

Mr. CLIFFORD JONES

A very popular member of District Office staff at Wrexham, 21-year-old Mr. Clifford Jones, a Clerk, was involved in a fatal accident as he rode to work on his motor-cycle one Monday morning just before Christmas. The accident occurred at Rhostyllen and Mr. Jones was removed to the Wrexham War Memorial Hospital but died on admission.

Cliff had been employed by the Board for two years and was engaged on clerical duties at District Office and had also assisted on relief duties at both Wrexham and Johnstown Sub-District offices.



Mr. C. Jones

He was a very well respected and well liked member of the staff possessing a very infectious personality and was always happy. When one remembers that his leisure hours were almost entirely

devoted to singing with Groups, and as a free-lance guitar soloist singing folk songs, it is easy to realise why one would always find Clifford singing or whistling some of the songs that appeared in the Top Twenty.

At one time he was the soloist with the Group known as the "Dee-Siders" and at Christmas time 1964 assisted in providing a concert in the Area Office Canteen for the raising of funds for the Children's Christmas Party. He also gave freely of his leisure time singing at various functions in aid of local charities.

He is sadly missed by all the staff and our deepest sympathy is extended to his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Winston Jones at Heol Maelor, Johnstown. Cliff's father, Mr. Winston Jones, is also employed in the Mains Department of the Wrexham Sub-District.

Mr. W. H. FOSTER

Our deepest sympathy goes to the brothers and sisters of Mr. W. H. Foster, assistant storekeeper, St. Helens District, who was found dead in bed.

Mr. Foster who was stated to have died from influenza, was 49 years old and had been employed at St. Helens District since August 1957.

During the war he saw service with the Royal Navy.

At his funeral at St. Helens Cemetery the bearers were Messrs. N. Rawsthorne, E. E. Wilson, R. Bushell and D. G. Brown of the Mains Department.

**"Contact"
Correspondents**

Mr. R. Vernon (Hoylake Training Centre)

AREA 1

Mr. A. Cassie (Hatton Garden)
Mr. N. B. Kenyon (Hatton Garden)
Mrs. M. Cowle (Derby House)
Mr. D. Patrick (Marsh Lane)
Mr. J. J. Rotherham (Lister Drive)
Mr. M. Brown (Southport)

AREA 2/3

Mrs. J. Gwyther (Sealand Road)
Mrs. E. Burke (Sealand Road)
Mr. H. Hughes (Sealand Road)
Mr. A. Wadcock (Sealand Road)
Mr. G. E. H. Wheeler (Carlton St.)
Miss M. Worthington (Bridge St.)
Mr. M. J. Caird (Warrington)
Mr. G. W. Wells (Runcorn)
Mr. H. H. Turner (Widnes)
Mr. C. P. Booth (Northwich)
Mr. L. Sewell (New Crane St.)
Mr. K. Jones (Wallasey)
Mr. F. Gordon (Birkenhead)

AREA 4

Mr. J. L. Thomas (Rhostyllen)
Mr. H. T. McBride (Crewe)
Mr. J. R. Jenkins (Nantwich)
Mr. A. T. Knott (Nantwich)
Miss G. Baxendale (Sandbach)
Mr. J. W. Forrester (Shotton)
Mr. W. Ll. Williams (Newtown)
Mr. W. D. Morris (Welshpool)
Mr. A. L. Barker (Whitchurch)
Mr. D. Young (Prestatyn)
Mr. I. W. Griffiths (Mold)
Mr. L. Hughes (Llandudno)
Mr. H. Jones (Colwyn Bay)
Mr. D. Hughes (Caernarvon)
Mrs. E. F. Davies (Bangor)
Mr. E. Jones (Wrexham)
Mr. E. Jones (Bethesda)
Miss D. Edwards (Bl. Ffestiniog)
Mr. J. B. Williams (Pwllheli)
Mr. L. C. Jones (Llangefni)
Mr. W. H. Williams (Menai Bridge)
Mr. D. G. Thomas (Aberystwyth)
Mr. D. Hughes (Barmouth)
Mr. E. A. Wharton (Dolgellau)

February

1966

Contact

*The Staff Magazine
of the
Merseyside and North Wales
Electricity Board*





There's something for everyone here.

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E



Neat and clean—like guardsmen on parade.

Mold Electricity Service Centre

Our Cover Picture

The Board's latest Electricity Service Centre at 26 High Street, Mold, is completely unique in the way it combines the past, the present and the future.

A new facia and frontage have been tastefully added to give a modern expression to a building of long standing. The Tudoresque design of the main structure has been purposely retained however, so as not to deprive the Town of a familiar and impressive landmark.

The interior of the Service Centre is in direct contrast to its dated exterior. The attractive contemporary decor proves to be a suitable setting for the comprehensive "tomorrow" range of the latest electrical appliances which of course—"you can have today".

Members of the Clwyd District staff on duty at Mold Service Centre. *Left to right:* Miss M. Burdis (Service Centre assistant), Mrs. B. K. Jones (part-time Service Centre assistant) and Mr. R. Hewitt (senior Service Centre assistant). Very smart they are too!



Contact

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THE STAFF MAGAZINE OF THE
MERSEYSIDE AND NORTH WALES
ELECTRICITY BOARD

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EDITORIAL

A Hard Winter's Work

WITH the worst of the winter—we hope—behind us, members of the MANWEB staff have cause for reasonable self-congratulation on a reliable supply of electricity provided over the most testing time of the year, despite very heavy demands on the network.

After a shaky start under the impact of some of the harshest November weather for many years, the country's generating capacity has carried some exceptionally heavy loads, and the Chairman's letter to the Regional Director of the C.E.G.B. (reproduced elsewhere in this number of *Contact*) represents a thoroughly-deserved tribute.

At the same time, the very substantial sums which have been spent on the MANWEB distribution network in the past few years, and the enormous amount of hard work which has been involved at all levels among the Board's employees, has borne fruit by providing a system capable of transmitting the product of our straining power stations to homes, farms, offices, factories and shops all over the area.

Everyone who has been involved in this effort is also deserving of congratulations.

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Some of the delegates listening to the Chairman.



District Joint Advisory Council



Above, right and below: Three of the study groups in session. The themes under discussion were "Public Relations" and "Consumer Relations".



Conference at Chester

After a hard day's work the delegates ate a hearty meal.



Letters of Thanks

Nearly 350 Christmas parcels were delivered in the name of the Manual Workers Benevolent Society to retired employees and manual workers who were on the 'sick list' at the time. The parcels, as usual, contained many items of seasonal fare and, judging by the number of letters of thanks and appreciation, received at Head Office and in the Areas, these were certainly well received.

We reproduce below, just one of these letters also some extracts taken from the dozens received at Area 1 Office.

Dear Sir,

I received the parcel today with most grateful thanks from the Benevolent Society. I wish you to convey to the Committee my deep appreciation of the high standard of the goods and at the time of the year my wife and I are most thankful in view of the fact that many of our retired employees who are pensioners find things sometimes difficult.

On several occasions in the past this fund has helped me to overcome some very unfortunate positions I have found myself in and I consider this fund has done wonderful work quite unknown to a lot of our manual workers. Now, what about these comments in 'Contact', let us criticise, but let us give credit and appreciation when it is deserved.

With good wishes, good health, and compliments of the season.

(Signed)

"On behalf of my wife and myself, I would like you to convey our thanks to all concerned for

the beautiful food parcel received at Christmas It made our Christmas the best we have had."

"I take the pleasure of writing to thank you and the Benevolent Society for your gift to my missus and me of a Christmas parcel. It's not the action that is remembered, it's the thought of those concerned."

"We wish to thank you for a splendid and kindly Christmas gift. It was a Godsend for which we are truly and wholeheartedly grateful."

"With many thanks and with all good wishes for the parcel that was sent to me last Thursday. It was very kind. I cannot tell you how pleased I was when I opened it. It was lovely and the chicken was very nice."

"My wife and I would like to thank you and your colleagues for the wonderful parcel you sent us. It is very nice to think you are remembered when you have retired. Everything in it was most acceptable and was very much appreciated."

"I am writing to thank you very much, also the Chairman, Officers and Members of the Workers' Benevolent Society for so very kindly sending me the lovely Christmas parcel. It is comforting to know that there are still people who will find time to give sympathetic consideration to the well-being of other people, especially the aged, and at Christmas time. This brings much happiness to them, and I am most grateful to all concerned for their generosity."

At their meeting on February 11th, members of the Board endorsed this letter of appreciation sent by our Chairman to Mr. J. L. Ashworth, the Regional Director for the C.E.G.B.'s North Western Region.

Dear Mr. Ashworth,

I should like on behalf of my Board and all the consumers in MANWEB to express my sincere appreciation to you and all those concerned with the operation of generating stations, for the remarkable achievement of the Generating Board in sustaining the record demand on power stations during the recent very cold weather without requiring the disconnection of any consumers.

I am fully aware of the exceptional measures by which this was achieved in the face of great difficulties and their implementation reflects the greatest possible credit on those who initiated them and carried them into effect.

I shall be grateful if you will convey the appreciation of my Board to all concerned.

Yours sincerely,

D. G. Dodds.

Board Chairman, Mr. D. G. Dodds (second from right) hands a Long Service Certificate to a member of our Area 4 staff. Also in the picture are Messrs. K. Helliwell (Area Manager) and A. Kidd (Area Secretary).



Long Service Awards

Long Service awards were presented to 33 members of the Board's Area 4 staff at a ceremony at Rhostyllen some time ago, by Mr. D. G. Dodds (Chairman).

Awards were presented as follows:—

45 years' service: Messrs. H. G. Finchett (District Engineer, Oswestry), and T. Marchant (transport driver, Llandudno Junction).

35 years' service: Messrs. C. Gibson (third assistant engineer, Legacy), L. J. Havill (senior assistant commercial engineer, Rhostyllen), C. Lloyd (costs assistant, Rhostyllen), H. Price (senior assistant, Revenue, Rhostyllen), G. E. Jones (chargehand transport driver, Legacy), R. Robb (electrician, Wrexham), H. S. Welson (assistant section engineer, Newtown), J. L. Williams (District Manager, Oswestry), I. Ll. Evans (section engineer, Mold), W. Jones (assistant section engineer, Mold), F. T. Shortridge (storekeeper, Llandudno Junction), R.

Evans (chargehand linesman, Pwllheli), G. D. G. Morgan (foreman joiner, Aberystwyth).

25 years' service: Mr. K. A. Edwards (cashier, Rhostyllen), Mrs. O. Smalley (assistant—consumers' accounts, Rhostyllen), Messrs. D. Nicholls (chargehand linesman, Nantwich), F. Jones (installation inspector, Corwen), E. Williams (chargehand linesman, Legacy), G. A. Jones (installation inspector, Newtown), Miss R. Roberts (clerical assistant, Oswestry), Messrs. M. Evans (installation Inspector, Ruthin), H. H. Williams (assistant consumers' engineer, Rhyl), H. E. Davies (substation attendant, Colwyn Bay), W. H. Hughes (joiner, Llandudno Junction), E. Jones (linesman, Llandudno Junction), R. H. Jones (clerk, Colwyn Bay), T. Lee (senior Service Centre assistant, Llandudno), W. H. Blunt (section engineer, Llanberis), Miss D. Edwards (clerical assistant, Blaenau Ffestiniog), Miss E. Smith (clerk, Llangefni).

LOCAL NEWS ITEM

Maigret's Cottage gets Electricity

On Christmas Eve, electricity was "switched on" for the first time in the Pistyll area of Lley. Included in the area of supply was the holiday cottage belonging to Mr. Rupert (Maigret) Davies.

This item prompted our resident cartoonist at Caernarvon, Mr. Len Williams, to get out his pen and paper and produce the excellent drawing seen here.



"At last, at last—
now I can watch Perry Mason!"

Three ladies from Area 2/3 with Mr. E. Richardson (senior instructor, Sales). Left to right: Mrs. W. McGrath (Service Centre assistant, New Ferry), Mrs. J. Wallis (Service Centre assistant, Birkenhead) and Miss S. V. Clinch (trainee demonstrator, Runcorn).



General Sales Training Course

first week ...



... at Wallasey

From Area 1 we have, left to right: Miss E. Ward (Service Centre assistant, Bootle), Mr. D. Greenwood (sales representative, Southport) and Miss S. Vickery (trainee demonstrator, Liverpool South).



A happy group of Service Centre assistants from Area 4
Left to right: Mrs. S. Wills (Mold), Mrs. P. V. Jones (Shotton), Mr. D. Evans (Aberystwyth), Mrs. H. M. Dixon (Holyhead) and Mrs. G. Davies (Crewe).

MANWEB Wiring and Repair Service

No trader offers a more comprehensive customer service than we do—we give advice; sell the equipment; install it; service it—even buy it back when old, in part exchange for new.

Our customer loyalty is built on our SIX STAR SERVICE.

- * Wide range of tested appliances
- * Comprehensive 12 months double guarantee
- * Unbiased expert advice
- * Fair prices
- * After-sales service
- * Choose how to pay

During this year, the Board will advertise this SIX STAR SERVICE.


An important backing to this is our wiring and repair service, and a campaign to promote this is now well under way. On the right is an advertisement which has appeared in most of the newspapers circulating within the Board's Area.

In addition to press advertising, promotional material comprises of direct mail, counter leaflets, vehicle hardboards and Service Centre display material.

You too can help by telling your friends and neighbours about the MANWEB wiring and repair service.


This is the largest ever wiring promotion carried out by the Board and we feel sure that it will reinforce customer confidence in dealing with MANWEB.

Need new Wiring?
Plugs and Sockets?
Points for Lighting?



Bring in the man
from **Manweb**

Estimates and expert advice are free,
without obligation
FROM YOUR MANWEB SHOWROOM
No job is too big or too small for Manweb



*FOR VALUE—
first and always*

“Know Your Appliances” Competition

Winner from Hatton Garden

Although the number of entries were rather lower than we expected, the competition proved to be very interesting and some very good ideas came to light through the “What’s Missing” section. You may remember that this was the part where the competitor had to describe an electrical appliance, not yet on the market, which would benefit the individual or all consumers generally. This was included so that the ideas given would be taken into account by the judges in the event of a tie in the number of points gained in the other sections.

When all the entries had been checked and points awarded, a count was then made and the highest number of points were marked on the entry form sent in by **Mr. R. L. Mallon** who is employed as an assistant in the Orders and Records section at Area 1 Office.

Mr. Mallon selected as his line of prizes the MANWEB electric storage heater (a unidaire), a MANWEB water heater, complete with wiring and a MANWEB electric kettle.

On the competition entry form it was announced that there would be three second prizes awarded, but due to a tie in the number of points gained by the two competitors who came 4th and 5th—and the fact that their ‘other

appliances’ suggestions were both very good—we decided to increase the number of prizewinners to four. These were Messrs. **E. Bryant** (installation inspection engineer, Liverpool North District), **D. M. Cathcart** (assistant consumers’ engineer, Northwich District), **S. Rowland** (Service Centre assistant, Chester) and **J. Wignall** (1st assistant D.C.E. Liverpool North District). Each of these four winners will receive a two years’ supply of electric lamps for their home.

All other competitors will receive consolation prizes of full-colour 52-page Hotpoint cookery books.

The winning order of importance of the various features of the three main load-building appliances were as follows:

Electric-storage heating: 1. Cheapest system to install. 2. Easily installed—no pipes. 3. Clean. No fuel handling. 4. Automatic and trouble free. 5. Build up—take with you if you move house.

Electric cooking: 1. Economical in use. 2. Healthy—no fumes on food. 3. Beautifully clean always. 4. Super quick. 5. Automatic—cooks by itself.

Electric water heating: 1. Always available. 2. Economical. 3. Saves Summer fire lighting. 4. Trouble free. 5. Fully automatic.

More Money for Pensioners

On the 22nd December, 1965, the Pensions (Increases) Act, 1965, which increases the pensions of public service pensioners as from 1st January, 1966, was passed. This Act does not automatically cover retired employees of the Electricity Supply Industry. It is, however, the practice of the Electricity Council and the Boards to award, under their own arrangements, similar increases to their pensioners.

The Electricity Council have, therefore, established a new Pensions Increase Scheme, in which the Central Electricity Generating Board and all the Area Boards have agreed to participate, granting increases on the lines of the new Act to the pensioners of the Industry as from 1st January, 1966. These increases are intended to offset, at least in part, rises in the cost of living which has gone up 10 per cent since pensions were last adjusted in January, 1963.

The scale of increases expressed as a percentage of the total pension being paid at 1st January, 1966, is as follows:—

Date pension began	Percentage increase
1st April, 1957 or before	16
2nd April, 1957 to 1st April, 1958 ...	14
2nd April, 1958 to 1st April, 1959 ...	12
2nd April, 1959 to 1st April, 1960 ...	10
2nd April, 1960 to 1st April, 1961 ...	8
2nd April, 1961 to 1st April, 1962 ...	6
2nd April, 1962 to 1st April, 1963 ...	4
2nd April, 1963 to 1st April, 1964 ...	2

Male pensioners under the age of 60 who did not retire on the grounds of ill-health and widows under the age of 40 years without a dependant child, will not qualify for the appropriate increase until they attain those ages.

Party Time



High Spirits! In more ways than one. A member of the Board's staff, who shall remain nameless to all except our Caernarvon District friends, enjoys her party-time.



Over 80 children, and some grown-ups, enjoyed a Christmas Party organised by the Caernarvon District Sports and Social Club. A fine tea, an interesting film show and gifts from dear old Santa provided the highlights of a very successful party.

for the youngsters . . . and the not so young

AT BLAENAU FFESTINIOG

Thirty-five children of members of the staff at Blaenau Ffestiniog enjoyed their annual Christmas Party at a local hotel. Father Christmas (Mr. J. T. Jones, mains foreman), distributed gifts to one and all. A film show and games rounded off an enjoyable occasion.

SANDIWAY

About 120 children, including 30 from a local children's home, enjoyed a first class Christmas Party at the Memorial Hall, Northwich. The occasion, organised by the Sandiway House Sport and Social Club, was also attended by about 50 parents.

The programme included games, tea, a miming act of "Freddie and the Dreamers", performed by Bruce Johnson, Bill Copeman, John Swarbrick, David Sadler and Reg Goodier, and a visit from Father Christmas, assisted by his personal Fairy (Vera Tomlinson).

Always popular with the youngsters — any improvisation on the age-old game of musical chairs. These youngsters at the Sandiway House party are no exception.



NORTHWICH

At the annual Christmas Party organised by the Northwich District Sports and Social Club, nearly a hundred children, accompanied by almost as many adults, enjoyed an excellent meal prepared and served by Mrs. Cheetham and her staff. After this, a film show was given followed by entertainment by a conjurer and the party games.

Before leaving for home, each child received the traditional gift from Santa, who, under his beard, looked remarkably like Mr. R. Scott, a chargehand mechanic.

Hey Presto! The conjurer holds the attention of children and grown-ups at the Northwich District party.



Anglesey District Sports and Social Club Committee members who organised the activities during the festive season. *Left to right, back row:* Messrs. C. Roberts, P. F. Hughes, R. T. Gibson and F. J. Keen. *Front row:* Mr. J. Etchells, Mrs. E. R. Keen, Mr. E. Jones, Mrs. M. J. Winterburn and Mr. M. O. Jones. Committee members Messrs. A. Jones and J. M. Owen were not available when this picture was taken.



Panto-time again at Head Office. Our picture shows some of the cast, backing Reg. Huyton as he gives forth in song.

SOCIAL AT BLAENAU

About 120 people, members of the Blaenau Ffestiniog Sport and Social Club, and their friends, attended the club's Annual Christmas Dance at the George Hotel, Criccieth. Friends from the Pwllheli Sub-District joined, and a most enjoyable time was had by all.



Dior and Balmain have recently shown their Spring collections, but it looks as if our North Wirral fashion house was ahead of them. In actual fact this was only their version of the musical chairs game.

HI-JINX AT NORTH WIRRAL



Some of our colleagues who enjoyed themselves at the North Wirral District Christmas Party.

WALLASEY 'GET-TOGETHER'

A good time was had by all at the seasonal party held by the Wallasey Sports and Social Club when a number of retired employees were invited and regaled with food and drink and generally entertained. This followed on the success of last years' similar party and it now looks like becoming an annual event.



THE UNAUTHORISED PASSENGER

It was a fine morning as two gentlemen of the North Wirral District Mains staff (who are hiding behind a cloak of anonymity) were driving in their mini-van on the road between Gayton and Heswall. Suddenly, simultaneously, they were both aware of a peculiar smell creeping into their company.

Being true gentlemen, no-one said anything, until after a few more miles the aroma became so overpowering that the conversational barrier was broken with references to all kinds of commodities, ranging from socks to salts.

Before our two friends could come to any definite conclusion, they arrived at the substation where work awaited them. Completing the job, they settled into their van ready for the return journey, but switching on the engine brought a cloud of black smoke from under the bonnet, and a rapid evacuation of the vehicle.

Lifting the bonnet revealed the smoking remains of a young rabbit, which had become jammed in the fan belt, preventing it from working properly. The rabbit, apparently, had been running alongside the van, had swerved underneath and jumped up, becoming trapped in the belt.

With the mystery of the smell solved, our colleagues returned to base.

The MANWEB Supper Dance was held this year at the Blundellsands Hotel, when members of the staff from all over the Area attended. In this picture we show (from left to right) Mr. K. Helliwell (Manager Area 4) and Mrs. Helliwell, Mr. M. M. Parker (Secretary and Solicitor) and Mrs. Parker, Mr. D. G. Dodds (Chairman) and Mrs. Dodds and Mr. J. Taylor (Manager Area 1) and Mrs. Taylor.



Our Birkenhead Service Centre ran out as winners in their section of the recent Hoover window display contest. In the overall dealer section they were placed second out of a total of 1,700 entries. Our picture shows Mr. B. Ridge (left), Hoover District Manager, presenting Mr. J. W. Casson (Service Centre Supervisor) with a number of prizes for members of his staff.

CRICKET VICTORS

MANWEB Area 4, won the Nalgo Cricket Competition when they easily defeated Wrexham R.D.C. at Marchwiell Hall.

Winning the toss MANWEB batted first, thanks mainly to Eric Edwards (Purchasing) 41 not out, and Hubert Phillips (Secretarial) 35 not out, they eventually totalled 111 for 4 wickets in 18 overs.

The R.D.C. were in immediate trouble against the bowling of Vic Williams (Wrexham) and Michael Edwards (Purchasing), and could only total 14 runs. Williams took 3 wickets for 7 runs, and Edwards 4 wickets for 2 runs.

MANWEB:

M. H. Edwards (Capt.), E. Edwards, K. Spencer, I. Bundy, H. Thompson, H. Phillips, G. Williams, D. Powell, J. Lloyd, G. Lloyd, V. Williams.

Here . . .

THANKS

The following letter was received recently at Liverpool North District Office:

Dear Sir,

One reads so much these days of long-haired layabouts and British workers who are work-shy.

I am very happy to report that the two young men who recently installed all manner of electrical equipment at the above address presented a very different picture of the modern generation. They were punctual, quick, clean and efficient workmen who did a first-class job and never stopped for a moment.

Please convey our appreciation of a job well done.

Yours sincerely,

(Signed).

GET WELL SOON

Best wishes for a speedy recovery go to Mr. J. L. Perry, a bricklayer in the St. Helens District Building Department, who was recently admitted to the Eccleston Hall Hospital, St. Helens.



In last month's *Contact* we printed a report on the wedding of Miss M. Owen, a demonstrator at Caernarvon. We now show Miss Owen (seated, right) with her friends at the office who presented her with an electric fire as a wedding gift.

ENGAGEMENT

Our congratulations go to Miss Barbara Hall (draughtswoman) at Head Office and Mr. Roger Davies of Ellesmere Port, who announced their engagement on New Year's Day.

and there

MOVES TO LIVERPOOL...

On leaving to take up an appointment at Area 1, Mr. M. L. Hughes, assistant section engineer at St. Helens, was presented with an electric blanket on behalf of his colleagues by Mr. H. C. Barr (District Engineer).

... TO HEAD OFFICE

A few weeks ago, colleagues and friends gathered at Warrington District Office to bid farewell to the District Engineer Mr. R. T. Gales who was leaving to take up his new duties at Head Office.

Tributes were paid by Mr. R. G. Monk (D.C.E.), Mr. R. W. Henri (D.S.C.) and Mr. W. Jones (1st assistant D.E.) who, on behalf of the staff, presented Mr. Gales with a fishing rod.

COMPETITION PRIZES

At a trade presentation by Hotpoint Limited at a Liverpool hotel, prizes were awarded to Service Centres in Area 1 in connection with that firm's

recent washing machine sales promotion. The first prize of a Polaroid Camera went to Mr. T. Saladine, Service Centre Supervisor, Walton Vale; second prize of £20 to Old Swan Service Centre, and third prize of £10 to Waterloo Service Centre.

APPRECIATED

The following letter was received at Chester District office a short time ago:

"Dear Sirs,

I would like to thank you and those members of your staff who connected the supply to my home. I very much appreciate the prompt and efficient manner in which you handled my enquiry and request. Having moved house from Cambridge, with all the attending problems involved in removals to a new District, we very much appreciate your services."

A popular member of the Drawing Office staff at Head Office, Miss Sheila Beirne, a tracer, left us a few weeks ago to take up another appointment. Her colleagues subscribed to a parting gift of a slide projector which was presented to her by Mr. J. S. Ekbery (Assistant Chief Engineer, Operation).



STAR SALESMEN

★ A short time ago, Mr. E. D. Jones an electrician in the Aberystwyth District, applied for and got an appointment as a sales representative.

Shortly after taking up his new job, he achieved great success in following up one of his first leads when calling on a consumer in Borth, Mr. Jones came away with an order for fifteen storage heaters plus their installation.

He is very enthusiastic about electric central heating and undoubtedly we shall be hearing more from Mr. E. D. Jones in the future.

★ Man with a genius for diplomacy is Mr. J. F. Griffiths, a meter reader on the Board's Clwyd District staff, who spends most of his time disconnecting consumers supply for non-payment of accounts.

In between times Mr. Griffiths succeeds in pushing the good name of Electricity—presumably to people who do pay their accounts—and during the month of September he sold two Manweb brand refrigerators, two cookers and three storage heaters.

He joined the Board's staff in 1954, having previously owned his own grocery shop in Rhuddlan.



Mr. D. G. Gwyn (Deputy Chairman), *centre*, presenting Mr. R. H. J. Gregory with a parting gift. Also in the picture we see Messrs. M. M. Parker (Secretary and Solicitor), W. W. Hughes (Assistant Secretary, Administration) and W. A. Gibson (Establishments Officer).

Mr. R. H. J. GREGORY

After sixteen years service as Secretary of the Electricity Consultative Council for the Merseyside and North Wales Area, and the Council's Sixth Local Committees, Mr. R. H. J. Gregory retired a few weeks ago.

Mr. Gregory, who spent much of his life as a

soldier, serving in both world wars, carried out his duties with the Council during the difficult period following its formation, when the Council was called upon to deal with numerous problems arising from the integration of 147 pre-vesting undertakings, the standardisation of tariffs, and the introduction of the Board's Rural Electrification scheme. The re-development of rural areas resulted in hundreds of representations that had to be dealt with by the various committees of the Council.

At a recent meeting the Council, in recognition of Mr. Gregory's long, loyal and valuable service, expressed their thanks to him for the way in which he had carried out his duties as Secretary. On behalf of his many friends he was presented with an electric kettle by Mr. D. G. Gwyn (Deputy Chairman) at a ceremony at Board Head Office.

Mr. Gregory is succeeded as Consultative Council Secretary by Miss Dorothy V. Black, who has been his assistant since 1956.

RETIREMENTS

Mr. W. THOMASON

Last New Year's Eve, Mr. W. Thomason, contracting engineer in the Liverpool Central District, retired after serving the electricity supply industry for over forty-seven years.

Mr. Thomason started work as an apprentice electrician with the Liverpool Corporation Electricity Supply Department in 1918, later becoming a tradesman and holding various supervisory posts until his present appointment in 1956.

During the last war, he played



Mr. H. J. Fraser, *left*, making a farewell presentation to Mr. W. Thomason.

a prominent part in organising the heating and lighting of many

thousands of air-raid shelters in and around Liverpool. He also put in some very hard work on the DC to AC changeover in the City.

To mark his retirement, over eighty of his colleagues gathered together at Hatton Garden to see Mr. H. J. Fraser (District Commercial Engineer, Central District) present Mr. Thomason with a token for the purchase of a battery-operated TV set for use in his caravan, and an extra gift of a travelling alarm clock for Mrs. Thomason.

Mr. J. M. FRASER

At Marsh Lane, Liverpool, friends and colleagues of Mr. John MacGilvary Fraser (Jock), gather to wish him a happy retirement and see Mr. A. E. Sweeney (District Engineer) present him with a gift on their behalf. Jock, who joined the industry just over 20 years ago as a labourer has had to retire four years before his normal time because of ill health. A very popular member of the Liverpool North District, we join with his many friends in wishing him improved health in the future.



Mr. J. ATKINSON

Recently, Mr. Joseph Atkinson, a senior assistant in the Accounts Department at Derby House, retired after nearly 40 years' service. In all these years Joe has been 'in the money' for we believe that his very first job was with the City Treasurers Department. During the last war, he served for a time with the Royal Navy.

At his farewell presentation, many friends and colleagues gathered to see Mr. Shoesmith (Assistant Accountant) on their behalf, present Mr. Atkinson with a garden chair and an electric shaver. We are told that Joe is rather keen on gardening, but after seeing the comfortable chair,



In front of his many friends, Mr. Atkinson (*left centre*) receives a farewell handshake from Mr. Shoesmith on the occasion of his retirement from the Board.

we cannot imagine much hard digging going on in his garden this summer!

Derby House Departures

Miss MARY LEE CROWE

We offer our best wishes for a happy retirement to Miss Mary Lee Crowe, a clerk in the Cash Office at Area 1 Accounts, who before leaving last December, was presented with a suit case, a picnic case and a bouquet of flowers from her friends and colleagues by Mr. G. Shoesmith.

After joining Liverpool Corporation Electricity Department in 1941, Miss Crowe went to work at Woolton on the long job of renewing the consumers' records system after the 'blitz'.



Settled comfortably with her knitting, Miss Crowe begins to enjoy her life of retirement.

Later she worked at Lister Drive before joining the staff at Derby House.

Immediately after her retirement, she put her gift suit case to good use when she went on a six-week holiday to the Isle of Man.

She enjoys pottering about in the garden so is looking forward to the Spring. She is also looking forward to carrying on with another job she has been doing very successfully for the past 40-odd years—that of Sunday School teacher in the Methodist Church.

Mr. H. YOUNG

Just after the turn of the year, another popular member of the Derby House staff left for a life of retirement. We refer to Mr. Harry Young who has spent over 25 years in the industry, the last eight in the Prepayment Section of the Cash Office.

Harry, an ex-Navy man, served in both world wars as a wireless operator.

A very strong family man, he says that he will now be able to devote more time and attention to his wife and to his grandchildren. Mrs. Young was remembered when Harry was presented with a number of parting gifts from his colleagues, for in addition to receiving an electric blanket and a

travelling clock, he also received a ladies compact.

Harry will be kept very busy during his retirement being the treasurer of the Belmont Conservative Club and a very active church member.

Members of the Cash Office at Area 1, look on as Mr. Shoesmith (in glasses) wishes Mr. Young many years of happy retirement.





Mr. and Mrs. S. Brown, seated centre, between Messrs. R. T. Gales, left, and F. J. Brown (Chief Engineer).

Mr. S. BROWN

After 41 years' service to the industry Mr. Sidney Brown, section engineer at Warrington, retired a short time ago.

Mr. Brown, who began in 1924 as a wireman with Warrington Corporation, subsequently became a jointer, substation chargehand, and substation foreman.

On the nationalisation of the industry he was appointed assistant section engineer, and promoted to section engineer in 1951.

Mr. Brown has seen many varied changes and improvements during his years of service, and recalls with amusement to the days when a dray drawn by two horses was used to transport transformers and other substation equipment to the site.

At a farewell gathering at the District Office, he was presented with a wristlet watch by Mr. R. T. Gales (District Engineer) on behalf of his colleagues, while Mrs. Brown was handed a bouquet of flowers by Miss J. Pearson (shorthand typist).

Farewells from Warrington

Mr. H. BURNS

A few weeks ago, Warrington District lost a good storekeeper when Mr. Henry Burns retired after serving the industry for over 28 years. At a special ceremony held in the Stores, with dozens of his friends looking on, Mr. Burns, joined by his wife, was presented with a cheque on their behalf by Mr. R. A. Ramsey (Stores superintendent).



Mr. and Mrs. H. Burns at the farewell ceremony. Our picture shows Mr. Burns receiving a cheque from Mr. R. A. Ramsey.

Mr. J. Anwyl, centre left, making the presentation to Mr. W. J. Williams.



Mr. W. J. WILLIAMS

After completing 36 years' service in the electricity supply industry, Mr. Walter J. Williams an installation inspector in the North Wirral District, retired recently. His many friends and colleagues subscribed to a parting gift of a transistor radio and this was presented to him on their behalf, by Mr. J. Anwyl (1st assistant District Commercial Engineer).

Mr. Williams, a keen golfer, is a member of the Brackenwood Golf Club.

DOUBLE DEPARTURE

Two foremen from the North Wirral Engineering Department retired recently after jointly serving the industry for more than 84 years. They were Mr. Alfred Robertson (over 44 years) and Mr. Harold Smith (40 years), who were both commended for their long and faithful service.

Mr. Robertson started as a labourer at Wallasey and soon became in turn, a jointer's mate, a jointer and finally mains foreman. He has two sons, Tom and Albert, who are following in father's footsteps for they too work at Seaview Road, one as a labourer and the other as a jointer's mate.

Mr. Smith also started as a labourer, but he was based at the Birkenhead depot. He too worked as a jointer before attaining his present post as foreman. He was transferred to Wallasey about six years ago.

A keen pigeon fancier, Mr. Smith devotes much of his spare time to this hobby. He is an active member of the Birkenhead Homing Society and has won a number of cups and trophies with his racing birds.

At a special presentation ceremony held a few weeks ago at the Wallasey Sports and Social Club, Mr. R. H. Morley (District Engineer) made presentations to Mr. Robertson and Mr. Smith on behalf of the District staff.

...and from North Wirral

Mr. E. R. BAILEY

Friends and colleagues of Mr. E. R. Bailey, a labourer at Birkenhead, said their farewells to him a few weeks ago when he retired after 19 years' service in the industry. On their behalf, Mr. R. H. Morley (District Engineer), presented Mr. Bailey with a cheque as a parting gift.

Mr. A. Robertson, holding clock, and Mr. H. Smith, with a few of their friends before saying their Goodbyes.





White-coated workers at Rhostyllen canteen gather round their colleague Miss M. C. Jones, as she is presented with a cheque on their behalf by Mr. A. Kidd (Area Secretary) on the occasion of her retirement from the Board. Although she officially left on January 17th, owing to a sickness bug which has hit many of the ladies in the canteen, Miss Jones has returned to her job to help out on a temporary basis.

Au-revoir to Area 4

Mr. A. BAKER

Just after the turn of the year, Mr. A. Baker (Senior Assistant Engineer, Construction) retired after nearly 47 years' service in the industry. Starting at Barrow in 1919, Mr. Baker later joined the East Anglia Electric Supply Company, transferring to the Eastern Electricity Board in 1948. Twelve months later he joined MANWEB's Area 4 in the post he held until his retirement.

On behalf of his many friends, Mr. Baker was presented with a gold watch by Mr. A. Perry (Area Engineer).

Mr. E. J. HUGHES

An electrician at our Bangor Depot, Mr. Evan John Hughes retired from work with the Board a short time ago. His many friends and workmates presented him with an electric fire as

After almost 38 years' service in the electricity supply industry, Mr. W. (Bill) Hulmerston retired recently. At a special ceremony held at Legacy, he was presented with parting gifts from his colleagues by Mr. R. W. Jones (Senior Assistant Engineer, Operations). Our picture shows Mr. Hulmerston (in driving coat) with some of his friends at the garage.

It is with deep regret that we have to report the sudden death of Mr. Hulmerston. This sad news was received just as *Contact* was going to press.



Mr. A. Perry (left) presents Mr. A. Baker with his retirement gift.

a parting gift, wishing many years of happy retirement to Evan and his wife.



MANWEB GAZETTE

Welcome to . . . the following employees:

Head Office: Mrs. B. Hemming (copy typist). Messrs. I. J. Christiansen (junior clerk, Registry), R. D. Evans (senior assistant, Financial), R. Lee and A. Maden (student engineers), G. E. Phillips (chauffeur) and B. Tushingam (assistant, Internal Audit).

Area 1 Office: Miss S. Carter and Miss J. Davies (clerks), Mrs. A. M. James and Miss M. C. Lynchehan (machine operators), Mrs. J. Mathias, Miss A. Nixon and Miss V. Owen (clerks). Messrs. W. Barton (watchman), N. Heller (Drawing Office assistant), M. L. Hughes (3rd assistant engineer, Construction), E. E. Jones (driver), E. Lewis (joiner) and J. McInerney (2nd assistant engineer, Planning). **Central District:** Mrs. D. Cripps (part-time Service Centre assistant) and Mrs. Pickett (cleaner). Messrs. D. J. Eves, F. Fagan and T. H. Fleetwood (labourers). **North District:** Mrs. D. H. Roberts (clerk). Messrs. M. Clarke, F. K. Kenney, A. Lee and J. Mulrooney (labourers). **South District:** Mrs. P. Ledden (Service Centre assistant) and Miss E. McDowell (shorthand typist). Messrs. D. J. Browne, G. J. Burke, W. A. Carr, H. Courtney, J. A. Eyres, V. Hannon, L. A. Langan, A. Murray, F. J. Ogden, T. Paine, L. H. Shone, K. Williams and P. J. Williams (labourers). **Southport District:** Messrs. A. Pleasant (clerk) and M. Stevenson (installation inspector).

Area 2/3 Office: Miss C. E. Jones (shorthand typist), Miss B. C. Pays and Mrs. S. I. Sever (clerks) and Mrs. M. Tonks (shorthand typist). Messrs. B. L. Billingham (storekeeper's assistant), K. A. Haddock, L. Moan and R. Pickering (clerks). **St. Helens District:** Mr. P. G. Myers (labourer). **Runcorn District:** Mrs. S. K. Johnson (cleaner). Messrs. B. Ainsworth and D. Ainsworth (labourers), A. L. Bennion (messenger), D. Bergess (labourer), W. E. Done (meter reader), B. Hughes and A. P. Kenny (labourers). **Northwich District:** Messrs. A. Alcock and A. N. Morrison (labourers). **North Wirral District:** Messrs. I. Croasdale (fitter's mate), G. V. Driscoll, T. W. Gillison and T. L. A. Male (labourers), M. McKane (watchman), A. Steens (labourer) and A. Wakefield (electrician).

Area 4 Office: Miss J. Humphreys (comptometer operator), Miss P. M. Jones (machine operator) and Mrs. E. Roberts (shorthand typist). Messrs. C. Jones (clerk), T. G. Morris (fitter, Legacy) and N. Pearson (clerk). **Crewe District:** Miss G. Davies (clerk) and Mrs. M. E. Fisher (part-time Service Centre assistant). Messrs. N. Dewhurst, A. Goodwin, B. Simms and M. Taylor (labourers). **Conway Valley District:** Mr. B. Jones (labourer). **Anglesey District:** Miss E. C. Jones (telephone operator). Messrs. T. Davies, J. R. Hughes and O. E. Williams (labourers).

Congratulations to . . . the following employees on their promotions:

Area 1 Office: Mrs. B. Cooper (assistant, Revenue). Messrs. J. Burgoyne (senior assistant, Cash

Banking) and J. Griffiths (assistant, Cash and Banking). **Central District:** Miss C. Butler (Service Centre assistant). Messrs. P. Bruns (joiner), F. Kay (contracting engineer) and B. Traynor (joiner). **South District:** Mr. J. A. Yarker (general assistant engineer). **Southport District:** Messrs. R. M. Brown (sales assistant), K. B. Fitton (fitter), E. J. Green and J. E. Mayers (joiners) and P. J. Reid (assistant).

Area 2/3 Office: Mr. H. A. Davies (computer operator). **Runcorn District:** Miss J. Boardman (Service Centre assistant). **Chester District:** Messrs. P. Chrimes (joiner), K. Edwards (section engineer) and M. McKenna (linesman). **North Wirral District:** Messrs. J. Butterworth (distribution foreman), N. A. Chisholm (chargehand painter), S. M. Kempton (substation attendant) and K. M. Palmer (joiner).

Area 4 Office: **Wrexham District:** Mr. D. J. Jones (assistant section engineer, Corwen). **Oswestry District:** Mr. A. M. Ellis (assistant section engineer). **Aberystwyth District:** Mr. J. Cowley (installation inspector, Machynlleth).

Farewell to . . . the following employees who have now left the service of the Board:

Head Office: Miss B. D. McKeown (shorthand typist). Messrs. D. Ellis (student engineer) and M. Steele (accountant-in-training).

Area 2/3: **Chester District:** Mr. A. Jackson (joiner). **North Wirral District:** Messrs. W. S. Cierpicki (labourer) and J. E. Rowlands (joiner e.h.t.).

Area 4 Office: Mr. A. Baker (senior assistant engineer, Construction) and Mr. W. Hulmston (labourer). **Clwyd District:** Mr. K. T. Davies (linesman's mate). **Anglesey District:** Mr. T. J. Hughes (labourer).

Obituary

Mr. H. G. FINCHETT

It is with very deep regret that we report the death of Mr. Gerald Finchett, District Engineer at Oswestry, which occurred suddenly at his home just before Christmas. He was 64.

Mr. Finchett, who began his career as an apprentice with the Oswestry Electric Light and Power Company in 1919, became mains superintendent when Oswestry Corporation took over the Company. From 1938 to 1940 he was acting Borough Electrical Engineer, becoming senior section engineer on the nationalisation of the industry. He was appointed District Engineer a few years ago.

A keen sportsman, Mr. Finchett played cricket for Oswestry from 1919 to 1938 and held most of the club's official positions. He played a vital role in re-establishing the club after the second world war.

We would like to pay our own particular tribute to Mr. Finchett's helpfulness in his role of honorary *Contact* correspondent at Oswestry. He was always ready to keep us abreast of activities in the District, and no effort was too much trouble.

We extend our sincere sympathy to Mrs. Finchett, on behalf of all his friends and colleagues.

(continued overleaf)