

# CONTACT

February 1975



Stuart Adds a Soupçon  
(see page 43)





Mrs. Edna Courtney

## Our 'Contact' Correspondents in North Mersey District

Mrs. Rita Tomlin



### Edna . . .

In charge of "The Wheel" in the District's Work Control Section, Mrs. Edna Courtney has been with the Board for the past five years coming to us from Vernon's Pools where she was the correspondence supervisor.

Her husband John is a progress chaser at Lucas Autospace (*just across the road*) and they have three children, a boy and two girls.

Edna is a swimmer and takes the plunge every week with the MANWEB Swimming Club. She also runs two keep-fit classes for ladies—one class includes some of her friends from Bridle Road.

She loves to dance and dine out with her husband, and they holiday with the children at a Pontin's hotel. "There is everything for the youngsters and a chance to relax for Mum and Dad," says Edna.

Another of her interests away from the office is her job as Hon. Treasurer for a local Brownie Pack.

She is a member of the North Mersey Sports and Social Club Committee.

### and Rita

Working on accounts enquiries in the Liaison Section at Bridle Road is Mrs. Rita Tomlin who has been with our North Mersey District for the past 13 years. Prior to that she was a shorthand typist with the Ministry of Defence at Fazakerley.

Rita is married and husband Fred is a detective sergeant with the Liverpool Police Force. They enjoy dancing and holidaying abroad with a preference for Spain and the sun.

She spends much of her spare time in bible study and on missionary work for her church.

A keen swimmer, Rita, a former member of the MANWEB Swimming Club still likes to take a dip.

Up to recently, she served as

Secretary to the North Mersey Sports and Social Club, being a member of the original committee formed just over twelve months ago. She represents her colleagues as a member of the Local Advisory Committee and she finds the work most interesting and informative. She also serves on the Canteen Committee.

So, to all our friends in the North Mersey District, please get to know these two ladies and let them have your news and stories for 'Contact.'

They want to know about your work—any large scale or unusual jobs you are working on; your interests, hobbies and pastimes; your play—social and sporting occasions.

You can telephone Edna on 213 and Rita on 269

## BROADENING EXPERIENCE

The secondment to other duties, for periods of up to 12 months, for several senior members of the Accounts Department staff, is announced in furtherance of the policy of affording extended experience to members of the staff.

**Mr. C. W. Leonard** (assistant chief accountant—computer services), to assistant chief accountant—administration. He retains general oversight of computer development.

**Mr. J. Peaker** (planning officer—computer services), to acting computer services supervisor.

**Mr. G. H. Dodd** (District administrative officer—Mid-Mersey) to Revenue Officer, in the Revenue section at Head Office.

**Mr. D. Hodgetts** (District administrative officer, Mid-Cheshire), to DAO, Mid-Mersey.

**Mr. R. D. Evans** (executive officer—Revenue, Head Office) to DAO, Mid-Cheshire.



# CONTACT

Vol. 27 No. 2

February, 1975

On other  
pages . . .

Aberystwyth Staff Meeting	40
Instant School	41
Commercial Notes	42
MANWEB Kitchen Centres	43
Talking Notes	46
Oswestry Party	51
Safe Drivers in Oswestry District	52
New District Office at Clwyd	53
Changes at the Junction	56
We Get Letters	57
District First-Aid Competition	58
Retirements	60

## Editorial

### ***The Penny's Bright Side***

THE procedures of public bodies—Government departments, local authorities, and nationalised industries among them—are often criticised by the axe-grinders of various interests as being insensitive, long-winded, and lethargic.

Let a street light at Little-Puddlecombe-in-the-Marsh be out of action for a few days, and our old friend "*Disgusted*" is sure to rush into print in the correspondence columns of the local paper. Let the computer cough up an account for one penny (sent at a postage cost of 3½p), and the inflamed recipient is likely to erupt in righteous wrath over such profligate waste of public funds. At times such as these the professional carpers of this world forget (if they ever understood) the graft and the stress involved in putting people back on supply after storms and blizzards, or in preventing society from grinding to a halt when the hand of industrial or economic warfare chokes off the supply of fuel to the power stations.

**We who work for public enterprises must, perhaps, resign ourselves to the fact that we are likely to get more kicks than ha'pence—but we should never lose the opportunity to tell the other side of the story.**

This number of *Contact* contains accounts of two quite separate sets of circumstances in which MANWEB employees have thrown red tape and normal working conditions to the winds in dealing with emergencies. One case involved the education of hundreds of school-children—the other the possibility of a massive financial cost to a major industrial customer.

These are the stories we should all have at our fingertips when next we hear someone voice a petty complaint.

#### Editorial Staff

*Phone H.O.*

Keith Baldwin 2164  
John F. Perry 2167  
Sam Doughty 2166

Please let the Editorial staff know of any large-scale or unusual engineering schemes or commercial projects going on in your department. We are interested in people too! Contact us about your interesting personalities with a story to tell.





## Aberystwyth's Best-Ever Staff Conference —

### *New Policy Pays Off!*

PROBABLY the most successful employees' conference ever staged at Aberystwyth was held at a local hotel recently, when about 100 MANWEB and CEGB staff, past and present, turned out to enjoy a sociable and entertaining evening.

Reason for the big success was undoubtedly the decision of the L.A.C. to switch from the District traditional Saturday morning gathering to a Friday evening, and those attending were lucky indeed to have as guest speaker a local "character" who provided them with a laugh a minute.

The man in question was Mr. Gwyn Martin, Secretary of the local branch of the Royal National Lifeboat Institution, who combined an encyclopaedic grasp of local history with considerable talent as a photographer to give an illustrated lecture on the

development of the town over the years. A keen sense of humour, with graphic exploitation of occasional colourful language, ensured that local history was presented to the audience in a very lively fashion (even if some of his conclusions were illustrated by artistic slides of tombstones!)

After an excellent roast-beef-and-Yorkshire-pud dinner, the evening's business was opened with words of welcome from Group Manager Mr. K. Helliwell, followed by the Reports of the two L.A.C. secretaries—Mr. J. O. Hughes (MANWEB), and Mr. E. Lloyd Jones (CEGB).

Presenting his report, Mr. Hughes urged his colleagues to have no hesitation in bringing points to the attention of their elected representatives, and also not to be backward in making application to attend Spring and Summer schools. All who ever attended the schools, he added, were of the opinion that they offered a most interesting and rewarding experience.

A vote of thanks to the guest speaker from Mr. David Hamblin (*District Engineer*), rounded off the formal side of the evening, after which most people retired to the bar for a further period of social conviviality.



*Above:*  
Group  
Manager  
Mr.  
Helliwell  
addresses  
the  
Conference

*Left,*  
delegates  
listen to his  
remarks.



# A New School in Five Weeks!

## All the stops out at Rhos

**U**RGENT co-operation between MANWEB and Clwyd County Council, with time-saving short cuts at several points, has resulted in a new temporary school being planned, built and opened at Rhosllanerchrugog, near Wrexham, all in the space of five weeks!

The emergency arose when old maps brought to light the fact that a number of uncapped mineshafts lay beneath and around the Ponciau County Primary School, which catered for 230 pupils. The school had functioned for half a century or so without the shafts causing any trouble, but those responsible for our children's welfare can take no chances, and the school was closed at once to allow the Council to undertake a lengthy programme to make the area safe.

What about the children's education?—that was the question. Fortunately a vacant piece of land, near the centre of "Rhos," could be used to provide the answer. Ten "temporary" classrooms, part of the store kept in reserve by the County Education Department for use at schools which begin to bulge at the seams, were quickly taken to the site, together with other ready-made buildings for use as kitchen, canteen, and toilets.

A priority need for the new prefab school was obviously an electricity supply, and on December 16th our colleagues at Dee Valley District received their first request for urgent help.

A total connected load of 250 kilowatts was involved. The District immediately produced a scheme and technical estimate, Commercial terms were agreed, all preliminaries (*well, almost all*) were cleared within a few days and a start made on the job. The scheme involved the laying of 250 metres of high voltage cable and the establishment of a compound substation. Whilst the County went ahead with the civil work for the substation the cable was laid and by January 9th—just 24 days from the date of the first enquiry—the new substation was made alive.

At the same time as the Engineering Department were doing their stuff the Commercial Department was pressing on with the construction of a switch-panel and the laying of 530 metres of split concentric cable to provide supplies to the pre-wired electrically heated hutments.

One hutment was to become an all-electric "canteen" and Dee Valley electricians carried out the



Working on the hastily constructed switch panel, from left to right: Steve Jones (apprentice), Eifion Jones (chargehand) and Emyr Williams (electrician).

installation for the catering equipment in M.I.C. cable. Certain of the canteen equipment was supplied by the Council but Dee Valley District supplied two Simplex catering ranges and a couple of 50-gallon "White Wolves." There were slight delays in obtaining some of the catering equipment but the rest of this new school complex was ready for occupation by the 230 pupils on January 20th. The children were back to their lessons, having only missed a few weeks of schooling.

In a letter to Dee Valley District, the Council's Architect (Mr. R. W. Harvey) summed it all up by saying:

*"I would like to thank all of your staff concerned in this most urgent matter for their excellent co-operation and liaison which has existed from the commencement of the negotiations . . . and speed at which all the engineering works has been arranged is greatly appreciated."*

The children?—They were reported to be glad to be back at school, and find their new light and airy classrooms much more cheerful than their old school!

In the new compound substation established on site are members of the engineering staff, Jack Devaney (*ehv joiner*), left, and Derrick Parry (*joiner's mate*).





# Commercial Notes

## A CHALLENGE

With well over 1,700 Electricaire units installed in premises in their District, morale among our North Mersey colleagues is certainly running very high. Their rate of installations has remained constant each month and they are confident of continuing success in this field. They are so sure that energy sales engineer **Dennis Barrie** has issued this challenge to all our other Districts... "*Who will race us to the 2,000th Electricaire unit installed and working?*"

Gentlemen, the gauntlet is on the floor, who is to pick it up?

## BRIGHT IDEA

Messrs. Hayes and Finch, candle manufacturers, have substantially reduced the time for drying candle-wicks as a result of implementing an idea from **Arthur Bent**, our North Mersey District's industrial sales engineer.

The firm were using a long and inefficient method of drying using a steam heat exchanger which took from one to two weeks to do the job in addition to incurring high heat losses on the long pipe runs.

Arthur proposed an electric humidifier which is basically a refrigerator installed in a drying cabinet. As a result, drying time was reduced to one day!

Following the installation of a temporary system to test the idea, we have now been given the contract worth just over £1,000 to put in a permanent system to save the firm production time, energy and money.

## KEEPING THE CHILDREN WARM

A scheme to provide mobile play group centres for children in Chester—a project originated and organised by lecturer **Sally Heaney**

and students at the Chester College—recently got under way with the completion of the first vehicle of a proposed fleet of six.

The vehicle, a double-decker bus, provided by **Crosville Ltd.**, is decorated on the outside with brightly painted cartoon characters, and the interior suitably concerted as a play area for the youngsters.

However, there was the problem of providing some form of heating to keep the chill off the air during the cold winter days. Fortunately **Roger Glover** of *Dee Valley District (now seconded to Head Office)* had the answer. He equipped the bus—sorry, play centre—with 6.6kW of storage radiators and arranged for their overnight charging at the **Crosville** depot with a mid-day boost at the Chester College.

It was only a small contract, about £120 in all, but it once again proved the flexibility of electricity and it is helping to keep a lot of children happy at their play.

## USE ELECTRICITY WISELY

We in **MANWEB** are aware and concerned for the National need to make the best use of energy and especially to use electricity wisely. This is just one aspect where our energy sales expertise is being put to good use as two recent examples show.

A few months ago, **Liverpool District** were successful in getting a contract for rehabilitation work for the Merseyside Improved Houses. This has been followed up by our energy salesmen obtaining another order worth nearly £750 to provide roof insulation for all the properties.

Similar insulation successes are reported by our colleagues in **Mid-Cheshire District**, who with the efficient use of electricity in mind, secured orders in Decem-

ber for cavity wall insulation in 19 properties having a net value of close on £1,000.

## MORE AID TO INDUSTRY

The Aluminium Corporation Ltd., (A.C.L.) who have a factory at **Dolgarrog** in our **Clwyd District**, have, in the past, almost exclusively used gas ovens on their production lines. Nevertheless, **Ron Carter**, the District's industrial sales engineer has continued to stress the advantages of electric heating and at last his efforts have been rewarded.

The main production at **Dolgarrog** is the pressing of aluminium sheet into saucepans, etc. In one section of the factory, the aluminium is heated to around 150° F before the famous 'non-stick' coating can be applied. However, a new and more durable 'non-stick' coating has been developed, which in addition to its many domestic and production advantages only requires a temperature of 85° F.

But the snag was that the existing gas ovens were virtually uncontrollable at the new lower temperature. So **Ron** suggested using infra-red quartz heating elements, arranged and wired in groups to provide a flexible heat output to suit the different profiles of the products receiving the new coating. The electric system can of course be controlled accurately and simply to an even lower temperature than 85° F if so required.

At the moment one gas oven has been converted to an 80kW electric oven with a £2,000 order for **Clwyd District**.

Dependent upon the marketing success of the new coating, it could mean further orders for electric load around 500kW and the end of the gas ovens.

Optimism in **Clwyd District** is high and **A.C.L.** are certain they are on to a winner, thanks to electricity!





TV personality Stuart Hall pops in to the Electrolux Kitchen, flanked by, from left to right: Messrs. Cliff Craven (*Electrolux*), Tom Dean and "Girl from MANWEB," Lynette Kemp.

## OUR NEW KITCHEN SERVICE

### *Whole Job deal —*

MANWEB broke new ground in January with the first-ever scheme offered by a large organisation to provide Britain's housewives with a complete service for the planning and creation of the domestic kitchen.

Representatives from local and national press and broadcasting organisations gathered in Liverpool on January 14th to hear Mr. Tom Dean, our appliance marketing manager, explain the new scheme, and to see TV personality Stuart Hall officially open MANWEB's Kitchen Centre at our shop in St. John's Precinct.

After the guests—including trade representatives from companies associated with MANWEB in the new venture—had been welcomed by Mr. M. R. Cowan (*Chief Commercial Officer*), Mr. Dean outlined the thinking behind the service, and the details of its operation.

It was because MANWEB believed that the customer's needs were not being adequately met that the new service had been launched, said Mr. Dean.

In the past the kitchen had always been regarded as a "problem area," due to the diversity of tradesmen involved—electricians, plumbers, joiners, tilers, etc. Because of these problems the "dream kitchen" often remained no more than a dream, but it should be an adequate kitchen, and MANWEB was setting out to dispel the idea that an adequate kitchen was either too costly or too difficult and complicated to achieve.

**It was almost impossible today, he added to furnish even a small lounge for less than £600, and many people spent much more, yet incredibly people seemed reluctant to spend money on their kitchens.**

The new MANWEB service would ensure that the whole job was done right, and the customer would have the advantage of only having to deal with one organisation, which would guarantee every aspect of the job. With the limitations imposed by current hire purchase regulations, arrangements could be made for credit sales terms to be afforded to customers, who could then pay off their accounts with their usual quarterly bills.



# *What the New Service Offers*

The kitchen is the heart and workshop of every home. The housewife spends more of her time in the kitchen than in any other room in the house. And she wants her kitchen to be practical and attractive—easy to work in and easy to clean, providing an efficient and pleasant environment for the vital task of running the home and caring for the family. Now MANWEB Kitchen Centres offer the complete answer—a truly unique kitchen-planning-and-building service, based on two years of research.

MANWEB Kitchen Centres are now open at the Board's shops at Southport, Liverpool, Chester,

Middlewich, St. Helens and Llangefni (Anglesey). A seventh Centre, at Llandudno, will follow soon.

They are staffed by experts, trained to give reliable advice to the public, and the new MANWEB service will operate on the following lines:

A planning expert will visit the home, talk with the housewife, look over the existing kitchen layout, help and advise, and finally draw up a plan of what the new kitchen will look like. After this has been approved, craftsmen and electrical staff will move in. Quickly and quietly they will dismantle the old kitchen, and then get on with the tiling, plumbing, wiring and fitting—everything which needs to be done to make the new kitchen. When they have finished—to make quite sure that everything is perfect—a service engineer will call to “switch on” everything in the new kitchen.

Customers have the choice of fitted units from the Peerless, Easibild, or Electrolux “Scandinavia” ranges, plus, of course, the widest possible selection of electrical appliances from MANWEB. Tiles range from Italian and English ceramics, to cheaper plastic varieties.

**Just one of the half-dozen or so, neat, clean and spacious, especially-designed kitchens—in various price ranges—which may be seen at our Chester shop in Northgate Street.**







The ladies, from left to right: Diana Pulson (*Liverpool Daily Post*), Eileen Harty (*Birkenhead News*) and Peggy Woodcock (*Chester Chronicle*), are joined by Brian Spring (*Advertising Officer*) as they wait for Stuart to cut the tape to open another kitchen.



Stuart does a bit of his own promotion as he shows his 'Look North' Cookery Book to Evelyn Rose (*Sunday Times*), left, and Barry Phillips (*Sunday Observer*).

## *Stuart meets some Ladies of the Press and Tom talks on Local Radio*

Appliance Marketing Manager Tom Dean, left, pictured during his interview by John Darby of Radio City.



OUR COVER PICTURE shows Stuart Hall in his favourite guise as 'Cook of the North' when he officially opened the St. Johns Kitchen Centre in Liverpool, accompanied by our "Girl from MANWEB," the lovely Lynette Kemp.

Since the MANWEB Kitchen Centre scheme was launched, well over a hundred firm enquiries have resulted in planning visits being made and deposits paid. The first installation has gone to Dee Valley District with a kitchen being installed for a member of the staff!

## **CAPTION COMPETITION**

Mr. Tom Dean and Mr. John Darby were actually discussing the opening of the MANWEB Kitchen Centre for a Radio City Broadcast, but we thought it suggested Mr. Dean might have other things on his mind, and with the imaginative minds of our readers make a great Caption Competition.

Despite threats of legal action to prevent us printing the picture, under the newspaper maxim of publish and be damned, we offer three prizes of £2 for each of the three best captions for the picture. Humour and cleanliness will determine the winners.

Send your entries to 'Caption Competition', 'Contact', MANWEB, Sealand Road, Chester CH1 4LR. Closing date—10th March 1975.





## CHAIR OF HOPE

**G**WYNEDD District linesman **Mr. Harry Rotherly**, who was almost completely paralysed by serious injuries sustained when he fell from a pole while working on overhead lines, is now to some extent at least mobile again—thanks to the Manual Workers' Benevolent Fund.

Harry, whose home is in Anglesey, has received lengthy treatment at the Robert Jones and Agnes Hunt Orthopaedic Hospital, Oswestry, where his determination and the care

and attention of the hospital staff have restored some practical movement in some of his limbs.

Now, thanks to a new electrically-driven invalid chair, his

mobility is considerably increased. Colleagues from his home District and from Oswestry gathered at the hospital on February 8th, when Harry's new chariot was formally presented to him by **Mr. A. R. Shaw**, Gwynedd District Engineer.

Everyone from MANWEB hopes that continued perseverance and courage will lead to further improvement in Harry's condition—and in the meantime that the new chair will enable him to lead a fuller and more hopeful life.

**Harry with his new set of wheels after ably demonstrating his mobility to, from left to right: Messrs. R. A. Williams (DCE Oswestry), A. R. Shaw (DE Gwynedd), A. M. Thomas (Production Engineer, Gwynedd), G. E. Davies (DE Oswestry) and W. J. Thompson (DAO Oswestry).**



## On the Air

Listeners to Liverpool's Radio City programme recently had the opportunity of hearing **Mr. Bob Jowett** (District Commercial Engineer) in an interview with Gyn Freeman, one of the station's reporters.

In answer to one of her questions, Bob explained in simple terms our charges for electricity, including the fuel surcharge. He stressed the dramatic rise in our own fuel costs, which had brought about the surcharge. He went on to tell his listeners how they could read their own electricity meters.

In discussing the conservation of fuel, Bob described some simple methods of preventing heat losses by roof, cavity wall and window insulation.

Other points covered included the cost of one unit of electricity and exactly what it



would do, and easy ways of paying electricity accounts.

Colleagues from Lister Drive were unanimous in their praise to Bob for his excellent interview.

### Spring and Port Wine

Rehearsals are in full swing for the New Electron Players first play, "*Spring and Port Wine*," produced by **Mr. Sid Costin** from the Work Control Section at Lister Drive. Some of his colleagues in the Liverpool District will be taking part in the performances at the Neptune Theatre on Friday and Saturday, April 4th and 5th at 7.30 p.m.

Tickets are now on sale, price 40p for all seats. Contact **Mrs. Vicki Roberts** (97.722) at Lister Drive for your tickets.

We ask you to give the New Electron Players your full support for we know that they will provide an enjoyable evening's entertainment.

### £2m Sighs of Relief

Two million pounds hung in the balance for the Ellesmere Port chemicals company **Associated Octel** when a 12.5 MVA 33/11 kV transformer belonging to the company failed on January 30th. The transformer served the firms sodium plant, where chemical processes absolutely dependent on a reliable and constant electricity supply are carried out—and the failure of a further transformer would have caused damage and disruption which would have cost about £2,000,000 to put right!

Sitting on this financial time-bomb the company's management did the natural thing—and called for immediate help from MANWEB, with time the essence of the SOS.

Under the direction of **Mr. Arthur Perry** (Assistant Chief Engineer, Production Control), construction staff from Head Office moved in on January

31st and disconnected and removed a similar 12.5 MVA transformer, weighing 35 tons, from the company's No. 2 Works. This was shipped to the No. 1 Works to replace the faulty transformer, which had meanwhile been stripped and disconnected.

Work continued non-stop night and day. Some members of the team worked for 40 hours without stopping except to eat. The new transformer was re-commissioned on February 6th.

After uncrossing their fingers and toes the delighted Octel management invited the members of the MANWEB team to a 'Thank You' dinner a few days later.

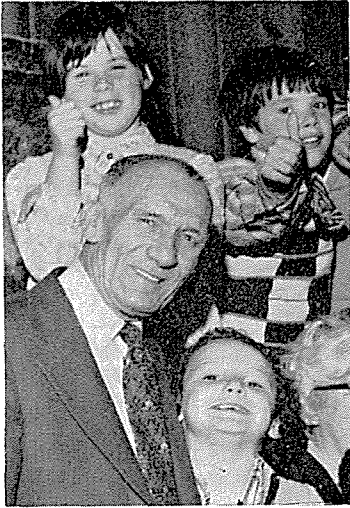
### Labour of Love

When he has finished his day's work as a labourer at our North Mersey District Office in Bootle, **Mr. Albert Quinn** starts on another job—but this one is not for money—at least not money for himself.

The replacement 35-ton transformer in its new bay. In the left foreground is Mr. Jack Critchley from Production Control at Head Office.







Mr. Quinn with some of the youngsters he works for.

As a very active member of the Sacred Heart Catholic Men's Society, Albert, together with his wife **Catherine**, spends many hours collecting cash for various deserving organisations. Recently he was photographed in the *Liverpool Daily Post* as he presented a calculator—a gift from the Society to doctors at the Renal Unit of Liverpool Royal Infirmary.

Albert's desire to help people suffering from kidney troubles was stimulated some time ago when his nephew suffered a kidney failure.

Most of the cash donations to the fund to buy a kidney machine for the hospital is collected in pubs and clubs around Liverpool. Despite the temptations, Albert remains stone cold sober at all times!

He also does a tremendous amount of voluntary work for childrens' organisations and takes an active interest in the Knolle Park Orphanage in Woolton. He and two other members of the Catholic Men's Society are taking 40 of the children to a show featuring Liverpool comic Ken Dodd. All expenses come from voluntary

contributions to members of the Society.

Albert's North Mersey District colleagues are very proud of him and we join with them in wishing Albert and his wife continued success in their worthwhile endeavours.

### Moves to MEB

It was a very reluctant farewell to shop supervisor **Eric Galvani** who leaves MANWEB to join the Midlands Board where he will be an assistant sales controller at Daventry.

Eric, who managed the Huyton shop, is a very likeable fellow with a flare for selling. District Sales Supervisor Tom Saladine said that he will be greatly missed.

He joined MANWEB about 15 years ago and worked as a salesman in all of the former North District shops, before he moved for his first step up the ladder as assistant to Albert Williams at Southport Shop.

After 12 months he became supervisor of his first shop at Croxteth. Then he moved to Maghull and finally in 1971 he took over at Huyton, where he managed to increase turnover by 2½ times in a year.

Eric is a very active man outside the shop. He plays badminton, is a member of a rifle club where he enjoys target shooting, is actively engaged in

community work with the Maghull Association and is involved with the Maghull Citizens Advice Bureau.

His new appointment has meant him withdrawing from the "Electron Players" with whom he was to have displayed his Thespian skills in April.

Pauline, Eric's wife, was a former demonstrator with MANWEB, and they both appreciated the good farewell wishes from their friends and colleagues. Eric said "I should like to say thank you to colleagues at all the locations for their help, I shall miss them all and I am thankful for all the happy times.

"Thanks too, for the many gifts and to all those who turned up at my farewell party at Thingwall Road."

### Snooker Champs

It was third time lucky for draughtsman **Emyr Miles** when he won the singles snooker final of the Chester Sports and Social Club recently. Twice in previous years he has been the beaten finalist.

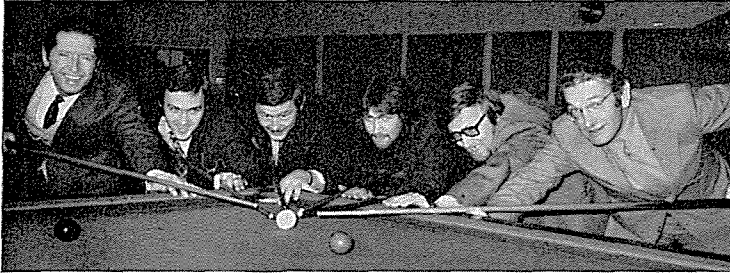
This time he made certain by beating **Mike Mole** from Financial, by two clear frames to take the singles cup. There were 29 starters.

In the doubles competition, computer programmer, **Alan Pederson** and his partner

Mr. Galvani, centre right, says his goodbyes to Mr. Tom Saladine and staff at Huyton shop.







Pot white with the snookermen, from left to right: Ken Sinclair, Mike Edwards, Alan Pederson, Emyr Miles, Mike Mole and Elfyn Griffiths.

**Mike Edwards**, a systems analyst, beat a duo from Estates and Wayleaves, **Ken Sinclair** and **Elfyn Griffiths** in the final by two frames to one.

There were fifty-six entrants for the doubles contest and both competitions were played over a period of two months in lunch breaks and evening sessions. The tournament was organised by beaten finalist Mike Mole helped by Club Secretary **Gren Roberts**.

#### First to Pay

The first customer to pay his electricity account at our new Clwyd District Office building at Cefndy Road, Rhyl, was one of the post office engineers working on the installation of the telephone switchboard.

#### Howzatt!!

If you have a rudimentary knowledge of the laws of cricket and can make decisions then the Cricket Section of the Liverpool Electric Supply Sports and Social Club invite you to spend a pleasant Saturday afternoon at Thingwall Road sports ground on a regular or occasional basis acting as a cricket umpire.

Those interested, please get in touch with **Messrs. Mal Cooper** (763) or **Albert Ayres** (721)—both at Liverpool District.

#### All Part of Our Service

When restoring supply after repairing a service fault on a house at Wem, linesman **Mr.**

**Edwin Lionel Teggin**, from our Whitchurch depot, realised that an appliance inside the house was still switched on and there was nobody in the premises.

Lionel quickly nipped to the next door neighbour where he obtained a key enabling him to enter the empty house to find an electric kettle boiling its heart out.

Later, the householder telephoned our District Offices at Oswestry to express his appreciation of lineman Lionel's quick thinking and consideration.

#### 007 in Gwynedd

Following years of intensive and often dangerous enquiries among the underworld characters of Gwynedd, **Mr. Richard Owen**, formerly of Debt Control, but for the last eight years in charge of the F.T.T. Department\*, had his patience and perseverance rewarded when "The Thing" finally came into his possession.

Way back in 1967, on the express instructions of **Mr. N. Maden**, who was at that time the District Manager, Dick was given the task of searching out "The Thing."

On a number of occasions, with the brilliance of Sherlock Holmes, Dick came so very close to "The Thing," but seconds before he closed in, it moved out.

Nevertheless, Dick did not give up and eventually, just

before Christmas, he pounced and "The Thing" was in his hands.

Photographs were taken of "The Thing" in captivity, but the Board's Official Secrets Section advised us not to reproduce the picture.

However, we can describe it as an ordinary kitchen knife adapted to form an illicit key to MANWEB prepayment meters. "The Thing" had in its long run, opened many meters, but now will open no more.

\* Find The Thing

#### 200 Club

The monthly draw for January was won by **Mrs. S. Roberts** of the Financial and Managements Accounts Section at Head Office.

#### Brains of Bridle Road

The final round of the quiz competition to find the "Brains of Bridle Road" held recently, produced worthy winners with the team from Work Control Section, **Marian Wheatley**, **Kath MacDonough** and **Edna Courtney** (our 'Contact' Correspondent—naturally).

They beat a team from the Meter Section—**Ron Reeves**, **Charlie Jones** and **Ted Smith**.

The quiz was most competently organised by **Mr. C. S. Shimmin** (System Engineer) who was also the quizmaster.



Above: The winning team, from left to right, Edna, Kath and Marian.

Below: The losing finalists, from left to right, Charlie, Ron and Ted.





Each member of the winning team was presented with a commemorative certificate by **Mr. A. W. Hawley** (*Chairman of the Sports and Social Club*), and a special trophy was handed over by Mrs. Shimmin.

### Youngest Supervisor?

When he was recently given the key to the door of our Walton Vale shop, 21-year-old **Mr. Peter Brady** became,



**Mr. Brady, right, with a customer in Huyton shop.**

what we believe to be, the youngest shop supervisor in MANWEB, and possibly in any other Board in the country.

He joined MANWEB in 1970 as a clerk in Lister Drive,

became a relief salesman in North Mersey in 1971 and was appointed as assistant to Eric Galvani at Huyton Shop.

He leaves Huyton at the same time as Eric to take control of Walton Vale.

When he is not selling Peter enjoys underwater swimming, he is a member of the British Sub-Aqua Club. He is also a keen basketball player and plays for a local team.

### Employees Suggestion Scheme

MANWEB employees have collected £125 in awards under the Suggestion Scheme during the year which ended on December 31st, 1974. Staff from all of the Boards Districts and Head Office shared the total with the top amount of £25 going to North Mersey District.

If you have an idea, whether it be for a change in procedure, or for a device, let the secretary of your L.A.C. have your ideas, they could be worth money to you.



**Mr. and Mrs. Brayshaw.**

### Wedding

Best wishes for a happy future go to **Mr. David Brayshaw** (*principal assistant—Legal*) and **Miss Wynne Pilkington**, daughter of Mr. Jack Pilkington (*Executive Officer, Welfare*) who were married a short time ago at the Hope Parish Church.

The happy couple enjoyed a honeymoon in London.

### Engagement

We join with friends at Lister Drive, Liverpool District, in congratulating **Miss Sylvia MacLean**, a clerk in Work Control, on her recent engagement to **Mr. David Ridgeway**.

The announcement was made on Sylvia's birthday.

### Births

Belated congratulations to: **Mr. Phil Braithwaite**, one of our electricians at the Mold Depot, and to his wife **Carolyn** on the birth of a son, Spencer.

**Roger and Jennifer Glover** on the birth of a son, James. Roger is an energy sales engineer in our Dee Valley District and was recently seconded to work in the Energy Sales Industrial Section at Head Office.

## 'Contact' Small Ads

### For Sale

1974 Elddis Mistral Touring Caravan, 2-berth de-luxe. Host of extras including 'fridge. Used for two week-ends only. Selling due to bereavement. 'Phone 051-648 3268 (after 6 p.m.).

### House for Sale

Connah's Quay. Modern detached house. Lounge/dining room, hall, fitted kitchen, 3 bedrooms, tiled bathroom/toilet, central heating, garage and large car port. £11,500 o.n.o. 96 York Road. Tel. Estuary 2912.

### Holidays

Self-contained flat, sleeps 6, overlooking Aberystwyth Bay. Bedroom with double bed and bunklets, toilet, room with shower, etc. Kitchenette, lounge with bedsettee, TV, easy

chairs, fitted carpet throughout. Parking space, plenty of room for young children to play in safety. Two minutes walk from Tanybwch beach and harbour, ten minutes walk from town centre. Tenants required to provide their own linen. Slot meter for electricity, hot water free. Terms from £20 per week to £30 per week high season. Deep sea fishing trips arranged. Free babysitting service can be arranged. 'Phone Aberystwyth 7466 (after 4.30).

### To Let

Six berth all-electric caravan on luxury site at Black Rock sands, Porthmadog. Toilet TV, shop, club, ballroom, children's playground, showers. Near golf course. Terms on request. 'Phone: Porthmadog 2834.



# SUCCESSFUL STAFF SOCIAL

## *Oswestry at Play*

**N**EARLY 250 members and guests of the Oswestry District Sports and Social Club recently enjoyed an excellent evening of eating and dancing at the Bryn Hywell hotel in Llangollen.

Continuous music for dancing was provided by the hotel's resident band and, during the interval, by disc jockey Mr. Fred Wightman, a systems engineer.

Later, he was partnered by his wife when they gave a speciality dance demonstration called 'The Stingaling.' Fred and his wife are very keen dancers and have won a number of awards and medals. They are principals of the International Sequence Dance Circle.

All arrangements for this very successful evening were made by Mrs. Barbara Morris, who is the Secretary to the Sports and Social Club. Barbara has to go into hospital soon for an operation, so we take this opportunity of joining with her friends in wishing her a speedy recovery and a comfortable convalescence.



Organiser Barbara Morris, *right*, with colleague, Carol Jones.







Some of our safe drivers at Oswestry with Chief Inspector Evans, *third from left*, Messrs. G. E. Davies (*District Engineer*), *centre*, R. A. Owen (*Production Engineer*), *2nd left*, and A. R. Edwards (*Installation Engineer*), *2nd right*.

## **SAFE DRIVING AWARDS**

### ***at Oswestry . . .***

Chief Inspector Colin Evans of the West Mercia Constabulary recently visited our Oswestry District Office where he met members of the staff who had qualified for safe driving awards. He congratulated them all on their fine records and stressed the importance of safe driving from a personal, a MANWEB and a National aspect.

He then presented the awards, the top driver being Mr. C. H. O. Wilkinson, who received a **25-year Silver Cross**. Other awards

were as follows:

**Star Bar to 20-year Brooch:** Mr. D. M. Neaves.

**15-year Brooch:** Mr. P. O. Powell.

**Bar to Five-year Medal:** Messrs. E. Barrow, E. J. Brierley, I. Jones and L. Lovell.

**Five-year Medal:** Mr. W. E. Phillips.

**Diploma:** Messrs. J. Austin, W. H. Blackwell, E. Ellis, T. H. Ellis, W. V. Evans, W. E. George, H. Higgins, B. D. Hopkins, V. Hughes, A. Jones, G. Jones, J. M. Jones, N. W. Lewis, J. A. Mathews, J. R. F. T. Owen, R. T. Pugh, R. Revell, G. Roberts, J. B. Smith, H. J. Williams and J. R. Williams.

### ***. . . and at Whitchurch***

Some members of our staff based at Whitchurch were recently presented with their safe driving awards by Chief Inspector Anthony Groves of the West Mercia Constabulary. He congratulated all the recipients and thanked them for making his department's work easier.

Pride of place among the

awards went to Mr. H. Huxley who was presented with a **20-year Brooch**.

Other awards were as follows:  
**10-year Medal:** Mr. J. Leach.

**Bar to Five-year Medal:** Messrs. D. A. Bolas, R. A. Boyling, H. Crewe, E. Field, B. E. Johnson, H. E. Large, L. Purcell and C. H. Taylor.

**Diploma:** Messrs. L. J. Brookfield, P. Butler, W. Davies, W. D. Day, H. W. Hughes, F. D. Jones and E. Wainwright.

Safe drivers at Whitchurch with Chief Inspector Groves, *centre*.





After waiting patiently for the sun to shine, we finally had to be satisfied with this picture of our new District Office block at Cefndy Road, taken in the pouring rain!

## MOVE FOR CLWYD DISTRICT

### New Offices, Workshops and Stores

FROM mid-January this year, the administration of our Clwyd District became operational from the purpose-built complex at Cefndy Road, Rhyl. Staff moved, happily and quickly, from their cramped and inadequate accommodation at Abbey House, Rhuddlan, and Glan Aber in Vale Road, to the new spacious offices, workshops and stores.

The building, started in the Spring of 1972 on land which the Board inherited from the CEGB, has an impressive entrance leading on to a spacious central core featuring an attractive staircase.

To the right of the main entrance is a tastefully decorated 'open plan' style double-storey wing housing the administrative, commercial and engineering staffs. To the left is a smaller double-storey wing with, on the upper floor, conference rooms and accommodation for the senior officers in the District, Messrs. K. Helliwell (*Group Manager*), L. Griffiths (*District Engineer*), D. R. Mellor (*District Commercial Engineer*) and G. D. Cooksley (*District Administrative Officer*). On the ground floor is the kitchen and dining room, a facility never enjoyed before by the Clwyd District staff.

Leading off to the rear of the central core is a single-storey wing with a large assembly area for the NJIC staff together with workshops and stores.

Covering a total area of 42,000 square feet, the whole block is heated by the conventional under-floor method, by electricity—of course!

Away from the main complex there is a storage compound and a vehicle maintenance workshop and garage.

Over the past quarter century the District has grown tremendously. The original office block at Abbey House became too small to house the staff and in 1962, a site at Glan Aber was developed to alleviate the over-crowding while at the same time provide for a stores block and new accommodation for the District transport section which up to that time had been outposted at Victoria Road in Rhyl.

In 1969, with the Board's reorganisation plan, the former Clwyd District and Conwy Valley District amalgamated to become a new and somewhat larger Clwyd District which now serves over 96,000 consumers representing a permanent resident population of 250,000 people. Growth in the District is at present running at a rate of around 2,000 new consumers every year.

*Covering an area of 700 square miles, the District has the Conwy and Clwyd valleys within its boundaries and is enclosed in the North-east by the River Dee.*

Last year, over half-a-million pounds was spent in the District on re-inforcing the electricity network and providing for new supplies. There were 2,744 cable joints made on the underground distribution system and 860 overhead line poles were erected. Of the 35 kilometres of underground cable laid, increased use was made of the new and more economical type of underground cable.

Sales of electricity amounted to 766 million units

*(continued overleaf)*





**Low ceilings —  
artificial light —  
cramped quarters**



## Farewell to Abbey House

**Every  
available  
inch  
of  
space  
used**



**Desks  
side  
by  
side  
and  
face  
to  
face**



# Settling in at Cefndy Road

**Work carries on in the new spacious surroundings, well ventilated, well lit, and comfortably warm.**



despite the 3-day week period and other crisis measures restricting the use of electricity during the last fuel emergency.

Income from sales of electricity amounted to £7.5 million and the sales staff sold more than 13,000 kilowatts of appliances, electrical machinery and plant. The District's sales outlets are through ten shops situated at Colwyn Bay, Flint, Llandudno, Llandudno Junction, Llanwrst, Mold, Penmaenmawr, Prestatyn, Rhyl and Ruthin.

Each working day, telephonists at the District Office deal with over 650 calls from customers needing advice, information or service. And on average, the Board's electricians answer requests for service from around 700 customers each week.

MANWEB consumers in the Clwyd District have an estimated one million electrical systems ranging from the simple door-bell to the sophisticated air-conditioning installation.



**Another pleasure for our Clwyd District staff is the canteen facilities which they are enjoying for the first time. Below, are staff from Taylors (Northern) Ltd., who look after the inner man—and woman. From left to right: Pauline Smith, Philys Durkin, Norma Thomas (supervisor) and Gwen Durkin.**







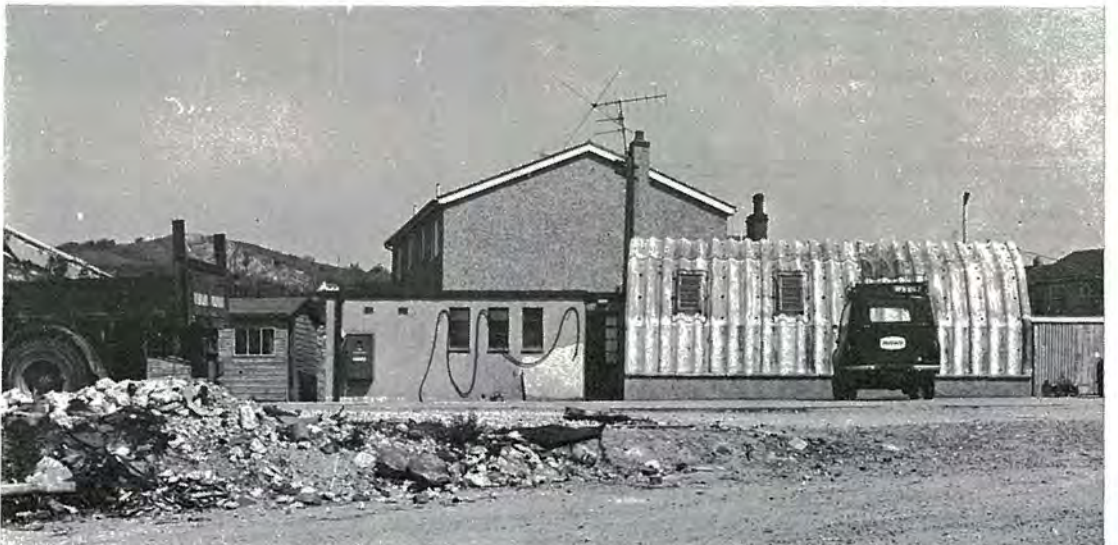
## Changes at Llandudno Junction too !

The site of Clwyd District's Narrow Lane depot at Llandudno Junction has recently undergone a major facelift with the yard hardcored and surfaced with tarmac and concrete aprons in the stores compound and vehicle areas. A new assembly room and tool and equipment store has been erected.

The work was planned and supervised by Head Office Civil Engineering Section and carried out by a local contractor.

Thanks to the splendid co-operation between MANWEB staff and the contractor, our work at the depot functioned normally during the alterations period.

Our picture, *above*, shows the 'new-look' depot (in winter) and *below*, a reminder of what it used to be (last summer).





# WE GET LETTERS

## about Joint Consultation — the hard way

It is always a pleasure to receive a letter from an old colleague, and no doubt the following will evoke nostalgic memories among some of the writer's old friends.

Dear Editor,

As an old employee, now retired, I always look forward to receiving "Contact," which is read word by word with great interest. Over the years I have seen many old faces go, and new ones making their impression on the industry.

The January number reported on the Oswestry staff meeting, and on a question put to the panel—"Are these Conferences really necessary?"

Whatever the reply the questioner received, I would like to pass my observations from a manual worker's point of view.

Back in 1948 I was secretary of

## ... about our shop Staff ...

*Our shop staff have to face many impatient customers during their day's work, and they still come up smiling, albeit with a rather fixed grin at times.*

*But once in a while, someone takes the trouble to put pen to paper and record their thanks.*

*There was such an instance a week or so ago when Miss P. Willis, a saleswoman in charge of our Ainsdale shop came in for the following customer praise.*

Dear Miss Willis,

I was very pleased indeed to

the No. 5 Works Committee, and we in Conway Valley pressed for, and got, as we thought, a one-day conference of employees.

With some arm-twisting and personal contacts, and the unstinted help of our D.C.O. (Mr. A. R. Train), we set about a venue and an agenda. This was a trial run, and our only meeting place was at the rear of the present Board shop in Mostyn Broadway Llandudno, which for some years had been a dance hall, and later a searchlight school, until bought by MANWEB. The hall was in a pretty grimy condition, so my happy band of slaves knuckled under to scrub and polish the vast surface of the dance floor, instal a dais for the panel of speakers, scrub the windows and fit coloured curtains stapled with salvaged crepe paper!

With the help of the local Parks Department we arranged a fine showing of flowering pot plants to decorate the dais—a grand sight that brought many complimentary remarks. All this was achieved by late evening work after our normal working day. As pioneers of employees' conferences, we were proud of what our elbow grease had achieved.

The agenda began at 10 a.m., continued after lunch, and finished with an Open Forum

receive your telephone call this afternoon when you advised that you now had my Russell Hobbs kettle duly repaired and awaiting collection.

I cannot let the opportunity pass without complimenting your colleagues for the promptness in which they completed the repair.

Indeed, it is always a pleasure to trade with your shop as the service you provide is most efficient.

Yours sincerely,

Signed.

after a snack tea.

Regrettably only one management face remains from those early days—Mr. M. M. Parker, a true-blue 'Joint Consultationist,' and looking as young as ever!

*So to the questioner who asked, "Are these Conferences really necessary?" I would reply that he should press for them to be retained. Once lost, they would be difficult to regain.*

*In Joint Consultation one must be prepared to put in as much as one takes out.*

Yours sincerely,

W. McDonald. (ex-Llandudno).

## ... and about our installations ...

Following work carried out for a customer in Coedpoeth, near Wrexham, our Dee Valley D.C.E. Mr. J. Winchester, received the following letter of thanks.

Dear Sir,

This week I had storage heaters installed. May I first express my thanks and appreciation to Mr. Williams, your senior sales representative, for his expert help and advice, and secondly, my appreciation for the workmanship of the one young man who spent Wednesday and part of Thursday here, wiring and installing the four storage heaters. He certainly dispelled the all too frequent modern conception of the so-called British workman by his dilligence and the manner in which he carried out his duties, making preparations to avoid any mess and undue disturbance in the house.

I am very impressed with the service I have received from MANWEB and wish to thank all concerned.

Yours faithfully,

Signed.

*Take a bow Mr. C. P. Williams and installation electrician Mr. R. B. Lloyd—Editor.*



## CHESTER LADIES — and assistants TRIUMPH AGAIN

FOR many years the skill of the MANWEB Chester Ladies' Team has been legendary in First Aid circles in the North West.

This year, for the first time, they admitted mere males into their ranks, entering for the annual District Competition as the MANWEB Head Office (Mixed) Team, and once more kept an iron grip on the Rose Bowl (now open to competition for all-female, or predominantly-female teams).

In fact, they took second place in the whole competition to the all-male team from the Electricity Council Research Centre, Capenhurst (who won the District Shield), and easily out-scored all-male teams from six power stations and various other electricity supply industry employment centres.

Now they will once more go to London on March

**The Champs—Head Office Team, from left to right: Sybil Cooper (captain), Sybil Timmins, Harry Longdon, Elizabeth Jones and Dave Roberts (reserve).**



20th to do battle in the National Finals of the industry's First Aid competition (together with the Capenhurst team, who will compete in the other section of the finals).

The only other MANWEB team to enter for the District competition came from Liverpool District, and though by no means disgraced they found themselves out-gunned by most of the all-male teams in the contest.

The teams had to compete both as units and also in individual tests. Closely guarded prior to the competition the teams had to imagine themselves on the spot when a man had an attack of angina while decorating, falling from his ladder and breaking his kneecap and lacerating his arm. Just to add to the confusion, his wife rushes to help him, slips and knocks a varicose vein in her leg, and falls down in a concussed state (12 minutes to sort it out!).

The individual tests included dealing with cases of an overdose of drugs; a man with a damaged foot and acid burns; a semi-conscious old man and a fractured jaw and wrist. Outstanding individual performers were Sybil Cooper and Elizabeth Jones who both recorded the highest marks in their lanes.

**The Tryers—Liverpool District Team, from left to right: Geoff Cleugh, Edgar Payne, Gordon Thompson (captain), Ron Woods (reserve) and Frank Barnes.**







In the team test, Geoff Cleugh, assisted by Frank Barnes, treats lacerations on a patient.



An individual test for Sybil Timmins as she calms down the wife of an unconscious man.



Back to the team test with Geoff, this time being helped by Edgar Payne.

In the same test, team leader Gordon Thompson treats a patient who has injured her leg.



*Below left:* team leader Sybil Cooper attends to a casualty.

*centre:* Harry Longdon takes care of a man burned by acid.

*right:* Elizabeth Jones has her patient ready for hospital.





# RETIREMENTS

Mr. R. F. HENDERSON

In 1936 Mr. Ron Henderson joined the meter section of the Liverpool Corporation Electric Supply Department as a clerk. Subsequently he worked in the Pumpfields time office and later in the sales and service section.

On nationalisation he headed the administration of the sales and service section of the Liverpool South District. In the same location, Lister Drive, but in new offices, he retires from his job as Administrative Assistant supervising work control in the enlarged Liverpool District.

From his early years in the Liverpool Corporation he was keenly interested in the welfare of his fellow workers. He was a NALGO member and representative on the Executive Committee. He was the first secretary of the newly formed Electricity Branch for Liverpool and District and became its chairman in 1966. He later became the chairman of the amalgamated branch for the MANWEB Area and after his resignation in 1973 he was made its first President.

He served on a number of District and National Committees associated with the Union. Outside the office he also served the community by being a

## ELECTRICITY SUPPLY (Manual Workers) SUPERANNUATION SCHEME

The Report and Accounts for the year ended 31st March 1974, have been displayed on notice boards throughout the area and are now published in booklet form. Retired employees may obtain a copy by writing to the Chief Accountant, MANWEB, Sealand Road, Chester CH1 4LR.

member of the Liverpool City Council for ten years. He is a keen churchgoer and an elder of his church.

At a presentation at Lister Drive many of his colleagues took the opportunity of paying their tribute before Mr. T. D. Hamilton (*District Administrative Officer*) presented Ron with numerous gifts including a teasmade, from his many friends and colleagues. For Mrs. Henderson there was a bouquet of flowers.

Mr. H. GRIFFITHS

Production control engineer Mr. Hubert Griffiths retired from Head Office after 39 years service in the electricity industry. He joined the North Wales Power Company in 1936 where he worked until the

Mr. Hamilton, centre, flanked by Mr. and Mrs. Henderson and surrounded by colleagues at Lister Drive.







Mr. Griffiths, *centre right*, with some of his friends at Head Office.

outbreak of war. His war service started with the R.A.M.C., and later he transferred to R.E.M.E. as a radar operator.

He rejoined the Power Company after 6½ years and on nationalisation became an engineer in the operations section of No. 4 Sub Area at Rhostyllen. He came to Head Office after the Board re-organisation in 1970.

Hubert is a keen supporter of the Welsh language and recently held classes for 60 Head Office staff teaching them the rudiments of the language. He has also actively campaigned for a wider use of Welsh on television.

He is greatly concerned with community work and has done voluntary probation work and is on the committee for Mental Health in the Wrexham area (sorry Hubert, Wrecsam area). A lay minister with the Welsh and Scottish Baptist Church, he was actively concerned with the Christian group at Head Office.

Despite his wide range of interests he still enjoys handicrafts with a particular emphasis on wood-work.

Hubert and his wife Marian have three sons and a young daughter. They also have five grandchildren. Hubert has two brothers who also work for MAN-

WEB, Cliff in Head Office Drawing Office and Ken a third engineer in Dee Valley District.

#### Mr. A. R. WHITEHEAD

Affectionately known as "The Reverend" because of his manner of approach and his way of speaking, Mr. Albert Roughsedge Whitehead, an installation inspector in our Liverpool District, recently retired.

He began his working life nearly 50 years ago serving an apprenticeship with the Liverpool Corporation Electricity Supply Department. During the last war he was transferred to special industrial work, returning to the supply industry in 1956 when he joined MANWEB back at Lister Drive.

At a presentation ceremony, friends and colleagues presented Albert with a wall clock and binoculars as parting gifts.

#### Mr. N. ORMSON

Although 'on the books' as a member of our Head Office staff, Mr. Norman Ormson, an instrument inspector, has worked for most of his time with MANWEB in the Runcorn area.

Norman, who joined the Board in 1953 as an electrician in the telecommunications section of the

Colleagues in Liverpool District at the farewell presentation to Mr. Whitehead (*holding binocular box*).







A happy send-off for Mr. Ormson (*striped tie*) from friends in the Communications Section at Head Office.

former Area 2, retired recently. To mark the occasion, his colleagues got together to wish him good health and good luck and to present him with a farewell gift of a wrist watch.

In retirement, Norman no doubt will be kept very busy for he and his wife are both actively engaged in work for their local social club. He also enjoys a game of bowls.

#### Mr. R. DAVIES

Our Mold depot will be a lot quieter and definitely duller now that Mr. Robert Davies has retired. His many friends are unan-

imous in their vote for him to take the first prize in any 'Good Companions' competition.

In his comparatively short time at the depot, 'Little Bob' made many friends among the staff from all over the District who visited the Stores and filled-up their vehicles with petrol. It was always a pleasure to be greeted with his ready smile and his witty remarks even though, at times, he himself was not in good health.

Robert, at one time, worked as a mate in the garage and later transferred to Stores as a labourer. Prior to joining the Board he was with the former Mold U.D.C.

His popularity was proved by

the large collection received from his colleagues which paid for the gifts presented to him by Mr. G. D. Cooksley (*District Administrative Officer*).

'Little Bob' will now be able to devote more of his time to wine making and listening to good music.

#### Mr. W. H. ISAACS

Following a dinner party at a Bootle hotel, held to mark the occasion of the retirement of Mr. Bill Isaacs (*2nd engineer—Supply, North Mersey District*), a presentation of a crystal decanter and brandy glasses was made on

Still smiling, Mr. Davies, *centre right*, receives parting gifts from Mr. Cooksley presented on behalf of friends throughout the District.





behalf of friends and colleagues by Mr. D. E. Noad (*District Commercial Engineer*). A bouquet of flowers was presented to Mrs. Isaacs.

Many tributes were paid to Bill and a telegram was received from Mr. Reg Rawes (*Supply Engineer*) who, due to his recent accident followed by a bout of flu, was unable to attend.

Bill joined the supply industry in 1940 when he worked with the West Cambrian Power Company. Twelve months later he donned a blue uniform to serve with the R.A.F. until 1945. He then rejoined the Power Company which later became part of the South Wales Electricity Board. By then he had progressed from electrician through the energy sales section



A farewell handshake from Mr. Noad, left, to Mr. Isaacs.

to become involved in the Commercial Technical side, primarily concerned with rural development.

Bill came to MANWEB in 1961 to work as the contracting engineer in the former Southport District, later to become supply engineer. He progressed to the post as 1st assistant District Commercial Engineer and with the advent of Board reorganisation became acting D.C.E. at Southport. When the two-tier system was established he went to North Mersey District to the job he held on retirement.

Away from his daily work, Bill had many interests including serving on Home Safety Com-

mittees and as a member of the Southport Scientific Society. He was always interested and active in social and benevolent work within the industry and was the District Representative of the Electrical Power Engineers Association.

Hobbies include wine and beer making, gardening and greenhouse plants and he is a hi-fi enthusiast.

#### Mr. B. O. LLOYD

After nearly 47 years in the electricity supply industry, Mr. Ben Lloyd retired from his job as Commercial Supply Engineer in Aberystwyth District a few weeks ago.

His first job was with the North Wales Power Company at Gresford. In 1933 he went to Newtown and later to Shropshire and then to Lincolnshire, returning to Wales in 1949 to work at Tywyn in Machynlleth. For the last few years he has been based at Aberystwyth.

During the last war he served for four-and-a-half years with the R.A.F.

Ben has taken a great interest in local affairs having been chairman of the former urban district councils at Tywyn and Machynlleth.

Another of his interests is in the Scout movement. He was a Scout Leader, a King's Scout and some years ago, was District Scout Commissioner for the Machynlleth District.

He has been a bellringer for the past ten years at Machynlleth Parish Church, secretary of the Church Freewill Envelope Fund, a member of the Machynlleth Bowling and Golf Clubs and a member of the Montgomeryshire Field Society.

Friends and colleagues in the Aberystwyth District presented him with parting gifts at a party held in a local hotel.

#### Mr. E. MILLS

A man who went quietly and confidently about his work as Supply Engineer in our Oswestry District, Mr. Eastall Mills, retired at the end of last month after 35 years' service in the electricity supply industry.

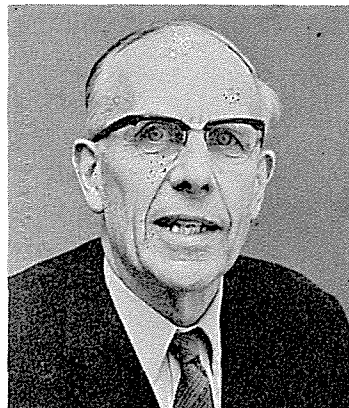
Before going to Oswestry in 1970, Mr. Mills was the District Engineer at Runcorn for 15 years.

He was born in Southampton and later moved to Stoke-on-Trent where his father, for many years, was the Chief Engineer to the City's Electricity Department.

After studying at Birmingham University, Mr. Mills went to work with Callenders Cable and Construction Company and in 1940 he joined the Ealing Corporation Electricity Department where he stayed for six years prior to going to Cheltenham as deputy mains superintendent and later District Engineer.

Mr. Mills is a freeman of the City of London. He and his wife are now retiring to live in Conwy near their son John and his family.

Before leaving Oswestry however, he was guest of honour at a social evening at a local hotel organised by his friends and colleagues. Mr. Eric Davies (*District Engineer*) on their behalf, presented him with some photographic equipment as a farewell gift.



Supply Engineer, Mr. Mills.

# TIME TO REWIRE

PRESS advertising, posters and point-of-sale displays in our shops and direct mail leaflets to 44,000 selected customers launched the Board's "Time to Rewire" campaign recently.

Brochures, prepared especially for our staff, details, prices, package deals, publicity aids, specifications and even a copy of the order form.

In the first couple of weeks of the campaign, 853 enquiries have been received, 234 quotations given and 85 orders signed-up,



resulting in business worth about £14,000.

As we go to press, orders are coming in at the rate of about £700 a day from some of our Districts. No doubt the target figure of £70,000 to be reached by

A new series of leaflets to help customers use electricity wisely is now available in Electricity Board shops. The first three titles are:

"*How to Enjoy Warmth Without Waste*"—which gives useful advice on cutting heat loss from the home.

"*A Guide to Running Costs*"—which gives the amount of electricity used by most of the popular home appliances and shows the value you get for each unit of electricity.

"*How to Read your Meter*"—which tells customers how to

the 15th March, will be well and truly passed.

The rapid success of this campaign is due to the terrific co-operation of all our Commercial staff—energy sales, marketing and of course, the instigators, installation and service.

## Electricity and You

check on the amount of electricity they are using.

The four page leaflets have been prepared and published by the Electricity Council and are part of the electricity supply industry's campaign to advise on using electricity wisely.

Copies of the leaflets can be obtained free from local Electricity Board shops or from Marketing Department, The Electricity Council, Trafalgar Buildings, 1 Charing Cross, London SW1A 2DS.

## Obituary

Mrs. B. CHESWORTH

We regret to report the untimely death of Mrs. Brenda Chesworth, aged 40. She was a saleswoman at our Nantwich shop and she will be sadly missed by her many friends and colleagues in the Mid-Cheshire District.

Brenda leaves a husband and three sons to whom we extend our sincere sympathies.

Mrs. J. PARR

We regret to record the death of Mrs. J. Parr, a typist at our former St. Helens District office, until her retirement in 1967. Mrs. Parr had served the industry since 1944.

Mr. RALPH BURTON

The host of friends made by Mr. Ralph Charles Burton, senior assistant engineer (technical development) prior to his retirement in 1960, will be saddened to hear of his recent passing. He was 79.

Mr. Burton, who spent fifty years in the service of the electri-

city supply industry, was occupied during the latter years of his long career in controlling the MANWEB Test Laboratory, then located at Pumpfields, Liverpool. His name was inseparably linked with the development of electricity on Merseyside, and many innovations pioneered at Pumpfields sprang from Mr. Burton's fertile brain.

In the words of a former colleague, it was only necessary to tell him that a thing was impossible for it to be done quickly and efficiently! After retirement Mr. Burton went to live at Buttington, near Welshpool.

Mr. J. R. A. CORLEY

It is with regret that we record the death of Mr. Jack Corley, at the age of 60. He was a storekeeper at our Mid-Mersey District Office in Warrington.

Jack was a lifelong supporter of Warrington Rugby League Club and was a keen gardener.

Our condolences go to his

## Farm-electric

"*Vegetable Storage*" and "*Grain Drying and Storage*" have been published by the Electricity Council as the latest additions in their series of Farm-electric handbooks.

Individual copies of both handbooks are available free on request from Electricity Boards and the Farm-electric Centre, National Agricultural Centre, Kenilworth, Warwickshire, CV8 2LS.

widow, three sons and two daughters.

Mr. SAMUEL LLOYD

We regret to record the death, at the age of 61, of Mr. Samuel Lloyd, labourer, North Mersey District.

Mr. Lloyd commenced his service with MANWEB in the former Southport District.

Many of his former colleagues attended his funeral held at Duke Street Cemetery, Southport.

Mr. Lloyd leaves a son and two daughters, to whom we extend our deepest sympathies.