

## RETIREMENT

Mr. W. R. THOMAS

It is most unfortunate that after a full and active adult life, a man is forced to retire from his work because of ill health. This situation was recently faced by Mr. William Rhys Davies, a storekeeper at our Legacy depot in the Dee Valley District.

After spending many of his early years in the mining industry at Hafod colliery, Bill joined MANWEB in 1948. He soon became interested in the welfare of his colleagues and in addition to serving on Local Advisory and Works Committees was a member of the District Ambulance Centre. His interests also extended into union matters and he became a shop steward for the local branch of the EEPTU.

Away from work, Bill once served as a special constable reaching the rank of sergeant.

In 1970 he became interested in local government and quickly gained election as a member of his local Parish Council. This

success was followed by a seat on the County Council. In 1975, as a local authority representative, Bill was an invited guest at a

One of Mr. Arthur Ellinson's first duties when he took over as District Administrative Officer at Dee Valley was to present a retirement gift to Mr. Bill Davies, seen here, centre right.



Buckingham Palace Garden Party

He has been a Governor of five local school and was a member of the Wrexham and District and the Clwyd Trades Councils.

His many friends and colleagues subscribed to retirement gifts which were presented to Bill at a simple farewell ceremony by Mr. Arthur Ellinson (District Administrative Officer).

## LETTERS FROM A COUPLE OF PENSIONERS

### *A touch of nostalgia*

We never quite know what the morning mail is going to bring to the *Contact* office, but a couple of recent letters from pensioners are well worth a mention, and may bring nostalgic memories to some people.

Any present-day employee will need to have a fair amount of service in to remember our first correspondent—Mr. Harry Cowen, of Liverpool, who retired at the age of 65 way back in 1951. Now aged 91 Harry writes to us from his home near Milnthorpe in Cumbria, recollecting the days when he was treasurer of the Liverpool branch of the Electrical Trades Union, while the then chairman went on to become no less a person than Lord Citrine.

Harry goes on to refer to the fact that he changed over the Liverpool Royal Infirmary from DC to AC—helped by an apprentice by the name of Sid Fairclough. He doesn't say whether young Fair-

clough showed a great deal of promise at the time, but we suppose there must have been some talent there as Sid has risen through the ranks to his present position of Group Manager at Head Office!

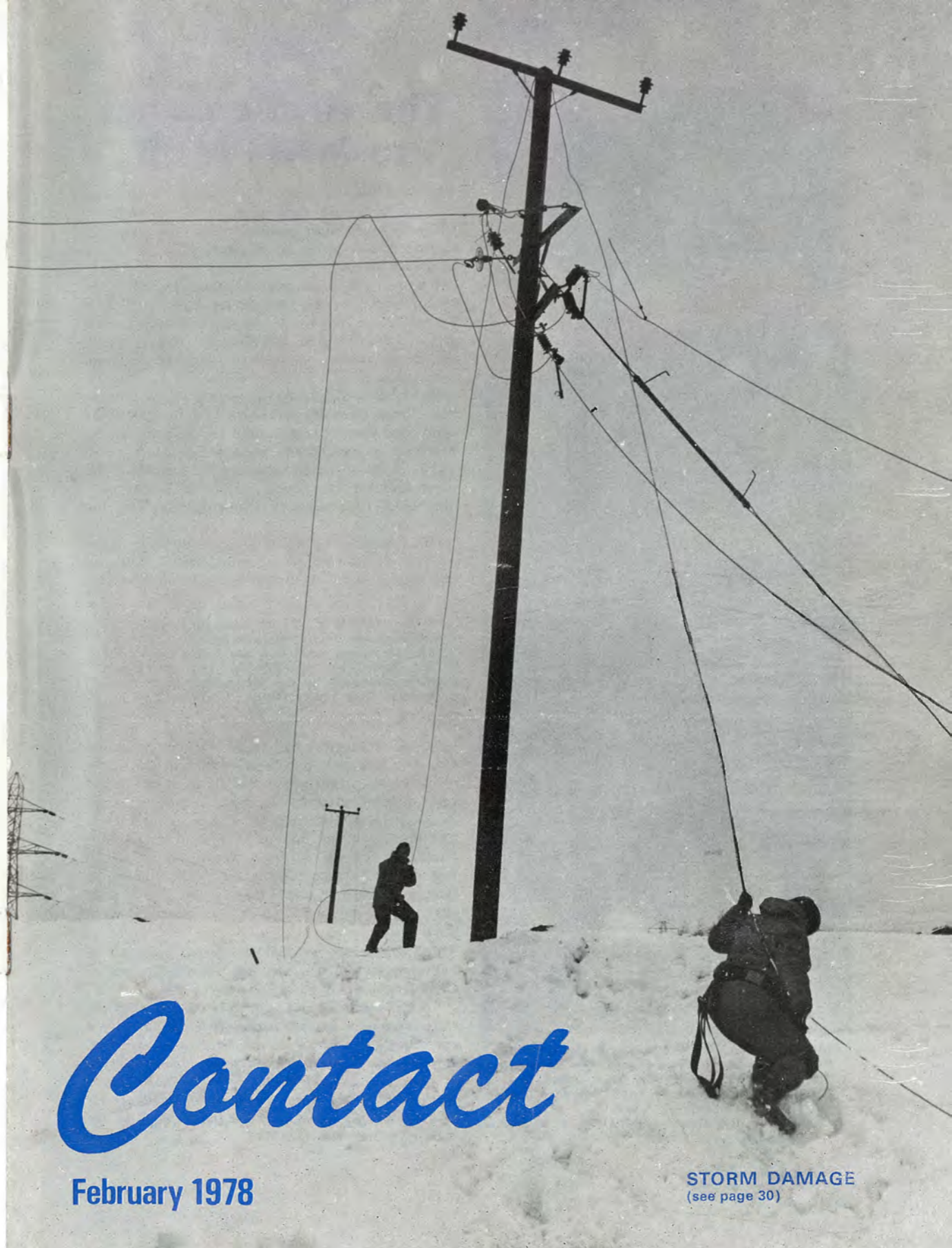
\* \* \*

Our other interesting note comes from Mr. Cyril Harrison, who may well be remembered by colleagues in the Mid-Cheshire area. The main point of his letter was to thank the trustees of the Mid-Cheshire Thrift and Benevolent Scheme for a Christmas hamper, which "came as a very pleasant and welcome surprise".

Cyril adds that when the Trust and Benevolent Scheme was inaugurated in 1934 he never in his wildest dreams expected to be receiving an OAP's hamper 44 years later.

He retired from the industry in 1956 in Cambridge, but then took a second job as a healthy OAP with a Reading firm of consulting engineers in the water industry.

The fact that everyone does not prefer whizz-kids was underlined by the fact that his new employers told him that he had a chance of promotion—which duly came at the age of 65 when he became technical librarian. Cyril expects to be retiring again shortly after ten years in his second career!



# Contact

February 1978

STORM DAMAGE  
(see page 30)





Men from MANWEB who braved the elements to repair the line at Pen-y-Gwryd. On top of the pole are Les Jackson and Allan Jones from Llandudno depot with Richard Williams from Llanrwst, below.  
Picture by Glyn Davies (North Wales Weekly News)

## The Arctic comes to MANWEB

WHILE the attention of the country was focussed on the frozen white wastes of Northern Scotland, the same bitter weather conditions were also playing havoc in the more exposed parts of the MANWEB area.

Blizzards which swept across the higher parts of North Wales on the weekend of January 28/29th blocked most major road passes at some time or other, and electricity supplies to about 12,000 customers—mostly in Wales but some in Cheshire, were cut.

Worst affected Districts were Dee Valley, Gwynedd, Clwyd, Oswestry and Mid-Cheshire. Gale-force winds and heavy snow caused ice to build up on overhead line conductors, in some cases up to three inches thick. In many instances the weight of the storm-buffed ice proved too much for the conductors or their supports, bringing lines crashing to the ground.

One conductor in Snowdonia grounded on to the roadway to become set in six inches of solid ice, and had to be cut off where it lay. In another case

OUR COVER PICTURE sums up the story of the blizzards. Struggling with broken conductors near Tryweryn substation are Chester linesmen Bob Davies (left) and Billy Griffiths, out helping their colleagues 'in the wilds'. Picture by Stan Roberts, Dee Valley District Engineer.

icebound conductors had sagged to such an extent that they became frozen together in mid-span!

Snowdrifts, sometimes waist-deep, made access very difficult, despite the best efforts of road-clearance gangs and machines from local authorities. Continuous effort in very difficult conditions gradually won the battle, however, and after the first day only some 500 customers, mainly in the Bala and Capel Curig areas, were still without electricity—a situation which was remedied soon afterwards.

Following the MANWEB Board meeting of February 10th, Chairman Ben Hastings wrote to Chief Engineer Jim Fisher as follows:

*"Board members are conscious that much of the restoration work on such occasions has to be carried out in difficult and sometimes hazardous conditions. It is a source of great encouragement to me personally to know that our employees in 1978 still have very much at heart the strong traditions of public service which have always characterised the response of our industry to such emergencies."*

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## TESTING TIME

WHEN the wind brews up to "severe gale" and thick snow drives down from a leaden sky, those who earn their living as electricity engineers and linesmen in rural areas tend to curse—and to make sure that their gumboots are handy. This Winter, we suspect, our own MANWEB colleagues in those categories have done more than their normal share of this kind of activity.

Seldom can there have been a year when the MANWEB area has been so regularly battered by gales from all points of the compass. All rural Districts, at some time or other or all at once, have taken a hammering, with considerable numbers of people losing their vital electricity supplies.

Hunting for faults and damage is no joke when the weather is in any way unpleasant, but when deep snow makes communication and access a hazardous and exhausting affair the whole business becomes doubly difficult, even for men who are experience-hardened to it.

The speed with which supplies have been restored during recent months, often in most adverse circumstances, pays tribute to the dedication and determination of the men from MANWEB who have pitted themselves against the worst that the elements could do. Expressions of gratitude have shown that some members of the public, at least, are appreciative of their efforts.

February brought lengthening days, but Winter is still with us and may still have further unpleasant surprises in store. For the sake of our colleagues in the front line we hope they may be few!

### Editorial Staff

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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.





# Our new Chairman —the man and his views

The appointment of former Deputy Chairman Ben Hastings as the new Chairman of MANWEB makes him, at 47, the youngest electricity board Chairman in the country.

In this article Keith Baldwin, our Press and Information Officer, draws a pen-portrait of the man behind the job, and reports on a question-and-answer interview which we think will be of interest to you.

NEW Chairman Ben Hastings, although the youngest Board chairman in the country, could pass as even younger than his 47 years. Active participation in a variety of sports has seen to it that he has retained an athletic profile. His replies to questions are carefully weighed and considered—and when he speaks his listener is in no doubt as to his Scottish origins.

Brought up in and around Glasgow, he completed his education with an honours degree in physics at Glasgow University. By odd coincidence his first real spell south of the border brought him to Eaton Hall, near Chester, a long stone's-throw from MANWEB's present Head Office. There, in the winter of 1953, he was put through the mill as a National Service officer cadet, leading to army service in Germany and the rank of acting-Captain in the REME.

Twelve years with the Mul-

rad Radio Valve Company at their Surrey factories followed, culminating in the post of head of the technical efficiency and organisation department. In 1967 he joined the South of Scotland Electricity Board as Management Services Controller, coming to MANWEB as Deputy Chairman in 1974.

An all-round flair with boots and bats has involved him in several competitive sports. For a spell he played centre-forward for Queens Park, the Glasgow-based amateur team which competes in the Scottish Second Division. While working in Surrey he kept wicket for his local village cricket team and has also played badminton and table-tennis at competitive level.

Mr. Hastings and his wife, Mary, have two children. Daughter Barbara, who is 19, is in her second year at teacher training college, and 16-years-old son Neil attends King's School, Chester. Like most of the rest of us Mr. Hastings does the usual jobs

of the man-about-the-house, including painting and paper-hanging. During the past five years he has taught himself to play the piano, and claims to have reached the stage where the family don't run for cover!

Still a soccer enthusiast, he has seen Chester play at Sealand Road on a few occasions, but with Wrexham's star in the ascendant it is likely that he will be making his way to the Racecourse when he can find the time.

Although he still fancies his chances against all comers with a table tennis bat, golf has now taken over as his main outdoor recreation. How good is he? Well, his handicap is 15, which most MANWEB golfers might consider not too bad. There is, however, one fly in the ointment. Hastings junior, who has been playing since he was ten, has a handicap of six, and manages to supplement his pocket money by playing Dad for modest side-stakes at the Eaton Park course!

**Keith Baldwin** *Mr. Hastings, you have now been with us for a little over three years. What are your impressions of MANWEB, and the MANWEB staff?*

**Ben Hastings** I've managed to get around every District a couple of times a year, and to meet a fair proportion of the staff in offices, shops and depots. Perhaps the thing which has impressed me more than anything else is the pride which so many of our people obviously feel in their work.

There is no doubt that the name of MANWEB is better known to the public than are the names of many other electricity boards. This may have something to do with the friendly-sounding name the initials make, but I'm sure that the work of the staff is the most important factor.

## The next few years . . .

**K.B.** *What do you see as the main tasks and problems confronting us during the next few years?*

**B.H.** We need to do everything we can to minimise increases in electricity prices, and to do our jobs in a way that encourages our customers to appreciate that they are getting the best possible value for money. All energy is bound to become a little more expensive in real terms. At the very best the price of electricity is going to rise in line with the prices of other commodities. This trend, of course, is tied in with the rising cost of power station fuel, and with overall inflation.

## . . . a Scot's-eye view . . .

**K.B.** *MANWEB's staff are a pretty mixed bunch, ranging from the scousers of Merseyside to those who live in the heartland of the Welsh culture and language. How does a Scot feel about taking on the job of leading such a motley crew?*

**B.H.** Well, as a Scot I have the advantage of having no prejudices! Liverpool, like Glasgow, is a big port with a cosmopolitan population. The people of both cities are noted for their sense of humour and friendliness, even in adversity. The Welsh people, like the Scots, have their own traditions and culture, preserved through the centuries. I have been struck by the way the MANWEB organisation manages to bridge these wide differences. I'm sure that

this is because our people are largely drawn from the local communities, and because many of them are active in their communities in one way or another.

## . . . MANWEB is settling down . . .

**K.B.** *A few years ago we went through a major re-organisation. For quite a lot of employees that was a pretty big upheaval. Homes were moved, long-established working relationships were broken, and so on. Do you feel that we are now settled into a stable organisation?*

**B.H.** Any healthy organisation is always liable to some degree of development, but I can't foresee any really big changes ahead of us. Everyone knows that we have built or are building new offices in most Districts—Liverpool and Aberystwyth are going through this process at the moment—and I would have thought that this must reassure people.

While I obviously cannot say that there will never be any more changes, I would expect any further developments to be so gradual that people would hardly notice them happening.

## . . . the staff voice should count . . .

**K.B.** *There is a lot of talk these days about "industrial democracy"—employees participating in decision-making processes in industry. What are your feelings on this subject?*

**B.H.** This is one of the most important issues facing industry today. Someone has to make decisions—even when those decisions may be unpalatable to some people. Employees have every right to expect to be consulted, both about decisions which affect them and about how they are going to be implemented. Rights, however, bring corresponding obligations, and I think the aim of consultation should be to have decisions carried out in a way which will earn the maximum possible support from employees.

I am a great believer in the principles of staff consultation and the sense of team-spirit and common purpose which flows from it. By consultation I don't just mean telling people what is going to happen, but inviting constructive suggestions on management proposals and being prepared to modify proposals in the light of suggestions. I don't see why we shouldn't make further big strides in this



direction, but success will depend on the sense of responsibility of everyone concerned.

### ... looking after our reputation ...

**K.B.** *As a public service industry we come in for our share of criticism—some of it unfair, prejudiced or mischievous. How can this kind of thing best be countered?*

**B.H.** The way in which we all conduct our dealings with the public is all-important. I am painfully conscious of the fact that the influence of the Chairman of the Board on the public is minimal when compared with the total influence of the employees. The sum total of our work makes or breaks the reputation of MANWEB in the eyes of the public. Everything counts—the way in which phone calls and letters are answered, doorstep conversations, help and advice from shop staff, work carried out for customers, keeping promises, and so on. All these are crucial in building and maintaining our good name. All that a Board Chairman can really do is to try to ensure that these tasks are carried out in the right spirit. A genuine loyal commitment to MANWEB from us all is the key, and I shall do everything I can to foster that spirit.

### .. modest growth and balanced books ..

**K.B.** *For many years our industry was accustomed to an almost automatic rate of growth. Prior to last year, however, we went through a difficult period, with some big financial losses, a marked slow-down in the expansion rate, and falling demand from the domestic customer. How do you see the future? Are we now on course for steady expansion again?*

**B.H.** In a minor way we are already back on an expansion course. The 1976/77 results began to move in the right direction. For the country as a whole we had a record Maximum Demand a few weeks ago—that was a straw in the wind.

I think that a modest rate of expansion is all we can realistically expect during the next few years. The kind of growth which prevailed during the Fifties and Sixties is not likely to return for any length of time. Energy consumption is expected to grow at about 3% per annum and if we can do better than that—and I think we can—we shall be doing well.

On the financial side, I hope that the price of electricity will continue to reflect the cost of producing and distributing it. We returned to profitability last year, and if future Governments resist the temptation to manipulate electricity tariffs I see no reason why we should not remain profitable in the future.

### ... taking the offensive on the nuclear issue ...

**K.B.** *You are known as an enthusiastic advocate of nuclear power. In Britain, as in some other countries, there is a small but vociferous anti-nuclear lobby. How should MANWEB employees deal with the fears and criticisms which these people express?*

**B.H.** The nuclear issue is a very complicated one, and detailed criticisms demand comprehensive answers.

In general, however, I think that we have been much too defensive in the past, and that we should go over to the offensive by explaining the benefits of nuclear power in a more forceful way. We should lay stress on the great benefits which nuclear power offers when compared with other energy sources. For example, it can be concentrated and controlled in small volumes. Relatively tiny quantities of nuclear fuel can generate enormous amounts of electricity. Relatively tiny quantities of waste have to be disposed of. This is a unique feature of nuclear power.

Compare this with the vast amounts of fuel and waste to be transported and processed in coal-fired power stations, for example. Consider the beneficial health aspects of nuclear power. Think of the number of miners who are injured, or whose health is adversely affected, by winning coal. Consider the damage to health and the environment caused by widespread air pollution—from the internal combustion engine, for example.

In comparison with other energy sources nuclear power is controllable, safe and beneficial to health—these are the arguments we should be hammering home!

### ... the fast breeder—an early start ...

**K.B.** *What about the fast-breeder reactor? A number of leading people in the industry have called for an early commitment to a commercial-sized prototype. When do you think this country should aim to have one in operation?*

**B.H.** The simple answer to that is “as soon as

possible,” which would be about 10 years from now. As the overall energy picture makes itself clear during the closing years of this Century we should aim to have tried-and-tested fast breeder experience as one of our options for meeting demand.

### .. our industry—40 years on.

**K.B.** *Some of our younger employees may well have 40-year careers in the electricity industry in front of them. Would you care to look into the crystal ball and forecast the kind of industry from which they will retire?*

**B.H.** There is no doubt that in 40 years time electricity will be even more important to the

nation than it is today. Nuclear energy will by then be a major source of electricity. The all-electric home will be the norm and we shall probably have all-electric surface transport, with oil being reserved for air transport and as a chemical feedstock.

I think we shall also be living in an almost ‘paperless society’ as far as our administration is concerned. The tasks carried out by computers will be much more widespread and most of the paper which now flows around the organisation will have disappeared. Forty years is a long way to try to look ahead, but the changes they will bring will probably be even more far-reaching than those which have taken place during the working lives of those of our colleagues who are retiring now.

The shape of things to come. Trawsfynydd nuclear power station stands in its tranquil setting by the shores of snowbound Trawsfynydd lake in Gwynedd. No vast fuel stockpiles... no mountains of ash to be disposed of... no massive cooling towers.







At Clwyd District Office, drivers from the Engineering section who received their awards from Chief Inspector T. M. Williams. On the right is Mr. Leslie Griffiths (District Engineer).

# CLWYD DISTRICT Safe Driving Award Presentations

AT THREE separate ceremonies—at Rhyl, Mold and Llandudno Junction—ROSPA Safe Driving Awards were recently presented to members of our Clwyd District staff.

At Rhyl Mr. George Cooksley (District Administrative Officer) introduced Chief Inspector T. M. Williams, officer in charge of the Traffic Department, 'C' Division, North Wales Police, who presented the awards.

Chief Inspector Williams said it was always a pleasure to meet people like our safe drivers—he got no satisfaction for handing out summonses for bad driving

Commercial and Administrative section drivers, based at Cefndy Road, seen here with Chief Inspector T. M. Williams



Looking back over his 26 years in the police force, he said that there was always an element of luck in maintaining an accident-free driving record—it was much easier to do so 26 years ago. Some young people today, unfortunately, had no manners, and this was reflected in their behaviour as drivers. Good manners could do much to promote safety on the roads, so for even the most careful driver it was harder today to maintain a five-year accident-free record than it was to achieve a ten-year span 25 years ago.

At Mold our drivers from Mold and Ruthin depots received their awards from Chief Inspector D. W. Williams, of Wrexham, who commended them on their contribution to reducing the danger on our roads.

Chief Inspector Mike Jones presented the Awards to our drivers based in the Llandudno area. He told them that the police put great emphasis on proper training and instruction for all forms of road safety.

District Commercial Engineer Mr. Bob Hodson, thanked all the recipients of awards for their conscientious approach to driving. He stated that in the one-and-a-half million miles driven by Clwyd District drivers last year there had been only 37 accidents—and none of these really serious.



Mold and Ruthin drivers with Chief Inspector D. W. Williams who presented the awards.

## RHYL

**Corresponding Bar to 15 Year Brooch** Mr. J. C. Jones (19 years).

**Oak Leaf Bar to 10 Year Medal** Messrs. R. K. Davies, C. Kirkman, I. J. Nethercott, R. G. Roberts, W. Sutherland, J. E. Williams, T. R. Williams, W. E. Williams.

**10 Year Medal** Messrs R. Harkness and T. H. Jones.

**Bar to 5 year Medal** Messrs B. Davies, K. E. Hatley, M. I. Jones, R. T. Jones, T. A. Jones, H. M. Kearsley, A. E. Salisbury, R. Walley and P. C. Williams.

**5 Year Medal** Messrs. A. M. Birtles, T. J. Evans, T. Hughes, V. Tomkinson and C. Wynne.

**Diplomas:** Messrs J. Antrobus, R. G. Ball, G. Connah, H. Davies, S. Davies, T. E. Davies, A. R. Evans, H. Evans, J. E. Garratt, I. Hayes, D. T. Hughes, I. W. Humphries, D. J. Jones, E. L. Jones, R. W. Jones, B. F. Marchbank, G. Parry, K. T. Povak, E. I. Roberts, M. F. Skelly, R. C. Stobbart, S. R. Tate, J. O. Twist, R. H. Waring, C. I. Williams, G. O. Williams, and R. H. Williams.

## MOLD AND RUTHIN

**15 Year Brooch** Mr. J. R. Evans.

**Oak Leaf Bar to 10 Year Medal:** Messrs, T. Field,

R. A. L. Jones, D. A. L. Jones and F. Thomas. **10 Year Medal:** Mr. E. J. Williams.

**Bar to 5 Year Medal:** Messrs M. Evans, W. A. Hughes, B. Parry, B. Roberts, G. Schloegl, and J. Woolley.

**5 Year Medal:** Messrs, T. Hayes, A. Jones, M. D. Jones, M. Price and R. Williams.

**Diploma** Messrs, A. Bailey, P. O. Baithwaite, G. Dallolio, D. E. Evans, E. O. Evans, B. R. Hughes, I. T. Hughes, T. Hughes, L. Jones, T. H. Jones, K. Lloyd, D. H. Parry, B. Ramsey, E. Roberts, B. Royles and J. F. Sullivan.

## LLANDUDNO JUNCTION

**Corresponding Bar to 15 Year Brooch** Mr. E. Thomas. (16 years).

**Oak Leaf Bar to 10 Year Medal** Messrs, B. James and E. A. Thomas.

**Bar to 5 Year Medal** Messrs, T. A. Everley, B. Jones, J. B. Jones, W. V. Owen and S. Vagnorelli.

**5 Year Medal** Messrs, E. L. Davies and E. Owen.

**Diploma** Messrs, W. D. Brown, D. S. Collins, D. C. Davies, T. J. Davies, G. B. Goss, G. E. Jackson, P. G. Jones, R. E. Moxon, F. H. Pomeroy, J. H. Powell, J. I. Roberts, R. E. Robinson, B. M. Thomas, K. B. Thomas, and T. W. E. Walton.

Chief Inspector Mike Jones presents Llandudno based drivers with their awards. On the left is Mr. Bob Hodson (District Commercial Engineer).





# Talking Notes

## WATCH YOUR JOBS LADS!

TO BECOME a chartered engineer and a Member of the Institute of Electrical Engineers may well be an unusual ambition for a pretty girl—but 19-years-old **Suzanne Vyse**, now on a MANWEB-sponsored course in electrical and electronic engineering at Nottingham University, seems set fair to achieve her goal.

Suzanne, who comes from Stoke-on-Trent, has always been interested in electrical engineering because her father, **Tom**, is a special serviceman with the Midlands Board. With maths as a favourite subject she set her heart on an engineering career, and was accepted as a University Scholar by MANWEB. Ten months at Birkenhead Technical College followed (the only girl in all her classes), and she entered



A young lady with sights set high, Suzanne Vyse.

the University at Nottingham in October. Last Summer she spent ten weeks at Mid-Cheshire District, most of it 'out and about' among the customers with the electricians,

servicemen and installation inspectors.

"I really enjoyed this time," said Suzanne. "I learned a lot and I think the consumers were quite surprised to see a girl with the electrician—although it was a bit embarrassing when one old lady took me for a boy!"

Last Summer also saw Suzanne enjoying three weeks at the Outward Bound school at Rhowniar, near Aberdovey.

At Nottingham she was pleased to find some other girls with similar interests—there are six among the 70 students on the course. She tells us that she is at present building an electronic voltmeter—which is still in pieces!

Suzanne ("I haven't any serious boyfriends") loves all sports, especially badminton. She is a keen soccer fan (Stoke City) but has to put up with Nottingham Forest most of the time at present! Back home at Stoke she was assistant leader of the local Guide company, and still calls to visit them whenever she gets the chance.

### Call for Support

For a number of years some of our Liverpool colleagues have been closely involved with

the amateur theatre—and now they are calling on other MANWEB groups and individuals to rally round and give them a bit of support.

The last production of the *New Electron Players*, as they are known, was Jack Popplewell's 'Busybody,' presented at the Neptune Theatre, Liverpool, in November, and was acclaimed by all who saw it as their greatest-ever success.

Despite a delighted audience, however, the 400-seat theatre was only filled to half capacity—mainly members of the staff of Liverpool District and friends and relatives of the cast.

Their next play is "A Public Mischief" by Kenneth Horne, which will be staged at the Neptune on Friday and Saturday, March 31st and April 1st, at 7.30 p.m. Tickets (only 65p) will be available early in March, and District sales supervisor **Tom Saladine**, who is one of the players, urges other MANWEB groups to give support.

"It now costs about £200 to stage each play," Tom told us. "The theatre's hire charges will be up 15% next season. The group is acknowledged to be amongst the best on Merseyside and some support from the good people of other Districts and Head Office would help prevent it going out of existence. What about one or two coach parties organised by sports and social Clubs? The theatre has excellent bar faci-

lities, and is surrounded by first-class restaurants. This would be an enjoyable night out at modest cost."

On Saturday, March 4th, there will be a fund-raising Disco at Thingwall Road. Tickets (50p) are available at the club or from members of the drama section.

## MANWEB (CHESTER) SPORTS AND SOCIAL CLUB

Dancing with



plus JOEY KAYE  
Comedian

10th MARCH—8 to 1.00 a.m.  
HEAD OFFICE BALLROOM  
SEALAND ROAD, CHESTER

Admission:

£2.50 with supper  
£1.50 cabaret/dancing only  
Tickets from J. G. Roberts  
Welfare Section (2142)

### Timely Aid

Two Men from MANWEB were fortunately on the spot when a trench collapsed on a man who was laying drains at a house on the Accar y Forwyn estate, Denbigh, recently.

Mr. Elfed Jones, aged 68, a retired master bricklayer, was working at his son's house when the trench collapsed, trapping him more than chest-deep in mud and soil.

Working on a fault nearby were our colleagues **Brian Royles**, a joiner, and labourer **Trevor Jones**. Together with the trapped man's son they began digging him free with their hands until Denbigh firemen and an ambulance arrived.

After a hospital check he was allowed to leave, little the worse for his narrow escape.



Electricity Supply Industry scholar, Charles A. Lynch.

### Liverpool Pensioners

More than 100 retired employees from MANWEB and the CEGB gathered at Thingwall Road club just before Christmas to enjoy a pleasant Christmas dinner together and to be entertained with a film programme. A number of guests from Head Office, led by Group Manager **Mr. Sid Fairclough**, joined them for the occasion.

### Doctor's Degree

Congratulations to **Mr. Charles A. Lynch**, computer applications engineer at Head Office, on securing his degree of Doctor of Philosophy with a thesis on the subject of the "Interactive Design and Operation of Power Systems," submitted to Manchester University.

Charles came to MANWEB after taking a second class Honours degree in Engineering Science at Oxford University in 1968. In 1973 he attended an M.Sc. course of electrical power systems at Manchester University's Institute of Science and

Technology, going on to undertake the research leading to his thesis.

With such a long hard stint of study behind him he now hopes to find time to resume his interests of badminton and music.

### Youngsters' Treat

Nearly 200 children of members of the North Mersey District's Sports and Social Club enjoyed an excellent night out recently when they visited the Empire Theatre in Liverpool to see the pantomime 'Aladdin' starring Little and Large.

Hired coaches took them to and from the theatre and as a final treat, before the children left for home, each was given a selection box of chocolates.

### Moving On

The 'Red Fox' is moving his lair from the confines of North Mersey District to the open spaces of more foxlike terrain in Gwynedd District. The distinctive red hair and red beard





On his travels, Malcolm Donaldson, left, says 'au revoir' to his chief, Bert Eyres.

were the reason his Bootle based colleagues gave **Malcolm Donaldson** his foxy nickname.

Malcolm left North Mersey after eight years, where he was an administrative assistant, for the post of principal assistant to the District Administrative Officer, at our Caernarfon Office.

With him will go his wife **Anne**, who was a clerk in the North Mersey liaison section. She has been transferred to

After a night sleeping—with 41 other people—in this touring trailer-caravan, one's sympathy for the battery hen must surely be strengthened. The foam rubber may cushion the knocks, but do they soundproof the compartments?



Gwynedd too.

North Mersey District Engineer, **Albert Eyres** presented Malcolm with a silver cigarette case on behalf of his colleagues. He and Anne will be missed around the office although his penchant for ancient automobiles and the cacophony of sound they emitted will not!

#### It takes all sorts . . .

When **Peter Meadows**, mail room supervisor at Head Office read in a newspaper recently about a German travel firm which operates tours using a coach with a 42-sleeper caravan trailer he was somewhat intrigued.

A little while later, while on holiday in Scotland, he was surprised to see the real thing right before his eyes—so he whipped out his camera and passed this picture to us.

The newspaper article says: "The sleeping compartments are rather cramped . . . and in case a restless sleeper should suddenly sit up in bed the cabins are lined with foam

rubber to cushion any nasty knocks!"

We can believe it!

#### New Branch

This month another new branch of the Electrical Association for Women was added to the already large list of branches throughout the MANWEB area.

The Lord Mayor of Liverpool, Councillor Paul Orr, accompanied by his wife, The Lady Mayoress, performed the inauguration ceremony at the Centre Hotel.

Here will be the venue for the regular monthly meetings for all members of the new branch. These will be held on the second Tuesday of each month starting at 7.0 p.m. For those who wish, there is a pre-meeting supper at 6.0 p.m.

Any ladies interested in joining the Association, should get in touch with the Electricity Council in Liverpool—telephone 051-236 8681.

Membership fee is only £1.25 per annum.

MANWEB GOLF SOCIETY	
FIXTURE LIST	
Mar. 15th	Heswall
Apr. 14th	Upton
May	Curzon Park
June 15th	Rhuddlan
July 6th	Wrexham
July 20th	Helsby
Aug. 24th	Llangollen
Sept.	Oswestry

#### Pot Black

This year's Snooker Championship at Head Office was decided on the narrowest of margins. It was all 'on the black' with the last two of the thirty original entrants for the title, when **Mark Buchanan** sank the last ball on the table to beat **Harold Mayhew** and



Harry Foreman, left, congratulates snooker champion Mark Buchanan with runner-up Harold Mayhew, centre.

clinch the singles championship.

Mark, who works as a clerk in Revenue section was playing in his second championship, while Harold, a senior engineer (*Plant and Construction*) has played in one or two more.

In the Doubles Championship 32 pairs started out. In the final match, Snooker Section Secretary **Mike Mole** partnered by **Dowell Jones**—both from Accounts—beat **Alan Pedersen** and **Mike Edwards** (*Computer section*), to take the Doubles Championship.

#### Czech Mate

Four of our MANWEB chessmen recently took the opportunity to pit their skills against

Differing attitudes of concentration from these chess challengers, from left to right: Steve Williams (*Shell Co.*) and a trio from MANWEB, Mike Hughes, Dave Cousins and Steve Holmes.



Doubles finalists in the snooker competition. The winners, right, Mike Mole and Dowell Jones, being congratulated by Sports and Social Club Chairman, Harry Foreman, centre, watched by the runners-up, on the left, Alan Pedersen and Mike Edwards.

the Czechoslovakian Grandmaster of Chess, Vlastimil Hort.

In addition to our four, **Dave Cousins**, **John Gorman**, **Steve Holmes** and **Mike Hughes**, another 32 of Chester's top players took the opposite side of the boards in a simultaneous exhibition of chess in the Head Office restaurant.

It was fascinating for all the players and the many spectators to see the maestro race from board to board, often with an apparently cursory glance before moving a chess piece and so set each opponent with another problem.

Vlastimil was not content with playing 36 boards at the same time so just to exhibit his talents a little further, he

initiated a variety of opening moves.

After four-and-a-half hours of continuous play, the Grandmaster had defeated 30 of his challengers and conceded drawn games to the other six.

The exhibition was organised by MANWEB and the YMCA Chess Clubs in aid of the 1979 International Chess Congress to be held in Chester.

#### Santa MANWEB

It was double trouble for Mr. Ron Hopwood of Deganwy at Christmas. First his wife sustained a slipped disc, making the preparation of Christmas dinner a job for Mr. Hopwood. And then, just as he was about to pop the turkey into the oven his cooker went out of action.

Czech chess master Vlastimil Hort, right, studies the board before he moves against John Gorman.





But, reports the *North Wales Weekly News*, MANWEB came to the rescue, playing the role of Santa Claus by installing a replacement cooker within an hour after Mr. Hopwood rang our emergency service. Man-on-the-spot was electrician **David Jones** from Penmaenmawr, who fixed the Hopwood family up with a loan cooker and saved the day.

The newspaper quotes Mr. Hopwood as saying: "It was a marvellous service. I was really pleased that the children weren't disappointed and I've phoned MANWEB to thank them."

The paper carried a picture of Mr. and Mrs. Hopwood and their children drinking a "Christmas Toast" to MANWEB.

#### FOR SALE

Burco mini washing machine. As new £30. 'Phone: Gresford 2612 (evenings).

#### WANTED

Fan part only, with or without rotor, for DM 200 GEC Firelighter. Write: Mr. Robinson, 'Penmorfa,' Dinas Dinlle, Caernarfon, Gwynedd.



#### LUNCH IS SERVED

Just over a month ago, a new canteen catering for our Gwynedd District staff based at St. Helens Road, Caernarfon, was opened. In our picture, above, Margaret Bevan, from Consumers Accounts section, shows her delight as she is about to sample the first meal to be served. Also in the picture, keeping an orderly eye on things, is Malcolm Donaldson, the recently appointed principal assistant, Admin, and Dennis Hughes (*District Administrative Officer*) who told us that over 50 members of the NJB and NJC staff use the canteen every day. He would, however, like to see more members of the NJC staff making use of the excellent facilities. "After all the canteen is for every member of the staff and the meals provided are very good value for money," he commented.

#### SOUTHPORT SHOW

One of the main attractions of Southport's Ideal Homes Exhibition held recently in the Floral Hall, was the MANWEB exhibit which featured a large selection of cookers, fridges, deep freezers, etc., placed in strategic positions around the entrances to the hall. A well laid-out area was devoted to a demonstration theatre which, twice a day, attracted many visitors. On opening day, John Walker (*Energy Sales Engineer, North Mersey*) invited Mrs. Barbara Orritt of the Church of England Children's Society local Teenage Unit to the first demonstration. Later, she was presented with a number of electrically-baked cakes for the youngsters under her care. Adding to the attractions was Geraldine Leake, our 'Girl from MANWEB—1978' and her colleagues, Lesley Ratcliffe (*North Mersey*) and Beth Owen (*Liverpool*).



Handing over the cakes on the Board's stand at Southport. From left to right: Gordon Thompson, Barbara Orritt, a teenager from the Unit, Geraldine Leake, John Walker, Lesley Ratcliffe, Beth Owen and Ron Harper.



Group Manager Mr. Joe Winchester, second from right, in his capacity as Chairman of No. 9 Local Advisory Committee, presents a Suggestion Scheme cheque award to Mr. Ivor Powell. Looking on are two other award recipients, Messrs. John Townend, left, and Ken Williams, right.



Mr. Lyn Price (*District Commercial Engineer*), right, hands over the staff's parting gifts to Mr. Arthur Ellinson (*District Administrative Officer*) when he left Oswestry to take up a similar appointment in our Dee Valley District.

## Oswestry News

Following the Children's Christmas Party in our Oswestry District, the following letter, very neat but obviously written by a youngster, was received: Dear Mrs. Griffiths,

I enjoyed the Party very much. I enjoyed all the lovely food that the children had. Thank you very much for inviting me to the party. Thank you for the present I had off Father Christmas. I thought it was a lovely gift and how did you know it was my favourite chocolate orange. Thank you very much again.

Love from Janet Nicholls.

P.S.—My brother thanks you to.



Prior to a recent meeting of the District's LAC, Mr. Joe Winchester (*Group Manager*) took time out to present 20-Year Long Service Certificates to Miss Phyllis 'Jean' Hall and Mr. Thomas H. Jones, left.

#### FIRST AIDERS

Three new Certificates plus six re-examination Certificates were awarded to eight members of an Oswestry staff—and their guest from Head Office—after the recent first-aid examinations held at District Office. Dr. Kenneth Turner, the Board's Medical Adviser, assisted by Nurse Dorothy Davis (*Head Office*) and Mr. Rogers (*Oswestry*) took the examinations which, once again, brought a 100 per cent success record to the District. Our photograph, with the three new first-aiders sitting in the front row, shows, from left to right, seated: Mrs. Dot Lorenzo, Dr. Turner, Nurse Davies, Mr. Rogers, Miss Jean Hall and Miss Elaine Feeney. Standing: Mr. Chris Pritchard, Mr. Geraint Bellis, Mrs. Joan Griffith, Mr. John Griffiths, Miss Gay Hill and Mr. Ted Mulroy (*Head Office*).





## Hunting for . . . THE NORTH WIRRAL SUPERSTAR

by George Hogarth

(to whom any writs for libel should be sent direct!)

ONE Sunday recently some twenty members of our North Wirral District staff took part in an exhausting and hilarious contest to decide on the District's 'Superstar'. The event was in aid of the 'Debbie Leadbetter Fund'. Debbie, who is 14, is the sister-in-law of Mr. Billy Hatton, of energy sales, and has been in hospital for over a year suffering from a brain virus illness.

After briefing at the Birkenhead clubrooms the competitors took to the local park for the outdoor events. One of the early events (*Throwing the Wellie*) came to a premature end when one of the competitors threw the wellie on to the back of a passing trailer, and it hasn't been seen since!

Football, in the form of 'beating the goalie' followed. One young lady, in her excitement kicked the goalie, was immediately shown the Red Card, and went home (come back Heather Rankin all is forgiven!)

Fun and chaos was the order of the day for netball, due to the fact that the men couldn't understand the rules!

## Letters of Thanks

From a Tregarth (Bangor) couple, to Gwynedd District:

"Please convey our very sincere thanks to the gentlemen who worked in the very strong wind and heavy rain last Friday evening to restore the electric current to this district."

\* \* \*

From a Gobowen customer . . .

"... a power cut turned out to be a fault due to damage by strong winds. . . within less than an hour of reporting it the supply had been restored . . . in these days when it is fashionable to knock everyone, particularly in the public services, my wife and I would be grateful if you would express our appreciation to your staff for their prompt and efficient service."

As organisers Norman Dowd and I decided not to give any marks for the walk round the park, as some of the competitors had to be given piggy-back rides by the spectators.

A cup of tea and a hot pie restored flagging energies, and were followed by tests including Pool, Darts, General Knowledge, and 'Spot the Tune'—this latter event with the aid of 'Musikal Direktor' Val Brady and her brother-in-law Graham (guitarist).

## Young Engineer for Britain 1978

The nationwide competition, Young Engineer for Britain 1978, was launched recently by Mr Leslie Huckfield, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Industry

Mr. Huckfield said that he was confident that the 1978 competition would be even more successful than this year's competition. "We need to make young people realise that a strong and competitive manufacturing industry is vital to this country's future" he said "There has to be a greater awareness of the crucial importance of the role of the engineer in society." The competition is for young people from school and industry, who are invited to submit a product or model which should benefit society and improve the quality of life. As in 1977 the scope will be wider-ranging and may include devices or improvements to existing mechanical, electrical or chemical processes.

Then came the highlight of the afternoon, with the "quickest pint" and the "yard of ale" contest. Man of the contest was Dave Makin, who downed his pint in six seconds (when it's his round it lasts for half an hour or more!), but Sandra Foster and 'Big Mave' Lennox gave a determined account of themselves.

At the end of a shattering day there was a dead-heat for first place between Tony Winterton (spark) and Ray Roberts (apprentice spark) who received £25 each in Monopoly Money! Third and fourth places were taken by Sandra and Mavis. Each received a glass of Andrews Liver Salts as a consolation prize.

The organisers wish to thank the Sports and Social Club and everyone who participated, in raising £60 for the Fund.

Entries likely to have social or economic benefits e.g. safety and comfort in the home, energy conservation or export potential will be especially welcome.

The 1977 prizes included Concorde flights to America, a visit to the Lyndon Johnson Manned Spacecraft Centre and a tour of leading US engineering projects as guests of Pullman Kellogg, the world's biggest chemical engineering group.

The competition is organised by PETT (Project-Engineers & Technologists for Tomorrow) which is backed by employers, trades unions, professional institutions, and the Government. Regional competitions will take place during the autumn of 1978 with the national final soon after. Further information is obtainable from: *The Secretary, PETT, Department of Industry, Room 114, Abell House, John Islip Street, London SW1P 4LN*



## NEW YEAR AT NORTH MERSEY



Our rather belated picture feature shows some of the members of our North Mersey District staff who filled the Sports and Social Club on the occasion of their New Year's Eve Disco Dance.

The Len Brennan Country and Western Duo provided a most entertaining cabaret act.

The very successful party night was organised by the Club's 'Entertainments Committee' led by Gordon Hughes (*foreman installation inspector*)





## 1978 MANWEB Badminton Tournament



The annual MANWEB Badminton Tournament was held at the Grange Road West Sports Centre Birkenhead, recently. This was a contest played for fun but with a competitive edge, and the fifty-four players, ranging from novices to some excellent experienced players, enjoyed an average of four games each.

The four courts were kept busy for all of the six hours of the competition. There were seven teams, six Districts and Head Office, playing each with a varying number of players, and the winning team was that which had the highest average score.

When organiser John Foster had averaged out the points, it was North Mersey District who pipped North Wirral by 50 points to 48 with Head Office a close third separated by a further two points.

A thoughtful organiser John Foster, *top left*, and action shots of some of the players taking part in the MANWEB Tournament. *Below* are two groups who posed for fellow competitor and photographer Mike Hall.



## Medallion Homes Presentations

Hundreds of builders, estate agents, local authority officials, planners and architects in businesses—large and small—throughout the MANWEB area, accepted invitations from each of our

Districts to visit a Medallion Homes Presentation.

Our guests soon learned many new things about the Board as our Commercial staff dispelled old and ill-informed ideas and rumour still in the minds of many of these influential customers.

The first success of the campaign was directly attributable to the presentation at Aberystwyth with the news that a builder on a site at Geryllan, Penrhyncoch is to erect 23 homes to Medallion standard.



*Above and below:* Getting over the MANWEB message with informal discussions between our Commercial men and customers who visited the Mid-Mersey presentation.

*Below:* Still more of the customer/staff get-togethers this time at St. Asaph, the venue for our Clwyd District presentation.



Some of the many guests at the Mid-Mersey presentation.





## Summer Schools

Every year a few of our colleagues are lucky enough to be awarded places at the industry's Summer Schools, and those who go are unanimous on their return that the experience was very interesting and worthwhile.

When applications are invited those interested should contact their LAC secretary. LACs then examine the applications and forward them to the District Joint Advisory Council, which allocates the places.

Naturally enough there are always more applicants than there are places available, but oddly enough there are always some MANWEB Districts from which no applications are received.

If at first you don't ring the bell, don't write the idea off. Persistence and continued interest usually pay off in the end.

Places for this year's schools have been allotted following:

**Loughborough—29th March to 5th April 1978:** Mrs. M. F. Scragg (*energy sales rep, North Wirral*), Messrs. V. J. Annal (*clerical assistant, Head Office*),

J. E. Mitchell (*chargehand storekeeper, Clwyd*), and E. Smith (*meter reader/collector, North Mersey*).

**Loughborough—5th April to 12th April 1978:** Mrs. E. M. Mason (*saleswoman, Dee Valley*), Messrs. A. Elson (*second engineer, Mid-Cheshire*), M. E. Lock (*electrician, Liverpool*).

**Corpus Christi, Cambridge—28th June to 5th July 1978:** Messrs E. J. Brierley (*chargehand electrician, Oswestry*), J. C. Cave (*third engineer, Head Office*), S. M. O'Brien (*administrative trainee, Liverpool*) and B. H. Taylor (*chargehand meter reader/collector*).

**Corpus Christi, Cambridge—5th July to 12th July 1978:** Messrs. F. W. Bignall (*installation inspector, Mid-Mersey*), D. I. Buchanan (*principal assistant, Head Office*) and J. Kelly (*Meter Reader, North Mersey*).

**Royal Holloway, Staines—13th September to 20th September 1978:** Messrs J. E. Green (*foreman electrician, Liverpool*) P. J. McHugh (*labourer, Clwyd*) and P. O'Neill (*administrative assistant, Mid-Cheshire*).

*Reserves* M. J. Ebbs (*work study officer Head Office*), G. P. Howells (*clerical assistant, Aberystwyth*), R. B. P. Restieaux (*clerical supervisor, Oswestry*) H. Robertson (*installation inspector, Liverpool* and A. J. Watts Storeman, *Mid-Cheshire*).

## Obituary

We deeply regret to record the deaths of the following colleagues and pensioners:-

**Mr. George Davies**, commercial foreman at Newtown since 1969, at the age of 59. Mr. Davies joined the North Wales Power Company in 1933, served with the RAF in the Middle East and India during the war, and returned to the industry afterwards. He subsequently worked at Newtown as an electrician and at Welshpool as an installation inspector.

**Mr. Ernest William Jackson**, aged 76, a North Wirral meter-reader/collector, until his retirement after 38 years' service.

**Mr. Richard John Parry**, installation inspector at Willow Road,

Wrexham, prior to his retirement in 1967. Mr. Parry began his service with Wrexham Corporation, lived for a time in the USA and Canada, and was secretary of the Wrexham branch of the ETU for 30 years. He was a keen supporter of Wrexham F.C.

**Mr. Don Roberts**, administrative assistant in the Revenue Section at Head Office. He joined the industry in 1937, and spent most of the war as a Japanese prisoner in Singapore's Changi Gaol, and on the infamous Burma Railway. Later he served as a youth leader at Rhostyllen.

**Mr. Harry Sayle**, a labourer at Runcorn depot for 17 years prior to his retirement on health grounds in 1973.

**Mr. George Edward Slee**, a section engineer in North Wirral District. Mr. Slee, who was 63, had served in the industry for 47 years.

## Thanks for Donations

A letter of thanks has been received from the Chest, Heart and Stroke Foundation for donations in memory of the late **Mr. Steve Murphy** of Head Office.

Mrs Muriel Harris, widow of the late **Mr. Gordon Harris**, formerly a mains foreman at Liverpool District, has written to say that donations in memory of her late husband have been used to install a public address system in their local church.

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

## JOINT PRESENTATION

Colleagues from all parts of the MANWEB organisation gathered together at Head Office on February 1st to wish happy retirements to two of our former top men—Mr. Denis Dodds (*Chairman*) and Mr. Frank Brown (*Chief Engineer*) who retired at the end of last year.

With new Chairman Mr. Ben Hastings acting as Master of Ceremonies, presentations on behalf of the staff were made respectively by Mr. Glan Gwyn, former Deputy Chairman, and Mr. Matt Cowan, Chief Commercial Officer.

Mr. Gwyn, who retired some

years ago, reminisced on his acquaintance with Mr. Dodds over the years, both in South Wales (*where Mr. Dodds was the first Secretary to the South Wales Board*), and during their years of working partnership at MANWEB.

Paying tribute to Mr. Brown,



The presentation in reverse as Olive Hall and Jim Fisher receive the 'spare pair of specs' from former Chief Engineer, Frank Brown.



Men at the top. From left to right: Messrs. Glan Gwyn, Ben Hastings, Denis Dodds, Frank Brown and Matt Cowan.

Mr. Cowan said MANWEB's distribution network could never have reached its present stage of efficiency without Mr. Brown's total dedication.

Responding, both Mr. Dodds and Mr. Brown expressed their sincere thanks for all the help and support they had received from so many people over the years. Mr. Brown reduced the assembly to uproar—and new Chief Engineer Jim Fisher and private secretary Olive Hall to some confusion—when he carried out a "presentation in reverse."

Telling tales out of school he revealed how all three of them had been in the habit of borrowing each other's reading glasses when by chance a pair had been left at home . . . so just to make sure they would be able to get by in the future he presented them with his old pair to keep as a standby!

Mr. Dodds' gift was a music centre, while Mr. Brown received a car radio and stereo outfit.

## RETIRED ASSOCIATIONS ANNUAL GENERAL MEETINGS

Tuesday, 4th April  
at 2.30 p.m.

CLWYD DISTRICT  
Cefndy Road  
MID-CHESHIRE DIST.  
Macon Way

All Members are cordially invited

## LIVERPOOL RETIRED GROUP

At the Annual General Meeting of the Liverpool Retired Employees Group, held at the Thingwall Road Clubhouse on 8th February, the following Officers were elected:-

*Chairman*—John McLachlan  
*Vice-Chairman*—Ben Carmen  
*Hon. Secretary*—Harry Robinson  
136 Lisburn Lane, Liverpool L13 9DE  
(Tel. 051-226 4713)

*Asst. Hon. Secretary*—George Barr  
*Committee*—Bob Hignett, Dick Hough, Alf Kinrade, Chris McGinty, Charlie Murdock, George Murphy, Charlie Payne and Harry Walker





Friends at North Wirral surround Mr. Ted Davies, in dark suit, as he receives their farewell gifts from Mr. George Bowers.

## RETIREMENTS

### Mr. W. E. DAVIES

Before joining the former Birkenhead Corporation Electricity Department as an apprentice electrician in 1928, Mr. William Edward Davies worked for 18 months as a trainee compositor with a local newspaper.

He completed his training as an electrician by working with contractors all over the British Isles, wherever there was work to be had.

Then came the war years and Ted was directed to work in Cammell Lairds shipyards for the duration. After this he rejoined the electricity supply industry eventually coming to MANWEB. For a while he was an instructor at our craft apprentice training school at Hoylake and in 1953 he was appointed as foreman. During his time with the Board, he became President of the Birkenhead Branch of the EEPTU.

In his spare time, Ted is a keen worker for his

Meter reading staff in our Clwyd District smile for our cameraman as their colleague, Mr. 'Mick' Parry, centre right, says his farewells to Mr. George Cooksley.



church and for many years has been a lay preacher. He also enjoys a game of chess and in his youth was a Cheshire County representative at table tennis.

His main hobby—ever since he got married—has been moving house. In fact, he is on the move again, making it the 20th. The timekeeper at District Office always has Ted's address in pencil!

At a happy presentation ceremony held at Craven Street to mark his retirement, farewell gifts from friends and colleagues were handed over by Mr. George Bowers (*District Commercial Engineer*). Many tributes were paid to Ted's work and service to which he replied in his usual humorous manner. His parting shot was that he intended writing his autobiography and would name names!

### MR. H. PARRY

Friends and colleagues gathered to say their farewells to Mr. Herbert 'Mick' Parry on the occasion of his recent retirement after serving the electricity supply industry for the past 33 years.

Mick was obliged to retire prematurely from his

job as a meter reader/collector in our Clwyd District because of ill health.

During the last war, he was wounded while taking part in the "D-Day" landings on the Normandy beaches and was later invalided out of the Army.

He then went to work for the former Rhyl UDC as a meter reader, later transferring to MANWEB.

To mark his retirement colleagues at Clwyd subscribed to present him with an electric shaver which was handed over on their behalf by Mr. George Cooksley (*District Administrative Officer*).

### Mr. RICHARD JONES

For the past 30 years or so Mr. Richard Jones has been almost 'Mr. Electric' for our customers at Wrexham, in his capacity as manager of our Wrexham shop, and his long career with the industry came to an end recently when he retired.

Mr. Jones began in 1936 when he started with the Yale Electric Power Company as a meter reader at Blaenau Ffestiniog, later moving into the local showroom. War service overseas with the R.A.M.C. followed but while he was away his parents moved to live at Wrexham, where he joined them after leaving the Army. He then got the job of showroom manager at Wrexham, and later gained a high reputation for the shop's window displays.

His wife Moira is an expert tapestry maker, and was one of the ladies engaged in the painstaking repair work in this field during the restoration of Erddig Hall, near Wrexham—where, incidentally,

she is a guide. Their son Brian is a teacher at Wolverhampton.

On behalf of his many friends he was presented with a carriage clock by Mr. Cliff Evans, District sales supervisor, together with best wishes for a long and happy retirement. He is a keen photographer and is also interested in old books and antiques.

### Mrs. MARIE McDERMOTT

Colleagues at Liverpool District recently wished a fond farewell to Mrs. Marie McDermott on her retirement from the Material Control section.

Farewell gifts included a suitcase, slippers, a pen, purse, silver vase and a kettle—the best wishes for a long and happy retirement.

### ALSO FROM NORTH WIRRAL

Three of our colleagues working in North Wirral District have recently had to retire because of ill-health.

David R. Neil, a driver attached to cooker workshops, had completed 27 years' with the Board.

Jack E. Pringle, another driver, had been in the industry for the past 22 years.

George L. Sutton, was initially employed as a joiner's mate before ill health seconded him for messenger duties for the remainder of his 30 years' service in the electricity supply industry.

We especially wish a happy retirement with improved health to each of these former employees.

This happy group of sales staff from Dee Valley District pictured at a local hotel on the occasion of the retirement party held in honour of their friend and colleague, Mr. Richard Jones, seated centre, with his wife Moira holding the bouquet. Seated left, is Mr. Cliff Evans and next to Richard is Mr. Ron Williams (*District Commercial Engineer*).

