately, this only occurs in January at the peak of the irrigation season, and September before the summer rains.

All distribution is at 11kV and 400/230v. Apart from a few miles of underground cable in Mbabane and Manzini, distribution is overhead. The first high voltage lines were built to BS 1320, as used extensively by MANWEB.

Swaziland has an extremely high isoceraunic level of 80 thunderstorm-days per year (compared with 8 in Britain). All occur in the summer between October and March. The BS 1320 lines (which are supposed to perform well under lightning conditions) gave endless trouble—frequently, flash-overs between two places via steel cross-arms would burn down two conductors. The S.E.B. construction evolved from this, first substituting wooden cross-arms (with no bonding of steelwork) and later omitting cross-arms

altogether. The vertical construction now used is, of course, only possible due to the absence of ice and snow. One area which gave endless trouble in storms was recently reconstructed from BS 1320 to vertical construction and gave little trouble in the last thunderstorm season. All poles are locally grown. By British standards they look crude as they are not turned on a lathe before impregnation.

Underground cables are not used except where absolutely unavoidable. Outdoor pole mounted reclosers, modified for substation use, are used as 11 kV switchgear in 66-11 kV substations. These are connected directly to the transformer bushings without any cabling. Cable terminations are very susceptible to lightning surges and the relatively low standard of cable jointing does not help. This policy also results in a very cheap design of substation.

When constructing distribution lines, the linesmen encounter problems unheard of in Britain. Recently, a linegang refused to wade across a river to carry conductors for a new line because they were afraid of crocodiles. Eventually a man from a nearby kraal did the job for the equivalent of £2/10/0. Another unusual construction problem was posed recently

when an 11kV line was built across a game reserve—all pole heights had to be increased because of giraffes.

Out of a total staff of 280, only 25 are European expatriates. Unlike MANWEB which is centralising all of its distribution depots into a few large units, the S.E.B. has developed a series of small district depots to operate the distribution network. Each depot is run by a senior technician with a staff of 10/20 including one or more junior technicians. Each technician has to be capable of being electricity salesman, linesman, cable jointer, installation inspector and meter reader. An intensive programme is under way to train Swazis as technicians and artisans.

On-the-job Training

Two of the five districts are now completely manned by Swazis and the power station operators are also all Swazi. Training of Swazis poses many problems. There is difficulty in obtaining trainees with suitable academic qualifications. Junior certificate (below British "O" level) is the basic qualification for Swazis wishing to enrol as trainee technicians. Most of the training has to be given "on the job" with short specialised courses run by

Street Lighting in Swaziland! A typical example of rural electrification at the village of Lobamba.



the Board's Training Officer. There is no technical college in Swaziland, so that any trainee showing above average ability is sponsored by the S.E.B. to study to "A" level, and later sent overseas, usually on government scholarships. Specialised training also has to be given abroad. It is not possible to send Swazi trainees to firms in South Africa, and scope in other Southern African countries is almost as limited as in Swaziland.

At present there is a meter technician training with the East Midlands Electricity Board at Derby and two technicians have recently returned from Reyrolle's works at Hebburn after a six month course of switchgear maintenance. Negotiations are under way for the British Government to finance an electricity supply industry training centre (on similar lines to Hoylake) which will serve not only Swaziland, but Lesotho, Botswana, Zambia and Malawi.

The S.E.B. has its own secretarial and accounting section. All accounts are rendered monthly. The average price per unit sold has been falling steadily since the Board's inception and now stands at 1.67 cents per unit (*equivalent to 2.0 pence per unit*). For a small undertaking this is a very low figure and compares very favourably with costs for other similar sized undertakings in Southern Africa. The S.E.B. is a statutory body set up and run by a Board appointed by the Government. Unlike British Electricity Boards, however, the S.E.B. has to raise its own capital

Major extensions are financed by World Bank loans, British Government loans and private investors. Normal network reinforcement and extensions to new consumers are financed out of revenue. The S.E.B. is now raising capital for the next stage of development.

The full hydro potential of the Usutu river at Edwaleni has now been reached. Storage dams upstream would enable the summer floods to be impounded for extra output in the dry season, but this would be a relatively expensive scheme. The Board's maximum demand is now 20 MW and the number of units sold last year was 82.6 million kWh. This is very small by MANWEB standards, but with a growth rate of 20/25% per year and limited capital, this creates problems. A second 4.5 MW diesel generator is in course of erection to meet the demands for the next two years.

The next stage will be the completion in 1972 of a 30 MW 132 kV link from the Electricity commission of South Africa. Looking even further to the future, the S.E.B. hopes to exploit the extensive coalfields existing in Swaziland. For the present system demand a fossil fuel station would not be economical. A feasibility study is under way for the construction of a 1000-2000 MW station to export power to South Africa. Although South Africa has vast reserves of coal, water for cooling large power stations is a

problem. Swaziland has ample quantities of both existing together. Should the major power station prove feasible, this will have a tremendous impact on the Swaziland economy bringing employment to many, not only in the power station and coal mines, but in the associated industries and businesses that always follow.

Today the Iron Ore Mine represents only a small fraction of S.E.B. sales. Availability of electricity has enabled small industries to be established in many parts of Swaziland. Plans are in hand for extension of the transmission system to N.W. Swaziland to connect the large asbestos mine, sawmills and irrigation schemes. Swaziland's future and that of the S.E.B. look very good indeed.

'LIFE' by W. E. Boylin

Have you wandered in a slum
watched the children play,
searched beneath the dirt
heard the prayers they pray.
Held a new born child that's crying
watched an old man dying,
wondered what its all about.
Seen a harassed pregnant woman
hurry from the council flats,
curse a youth in passing
heard him say , you're bats.
Listened to foul language
flowing from an open door,
watched the neighbours fighting
settling some old score.
Heard the bawdy laughter
any time of day,
watched the cop car touring
slowly on its way.
Seen the grief and resignation
watched the futile struggle to get out,
thought about the welfare state
wondered what its all about.
Have you wondered why
they laugh and cry,
struggle throu' each day
love and play
heard them wish that they could die.
Have you tried to read
the ever present need
of life and love
that they call living,
have you wondered why.

A 'SOFTLY-SOFTLY' STORY

—DETERMINED CHASE BY MR. MAC.

Following a bout of pilfering of small appliances from the display shelves at our Old Swan shop in Liverpool, Mr. Eric McDonnell, the shop supervisor, decided to keep a special watch.

His vigil was duly rewarded when at 3.15 p.m. on Saturday, November 7th, he suspected one of two men in the shop of being a little 'light-fingered'.

The man left our shop and went into a nearby supermarket, closely followed by Mr. Mac. who saw that his suspect had a Hoover iron—unwrapped! He challenged the man whose answer was to punch Mr. Mac. before running away.

The chase went on through the maze of streets and entries which honeycomb the area until the thief was seen in a bus queue well over half-a-mile from the scene of the crime.

Still feeling the effects of the punch, Mr. Mac. sensibly solicited the help of the manager of a car-wash depot asking him to keep an eye on the thief while he went to call the police. Returning to the bus queue just in time to see his quarry boarding

a bus, Mr. Mac. jumped on the platform and informed the conductor of the facts.

Meanwhile, back at the car-wash, the police had arrived and the manager directed them to follow the bus, which hadn't travelled far before a car swerved in front of it and smashed into a lamp post.

In all the confusion that ensued, the police arrived, boarded the bus and went to arrest the thief who again put up a fight, this time hitting a young constable.

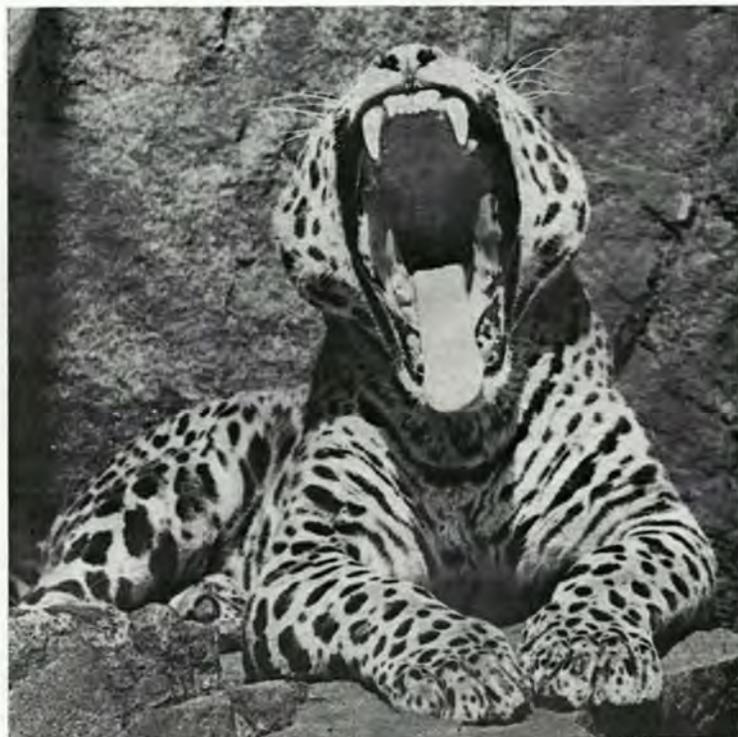
Eventually, with the help of a truncheon and a few stern words from our Mr. Mac. (*it is not recorded what he said*), the thief was bundled into the police car and taken off to the station.

Later, after a visit to his home, the police found loads of stolen property—not all from MANWEB thank goodness!

Our readers may find the events in this story interesting and rather amusing, but let us not underestimate the brave and dogged actions of our Mr. McDonnell. Well done, sir.

Big-Cat Caption Competition

This seems to be a most appropriate animal to follow our Swaziland story, and many of our readers may remember that some time ago (June 1963) his brother graced the cover of "Contact" and we ran a competition for a suitable caption. Not wishing to repeat our successes too quickly, we now think it is time for another such competition. So, let us have your caption for this picture together with your name and address (*office or home*) and send it to *The Editor, Contact, MANWEB Head Office, Sealand Road, Chester CH1 4LR*. We will give £1 for the best three received by January 11th, 1971.



'CONTACT' PHOTOGRAPHIC COMPETITION PRIZEWINNERS

THE COLOUR section is by far the most popular part of our annual photographic competition, and the feeling of the judges, when deciding the winners of any competition consisting mainly of 35 mm transparencies is invariably—'what a waste of wonderful opportunities.'

Practically every slide entered *could* have been a winner . . . IF . . .

Most of the subjects were the material of which winning entries are made, but in all except a very few cases they had not been presented to maximum advantage.

The photographer who wishes to produce a prize-winning shot must create his picture with just as much care as the artist with canvas and brushes. If all you do is say "That would make a nice shot," check your exposure, aperture, and range, point, and shoot—then you have about as much chance of

winning as of winning the treble chance.

What point of a lovely shot of yachts at anchor if half the picture is cluttered up with parked cars and roadworks?

All the outdoor shots—landscapes, seascapes, woodland scenes, and so on, must have some special point of interest to lift them out of the ruck.

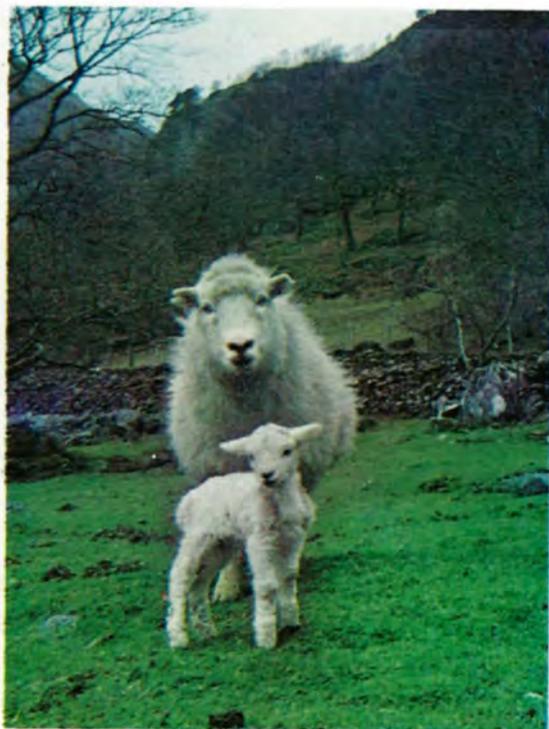
The state of the light on your subject is all important. You need much more than enough light to take the picture, and an accurate exposure calculation. The light which falls on your subject can make or break it, giving it vitality and sparkle or leaving it as flat as a long-dead cod.

We cannot control lighting conditions for outdoor shots—so we must be patient, and wait for Nature to come to our aid.

Coming to portraits, first of all we need the right subject . . . a face with character, vitality, and

1st Prize: "ALICE IN WONDERLAND" *submitted by Mr. N. R. Evans, Wrexham.*





2nd Prize:

“MOTHER AND CHILD”

submitted by

Mr. J. Murray,
Head Office.



3rd Prize:

“SHARON”

submitted by

Mr. J. D. Ashworth,
Southport.



expression. We need the right background, and above all, once more, we need the right lighting.

Here the situation differs from that which must be considered with landscapes. Our subject is mobile. We can turn it and twist it this way and that. For indoor portraiture we can use artificial light to help us . . . (but direct flash on the subject will never produce a good portrait shot).

What to consider then, to improve our pictures?

Having chosen your subject, give time and thought to the best way to present it. Check the composition of your picture in the viewfinder from various angles, to make sure that nothing which will spoil the shot will be included. Consider the lighting situation. Would the sun from a different angle transform the picture? Would a breeze bring life and character to that flat expanse of water? Is a foreground object of some kind necessary?

Only care and forethought of this kind will improve the overall standard of our photography, making each shot a subject of interest for the stranger who has never been there—or who doesn't know the children.

These are the points which make the difference between a polite glance from the viewer, and the display of real interest which any good picture compels.



1st Prize

**PORTRAIT
SECTION**

'Lynda'

submitted by
**Mr. W. G. D.
Hood,**
Head Office



PHOTOGRAPHIC COMPETITION
Black and White

1st Prize

**GENERAL
SECTION**

'Cascades'

submitted by
**Mr. P. de la
Roche,**
Crew



ST. HELENS STAFF MEETING.

'Gradely job' by guest speaker

GUEST SPEAKERS are usually popular visitors to our annual employees' meetings, and the 80-odd people—including 27 pensioners—who attended the recent St. Helens District occasion were treated to a most refreshing talk.

"*Dialects*" was the subject of the speaker, Mr. T. Henderson, a retired schoolmaster, and he gave his heart-of-Lancashire audience a fascinating insight into the development and use of the Lancashire dialect.

Indeed, one of those present who complained that his "*spuds were brunt*" could take satisfaction from the fact that Mr. Henderson, drawing on centuries-old verse and other documents, claimed that this was really the correct way to use the English language, and that the spelling and pronunciation "*burned*" was some latter-day piece of impertinence imposed on our tongue.

So, Lancastrians, the "*brids*" really do sing in the trees, and there is centuries-old evidence that our old craftsmen really did "*fettle*" their work to make a "*gradely*" job of it!

Another piece of information which may surprise the "*squares*" of today—it is quite in order to call an attractive girl a "*bird*"—sorry, "*brid*"—as this derives from the same origin as "*bride*."

Finally, one of Mr. Henderson's many stories :

An old Lancastrian visited a young doctor, newly-arrived from London, and complained: "There's summat wrong wi' me seet."

Carefully the doctor examined the patient's rear, but could find nothing amiss.

Confused, he called in his senior partner (himself a native), who found the patient clutching his trousers and looking unhappy.

"This chap's a fool, doctor" said the victim. "I keep on telling 'im there's summat wrong wi me seet, and he doesn't bother looking at me eyes at all!"

Before Mr. Henderson's talk, Mr. J. W. Trimble (Area 2/3 Manager) outlined the progress of the Board during 1969/70, and afterwards Safe Driving Awards were presented to members of the District staff by Superintendent Shepherd of Lancashire Police.

Question Time saw a lively exchange of views on the introduction of productivity payments in the District, one questioner laying emphasis on the difficulties created by the fact that schemes were not introduced simultaneously for all grades of staff concerned.

Mr. L. J. Scudamore (*Management Services Officer*), pointed out that there was a vast amount of work to be done in this field, and in these circumstances it was inevitable that someone had to be first and someone last.

FIRST LIGHT. *A Poem by Mr. S. A. Costin*

In the eastern sky the breaking day
casts watery shadows over city sleep
The liver bird on perch so high
looks as sentinel from lofty keep

The ships below at moorings fret
grey water laps both bow and stern
O'er mast and rigging gulls stir and fly
as darkness fails with light's return

The city streets so bare and still
reflect the glistening morning dew
The silence of the early hour
broken by hurrying footsteps few

To bank and office cleaners come
for arduous tasks committed
Workers of the night merge forth
their farewells permitted

Easy patterns woven by early bus
deceive rigours later borne
Whilst dairy men with loaded float
from milky sale so quickly shorn

The guardian of law, with dog at side,
diligently prowling nocturnal beat
Spies bundle of human flotsam sleeping,
moves dozing tramp from endowed seat

Historic figures on solid plinths
in stony grandeur stand and gaze
As ferry boats plough through muddy waters
under shimmering mantle of purple haze

With one final burst of splendid yellow
the rising sun no longer spare
Heralds the turmoil of another day
to the awakening city, so proud! so fair!

18th Century Voyage

A fiction story by

CHARLES UTLEY (Advertising Assistant, Head Office)

THESE letters and drawings were unearthed in an attic recently. Dated 1726, they were composed by a well educated 19-year-old Chester man who was on the way to visit relatives in Dublin. The young man was passing time in an hotel room at Great Neston which was then the major local port. His map is especially interesting as it shows that the River Dee then had a very wide estuary which was rapidly silting-up. The "New Cut," an artificial canal was completed some years later in April 1737. It shows that the MANWEB H.Q. is built on reclaimed land (Sealand) which was at this time part of the tidal marshland on the northern side of the navigable channel of the old Dee. (The office is situated approximately over the letter "t" in the words "Dee Mouth" on the map shown opposite).

The tale our correspondent has to tell bears little resemblance to the estuary today which has deteriorated to a narrow channel, the silting actually accelerated by the much awaited "New Cut." The Parkgate (Neston) foreshore (marked New Key on map) is now covered with marshgrass, and the old Quay wall sees the river Dee only once or twice a year during the extraordinarily high spring tides.

In spite of all this the marshy gully-riddled region between Parkgate and Shotwick has a strange and eerie quality even today which calls the visitor back to it's sleepy hidden villages and history steeped landmarks again and again



The Harp,
Great Neston,
June 23rd 1726 A.D.

Dearest Father, Mother, and Sisters,

Greetings from noble Great Neston! I arrived safely and in good time, but I am now passing idle hours in the above good hostelry awaiting God's favour. The wind, fresh on the down-river excursion now solemnly declines to blow Westward, and all hope is abandoned to sail ere full tide tomorrow at 6 a.m. The landlord has promised to awaken me at five of the clock with breakfast, but doubtless not a wink I shall sleep. Lest you conclude this is mere excitement, I hasten to correct the impression that Neston sleeps blissfully near the edge of the sea. This is indeed a gay town, the noise from the gaming parlours and theatre is huge, and the bar below is awash with liquid merriment!! Such company that your poor son is forced to keep!

But I must tell you much concerning that fine gentleman Mister Moore who ferried me on the first leg of my first voyage abroad. His little vessel, the 'Leonora' seemed at first sight such a tangle of loose rope and crumpled canvas (I have sketched her at harbour), but amazingly with a few skilful manoeuvres the sail was aloft and we slid purposefully beyond our City Walls. "Old Hoarey," such is the name be-

stowed upon Mister Moore befitting his pockmarked complexion is a wise and knowledgeable riverman. He continually puffs a charred churchwarden filled to capacity with evil-reeking ship's plug. Besides two other passengers we were heavily laden with mail, wool, and spices. At first I sat with my luggage in the bows watching the morning sun glimmering on the ripples in little fiery sparks, but "Old Hoarey" soon gave me better work for my idle hands—manning the tiller!

Soon the river widened into the estuary through which a narrow and difficult channel meanders. "Old Hoarey" says that the sooner the new canal is made the better, but this seems at least ten years afar, and meantime that little port on the river Mersey—Leverpole, does daily rob us of trade. Soon even the New Key may not be able to tend the ships which grow bigger and bigger of tonnage. 'Tis said that one Nathaniel Kinderly, is charged with making the river navigable for ships of 100 tons upwards.

The channel is bounded by tidal marshland, rising at first to the high dry farms of Blaken, which dwindle as we go deeper into the wild. We made our first pause to drop mail at the creek of Sangball. As we were making fast "Old Hoarey" gave demonstration of an uncanny skill. He keeps beside him a quantity of round pebbles and a sling. His sharp eye now spots a hare flying from the bank, and quick as lightning a stone shoots from his sling and stuns the hare in its tracks. What marksmanship! "Old Hoarey" leapt ashore and went whooping across the field to collect his prey. Three more in that manner did he fell this day.

We took lunch at the "Swinging Gate." Our fine skipper had such a tale to tell in whispered tones about a strange woman from this village who once grew horns on her head, and shed them for new ones each five years! Have you ever

heard the like? He has an eye for a fair wench, I can tell you, and little children gather wherever he sets foot, such is the attraction of this fine riverman.

We set sail once more at noon, passing by the ruins of Shotwick Castle and heading for the open sea. We passed Shotwick Church as the clock was tolling one-o'clock. Cattle were grazing on the green land by the Church wall, yet "Old Hoarey" told us that his great-grandfather, a riverman too, used to moor at the creek and make fast his boat to that very wall, yet showing again the silting-up of the Dee. The river can here be forded at low tide by horses and carriage if one employed a good guide. The sands shift place daily and the tales we hear of losses and drownings are no exaggeration. This risk, however, is no worse than the long detour down river, and all its associations with highwaymen.

Ah! For the fine views and

bracing sea air! The sands gleam golden in the sunshine contrasting with the towering black mountains of Wales. All too soon we were passing the Denball mines and squeezing into our moorings at the New Key in the shadow of the Dublin Packet. Nearby is a slipway with a strange use. Cattle from Ireland are sometimes forced from the decks of boats at anchor to swim ashore and clamber up this ramp.

Well, my dear family, I am sleepy now from all this excitement and the noise from the street has abated sufficient for me to contemplate sleep. I hope this letter finds you swiftly, and I will write again the news from Dublin.

Your loving son and brother,
Jeremy.

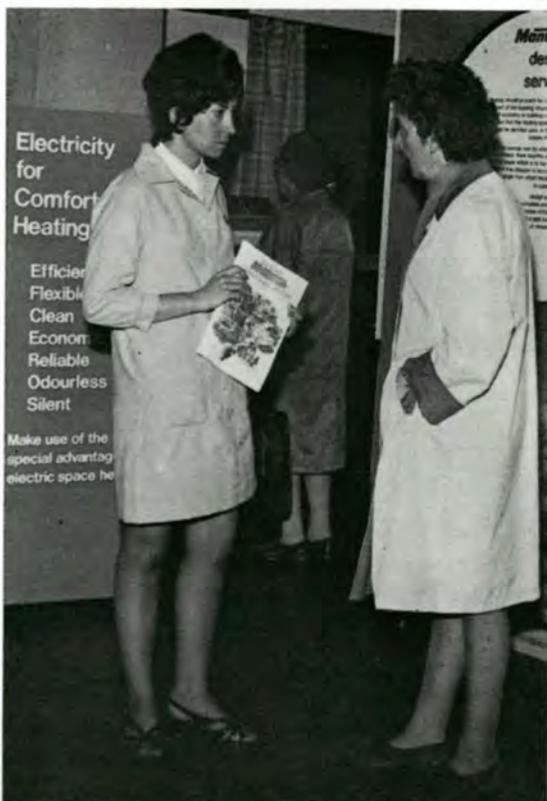
P.S. The cheese for Aunt Kitty is at my elbow as I write. I do not trust such a delicacy to be safe with my luggage. I scarce can trust even myself with it indeed!



MOBILE HEATING EXHIBITIONS . . .

A well-planned and well-programmed tour of 'weekly stands' for the Board's "Heatex '71" mobile heating exhibition started just over three months ago at the Town Hall, Wal'asey. Since then, the exhibition has visited Ellesmere Port, Oswestry, Lymm, Wrexham, Hoylake, Chester, Llandudno, Bangor, Aberystwyth, Northwich, Rhyl and Crosby finishing at Southport a couple of weeks ago.

In the new year, the exhibition will visit Huyton and Holywell and this will complete its tour for this season.



. . . at Wallasey . . .

Above: Mrs. Pat Sim, left, talks to a 'prospect.'

Left: Mr. Norman Carew (salesman) right, discusses electric central heating with a couple of knowledgeable customers.



. . . at Ellesmere Port . . .

Left: Mr. David Cutts (salesman) left listens to the sales talk from Mr. Roger S. Glover (assistant consumers' engineer)

Below: Mr. R. Strange (senior salesman) left, seems to have made a 'sale'.





Mrs. G. Hollywell, (*Hoover demonstrator*) and Mr. R. R. Hughes (*consumers' engineer*) look into the camera.

... at Oswestry ...
with many official
visitors ...

From left to right : Mr. R. A. Williams (*District Commercial Engineer*), Councillor R. I. Bainbridge (*Mayor of Montgomery*), Mrs. G. Davies (*Mayoress of Oswestry*), Councillor Mrs. K. G. Roberts (*Mayor of Oswestry*), Miss Peggy Francis (*'The Girl from MANWEB'*) and Councillor J. Owen Jones (*Chairman of Newton and Llanidloes Rural District Council*).



Mr. W. R. Griffiths (*salesman*) talks with a customer.



... at Wrexham ...

Councillor Clifford Hughes, the Mayor of Wrexham officially opened the "Heatex '71" exhibition at the Memorial Hall in Wrexham. In his opening remarks, Councillor Hughes said "Electricity as a fuel is ideal in zones being converted under the Clean Air Act due to the fact that no smoke or fumes are emitted from the electrical appliances."

Our picture, on the right, shows, the Mayor and Mayoress with Mr. J. A. Winchester (District Commercial Engineer).

Below: Mr. Cliff Evans, left, is joined by Mr. Jim Barnes, right, as they talk to Mr. John Meyers, a member of the Board's staff at Rhostyllen, also a Wrexham Town Councillor.



Right: Mr. Dennis Jones (salesman) with some of the special visitors to the exhibition, sixth-formers from the Grove Park School in Wrexham.



Above: Mr. Trevor Edwards being bombarded with questions.

Right: Mr. Don. Hinsley explains the 'Electricaire' system to a group of the girls.





.. at
Northwich

Miss Peggy Francis ("The Girl from MANWEB") thanks the guests of honour Councillor S. Tomlinson, Chairman of Northwich Urban District Council, and Councillor J. Hayes, Chairman of Northwich Rural District Council after the official opening of the Board's 'Heatex '71' Exhibition at the Memorial Hall. Over 50 representatives from all the local and surrounding Councils were also present.

GRACED BY "THE GIRL FROM MANWEB"

and at
Crosby

Once again, Peggy takes over as she talks 'electric heating' to official guests at the Crosby Exhibition. From right to left: The Mayor and Mayoress of Crosby, The Mayor and Mayoress of Bootle, Mr. H. Telfer (Manager Area 1), Peggy and the Chairman of Kirkby Urban District Council.



HOME IMPROVEMENT CAMPAIGN

ELECTRICITY'S PART

ELECTRICITY Boards in England and Wales are launching a campaign in support of the publicity drive by the Ministry of Housing and Local Government to encourage the modernisation of nearly four million houses with the aid of local authority improvement grants.

More than half these houses lack basic amenities such as baths and hot water supplies that can be installed with the aid of standard grants of up to £200. Discretionary grants of up to £1,000 allowing for the installation of home heating and re-wiring electrical circuits associated with necessary repairs are also available.

A new Electricity Council brochure, "*Money to Modernise Your Home*," will supplement the Electricity Boards' own publications providing easily understood explanations of standard, discretionary and special grants available from local authorities.

All Electricity Boards are already offering or are preparing to offer the following services:

Co-operation with local authorities, private landlords, housing associations and individual householders.

Co-operation with local authorities in exhibitions and demonstrations including the use of a film now being made entitled "*Making Room with Electricity*."

Co-operation with builders and plumbers to make a compre-

hensive service available to the public.

Equip a demonstration house to show what can be done with a discretionary grant and a partially modernised house to show facilities which can be provided with standard grants. Special contract officers, already known to the building industry, are available in most areas to advise on modernisation.

A member of the staff at most

Electricity Board shops will be available to give advice on home improvements.

Help with arrangements or advice about finding the balance towards the cost of the improvements, up to half of which is paid for by the grants.

Advice on savings to be gained by thermal insulation of roof space, hot water cylinders and weather stripping of outside doors.

Mr. Bob Phillips, Marketing Adviser to The Electricity Council, said:

"Electricity is ideal for modernisation because equipment is easy to install, low in capital cost, and cheap to run especially with the White Meter."

Electricity requires no fuel storage space or residue disposal. No flues or special ventilation are required."

Electric Cooker Sales— UP and UP!

Sales of electric cookers through Electricity Board shops continue to show big increases over last year.

Figures released recently by The Electricity Council show that 147,022 electric cookers were sold in the quarter ended September 1970—an increase of 15.7 per cent. over the corresponding period last year. Over the twelve months period ended September, the increase was 10.9 per cent.

Sales of refrigerators and food freezers were down by 11.3 per

cent. over the quarter. In the comparison over the corresponding twelve months, however, refrigerators were up by 11.1 per cent.

Storage radiator sales continued to increase. They were 13.7 per cent. up on the corresponding quarter and 7.0 per cent. over the twelve month period. Storage radiators are the most popular central heating system for existing homes and have increased their sales every year since they were introduced to the domestic market in 1951.

WANTED—

BADMINTON PLAYERS

Teams needed to represent MANWEB in the Electricity Supply Annual Championships to be held at Birkenhead early next year.

Please contact **Mr. John Foster**, Engineering Department, Head Office. Room 4W1 (Tel. 2423).

Christmas and after

CHRISTMAS 1970 will again bring chaos. Housewives will jostle their way through crowded supermarkets in a frantic last-minute effort to organise the Christmas luncheon; husbands will carefully tot up their bank balances, weighing up the chances of a carefree holiday, and children, eager to own every toy imaginable, will begin their irresistible pleadings.

Not an unusual picture. Something that happens every year. People spending money at Christmas, buying food, clothing and gifts.

Well, there's one thing for certain. Some people can't afford Christmas. The whole year is just a struggle to make ends meet and the few holy days are not a blessing but a bugbear, another drain on limited resources.

Tradition has it that this is a festive season, but for some it will be cold, it will be sad and it will be sparse.

Perhaps you know of a widow with young children who has difficulty making ends meet during the year, or maybe one of your work colleagues is suffering from illness, putting a strain on the family budget and on his nerves. And what about the bedridden

whose plight exists throughout the year? To these people the demands of Christmas mean an amplification of the year's problems.

For those who need that little bit of extra aid, whatever the season, or who need expert advice on a worrying problem, however great or small, the Electrical and Electronics Industries Benevolent Association may be able to help. EEIBA considers every case of need individually and with a network of branches throughout the UK, it can be in personal contact with anyone in trouble, wherever they may be.

The Association is specifically for the non-manual worker who is or has been employed in the electrical or electronics industries. Their dependants may also be eligible for help.

But helping others is costly and regular contributions are desperately needed. A £1 a year from you will enable EEIBA to continue helping your colleagues in need, and your awareness of other people's difficulties will make sure the assistance goes to those who are in genuine trouble. The address of EEIBA is: 144 Buckingham Palace Road, London SW1, and the telephone number is 01 730 9811.

So, lend a hand. Let EEIBA know of your acquaintances who are in genuine difficulty and send £1 regularly.

People need help now when the year's problems loom greater than ever.

Safe Drivers at Llandudno

At a recent meeting of the No. 15 Local Advisory Committee held at Llandudno Junction, Mr. A. Kidd (*Secretary, Area 4*) presented Safe Driving Awards to a representative group of District drivers.

Referring to all drivers who had gained awards, Mr. Kidd said, 'The Board owe you a debt of gratitude and you are to be congratulated on your record of safe driving. It is no mean achievement under present day traffic conditions.'

The full list of those who won awards is as follows:

15 Year Brooch: Mr. T. L. Jones.

Oak Leaf Bar to 10 Year Medal: Messrs. W. J. Hopkins, D. Hughes and E. L. Williams.

10 Year Medal: Messrs. G. Simpson and R. Smith.

Bar to 5 Year Medal: Messrs. A. K. Jones, D. Jones, S. V. Taylor, E. Thomas and F. R. Williams.

5 Year Medal: Messrs. P. M. Horsley and E. A. Thomas.

Some of the Safe Drivers who received awards, from left to right: Messrs. T. L. Jones, G. Simpson, D. Hughes, E. L. Williams and R. Smith, with Mr. Kidd making the presentations.



Diplomas: Messrs. D. V. Edwards, T. A. Everley, G. W. Griffiths, H. Hanbley, B. James, B. Jones, E. Jones, H. R. Jones, J. B. Jones, J. S. Jones, E. Owen, D. J. Roberts, G. W. Roberts, T. W. E. Walton, G. Perkins, A. Williams and A. J. Turner.

Exemption Certificate: Messrs. A. F. Jones, E. J. Harpin, B. Williams and J. Williams.

Introducing "THE CONCORDE"

This is the new MANWEB Brand 'Concorde' electric cooker. In these times of general shortages of electric cookers, it comes as a relief to be able to offer a completely new cooker.

The 'Concorde' is a full-size cooker with four radiant rings, separate grill with a convenient open front. It has a low splash back, full-size oven, and useful storage space below.

Although not a sophisticated cooker by modern standards, the 'Concorde' offers exceptional value for money at £42, and will appeal to many people.

This cooker offers customers an excellent opportunity to try electric cooking—maybe for the first time. After this, they will never

want to change back again.

Specifications:

It is just over 36 inches high, nearly 19 inches wide and about 25 inches deep. The splashback, with controls adds nearly 11 inches to the hob-height.

The oven is fitted with non-tilting rod shelves, roasting pan and browning tray. There is a grill pan and spillage tray.

Two seven inch hotplates are loaded at 2kW each and two 5½ inch plates loaded at 1.3 kW each. The grill is rated at 1.8 kW and the oven at 2.2 kW.

The hob and inside of the oven is finished in vitreous enamel, and externally, the oven is in white stove enamel with chromium-plated trim.



The elegant and serviceable "Cohcorde" Electric Cooker

GROUND BREAKING AT BRIDLE ROAD

Alderman G. Halliwell, Chairman of Bootle's Planning and Estates Committee, cuts the first sod at the site on which MANWEB's new North Mersey District office will be built at Bridle Road, Bootle.

The "heat reclaim" air-conditioning system, which has been such a trail-blazing success at Head Office at Sealand Road, will be incorporated into the construction of the new District office, which is expected to be ready for occupation in the latter part of 1972. MANWEB's customers in the present Liverpool North and Southport Districts will be catered for at Bridle Road.

With Alderman Halliwell (who was accompanied by a civic party), is Mr. H. Telfer (Manager, Area 1).



STUDY PRIZES

Study prizes have been awarded to the following member of the staff for work done during the year 1968/69.

Senior Award (Value £25).

Messrs A. Bratt and R. A. Kelly (*student engineers*), R. Lee (*gen. assist. eng.*), W. J. Ravenscroft (*executive officer*), K. Rigby and A. F. Whitlock (*general assistant engineers*).

Junior Award (value £10).

Messrs R. W. Anderston, M. Bellis and D. J. Edge (*student engineers*), R. C. Gerrard and I. W. Hewitt (*clerks*) and K. C. Young (*apprentice electrician, Aberystwyth*).

Santa

Meet the
Time-Study Boys.
It had to happen.
Santa comes under the 'watch'.
These are the results . . .



Cartoons by
Mr. E. Silcock
(Runcorn)



"Boy! If he keeps this up he'll be delivering next year's Christmas presents before three o'clock!"



"After careful study, we've decided to dispense with Donner and Blitzen and cut out the midnight coffee break. Then you could reach a 90 performance."



"I'll say this for him, once he starts there's no shaking him off!"



Mr. Hughes, centre, with some of his colleagues at Llangefni office.

RETIREMENTS

Mr. L. HUGHES

One of our drivers based at the Llangefni Depot, Mr. Lewis Hughes, retired recently after completing 35 years' service in the electricity supply industry.

A keen member of the MANWEB Sports and Social Club at Llangefni—he was once Chairman of the Committee—Mr. Hughes also has an impressive safe driving record with only one slight accident in 17 years on the road.

At a special ceremony held at District Office a few weeks ago, Mr. A. R. Shaw (*District Engineer*) on behalf of the whole staff, wished Mr. Hughes many years of happy and healthy retirement before making the presentation of a farewell gift.

MR. C. FLETCHER

After 22 years' service in the Southport District of the Board, Mr. Clifford Fletcher, a shift gate-keeper on security duties retired recently.

On behalf of his many friends in the District, Mr. Fletcher was presented with a table lamp by Mr. G. Shoesmith (*District Administrative Officer*). Another presentation, a cigarette box, was handed over by Mr. J. P. Pritchard (*shift electrician*) on behalf of his shift colleagues.

A keen golfer, Mr Fletcher has been a regular participant in the annual golf matches between staff from Head Office and Southport District. He is a former captain of the Park Golf Club.

We wish him good health in his retirement.

Mr. Fletcher (*in striped tie*) with just a few of his many friends at the Southport Depot on the occasion of his recent retirement.



MRS. E. KING

Foster-mother to a very large family, practically every young man who has been through the Hoylake Training Centre, Mrs. Edith King retired recently from her job as canteen attendant. For the past 16 years, Mrs King has been on duty at lunch time and during the morning and afternoon break periods seeing to the 'inner man'.

At a farewell ceremony, Mr. J. L. W. Ladner (*Education and Training Officer*) said that Mrs. King had fulfilled many roles while at Hoylake, even to the cultivation of a number of plants which decorated

the canteen and added a touch of brightness. He said that her many friends at the Centre, would always be pleased to welcome her back and then on their behalf he presented Mrs. King with a MANWEB clothes dryer

In reply, Mrs King said that she had enjoyed her period working with the staff at Hoylake and reminisced a little about her early days when she was asked to make tea in the kettle! She thanked all the staff for their help and co-operation and was pleased to accept their good wishes for her future happiness.



Mrs. King, seated centre, surrounded by her friends and colleagues at the Hoylake Training Centre, after they had presented her with a MANWEB clothes dryer as a farewell gift.

FAREWELLS from SOUTHPORT

Miss G. B. HORNBY

Representatives of the various departments in the Southport District attended a presentation ceremony on the occasion of the departure of Miss Gloria B. Hornby, Typing Supervisor, to take up a new appointment with the Lancashire Rivers Authority.

After paying tribute to her hard and efficient work during her service with the Board and wishing her well in her new post, Mr. J. F. Graham-Glover (*Principal Assistant-Admin.*), presented Miss Hornby with a travelling clock

together with a bouquet of flowers on behalf of her many friends and colleagues in the District.

Mr. E. Lloyd

Many colleagues assembled to say farewell to Mr. Eric Lloyd (*electrician*) Southport District, who left the service of the Board on 13th November 1970, to take up another appointment.

In wishing Mr. Lloyd the best of luck for the future, he was presented with a pair of driving gloves by Mr. Ken. Rigby (*contracting engineer*).

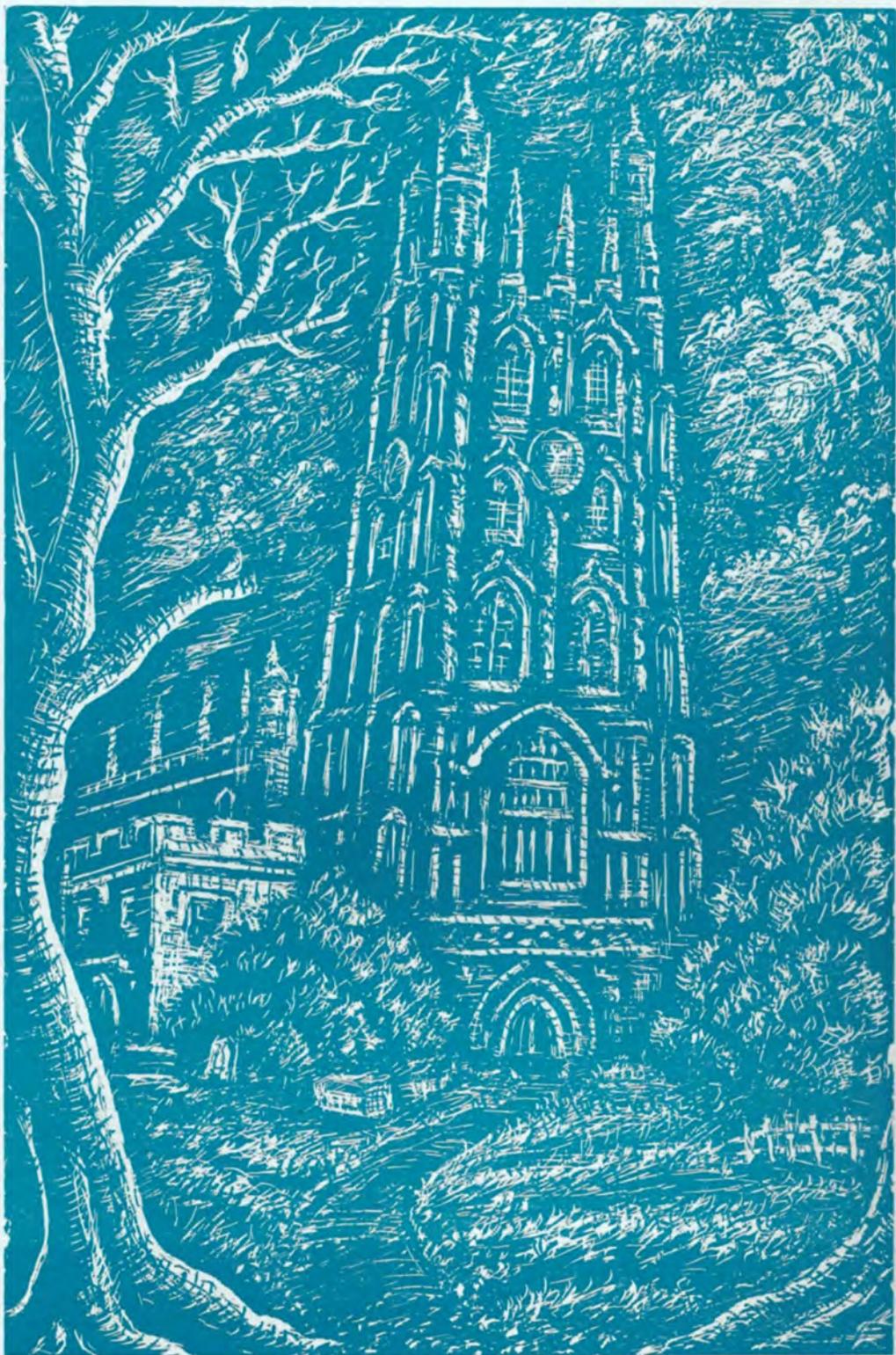
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Wrexham Parish Church

(An original scraper board drawing by Mr. S. Jones of our Legacy Stores)