

CONTACT

February 1970



A Lightning Strike
(see page 42)

STAFF SUPERANNUATION SCHEME

Built-in Pension Increase

THE twentieth Annual General Meeting of members of the Staff Superannuation Scheme was held at Millbank a few weeks ago, attended by 78 contributors and pensioners.

Mr. C. A. French, the Financial Adviser to the Electricity Council and Chairman of the Committee of the Scheme, presented the annual report and statement of accounts for the year ended 31st March, 1969. The main items of interest mentioned at the meeting were—

Actuarial valuation

The Chairman announced that the Minister of Technology had now approved an amendment under which regular annual pensions increases of 2½% will be made as from the 1st April, 1969, provided that the percentage annual increase in the Index of Retail Prices is at least that figure. Electricity Boards were now in the process of paying the increases to the pensioners affected by the new proposals. The Council and the Boards were commended on having achieved this improvement but there were some comments about the low level of the increase and a view was expressed that pensions ought to be increased in line with increases in salary within the industry. The Chairman explained that the increases were at the maximum level permitted at the present time by the Inland Revenue. He mentioned that the Council and the Boards were not precluded from reviewing the new arrangements if the Government introduced a new Pensions (Increase) Act.

Built-in pension increases

The Chairman referred to the surplus of £44½m. disclosed by the Actuary's report on the valuation of the fund as at 31st March, 1968. He stated that the Council has accepted the recommendations of the Committee that the surplus should be retained in the fund to meet the costs of—

- (i) *the built-in increase arrangements over the next 15 years (£25m.) :*
- (ii) *relating benefits to final year's pay instead of to the average of the last three years ; with effect from the 3rd October, 1969, (17m) :*
- (iii) *extending the option to pay additional family contributions for the half-rate widow's pension (£1m) :*

The Chairman emphasised that the proposal to relate benefits to final year's pay was subject to the approval of the Minister of Technology and that until this approval was obtained the amendment could not be implemented.

The cost of the proposals, including those of the built-in pensions increases would almost completely absorb the actuarial surplus.

National superannuation

The Chairman stated that now the terms for partial contracting-out of the National Superannuation Scheme had been published by the Government in the recent White Paper, the impact of the new State scheme on the industry's schemes could be examined in detail. There had already been consultations with Staff Associations and these would continue. The new State scheme was extremely complicated and based on different principles from occupational pension schemes, such as the Staff Scheme. It would be some time before firm proposals for meeting the new situation could be formulated. He agreed with the suggestion that the management might in the meantime give some indication of their broad policy on this issue and undertook to convey this to the Council.

MANUAL WORKERS' BENEVOLENT SOCIETY

The Annual General Meeting

of the Society will be held
on THURSDAY, MAY 14th, 1970
at 5.15 p.m.
in the Canteen at
Craven Street, Birkenhead

A cordial invitation is extended to all members

A buffet tea will be available from 4.45 p.m.



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Friends in Need

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Editorial Staff

Keith Baldwin
John F. Perry
Sam Doughty

IT IS a pretty safe bet that no-one goes through life without meeting at least a few major crises. No matter how prudent or well-organised we may be, at some time or other the wheel of fortune spins badly for us all, and in the life-story of the most successful people there are examples of incidents—usually glossed over—when a helping hand from someone else has picked them off the floor and sent them back into the fray again.

Many industries and occupations raise funds to help their members deal with life's extra-difficult spots. These efforts really constitute a kind of insurance policy—who knows who is next in line for a rough patch?

In our own industry, the Electrical and Electronic Industries Benevolent Association fills just this role, and those who administer the Association's work know full well just what a difference a spot of friendly assistance can make when people—often through no fault of their own—find themselves with their backs to the wall.

The Association's most recent Annual Report and Accounts show that no less than 767 of our colleagues were given a lift in times of great difficulty, and that more than £80,000 was paid in grants and allowances. Both these figures show an increase on the previous year, and in many cases the help extended probably meant all the difference between defeat and recovery for the people concerned.

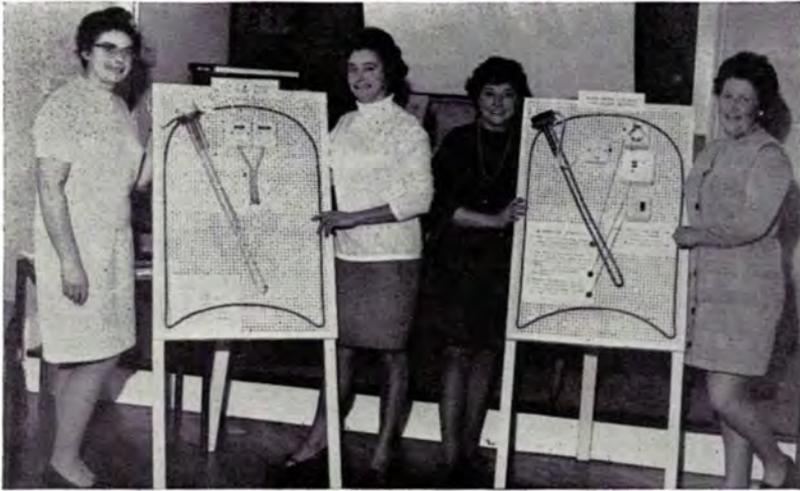
Many of the individual cases recorded refer to people temporarily knocked sideways by sudden illness or bereavement, but social work of a more general nature, such as the provision of flatlets and a home for retired elderly people, also figure in the Association's work-report.

We can all contribute by lending our assistance to the various fund-raising efforts which are undertaken from time to time, but the EEIBA report also points out that we have another duty:

'The fortuitous way in which some cases are referred to us supports the belief that there are still pathetic cases of distress within the industry of which the Association never hears,' says the Report.

'Everyone in the industry can help our work by drawing attention to any cases of distress of which they have knowledge.'

At Wallasey Sales Training School



Course 240



From left to right :
Mrs. Vera Hughes and
Mrs. Eileen Tulloch, both
from our Bootle shop,
Mrs. Jean Hall, from
Whitechapel and Mrs.
Christine Jones from
Wrexham.



and Course 241



Here we see Mr. Eric
Richardson, the Course
Instructor, with some of
his pupils, from left to
right : Mrs. Margaret
Hurst, (Bootle), Mrs.
Marion Richardson
(Knutsford), Mrs. Audrey
MacBryde (West Kirby)
and Mrs. Barbara
Chapman (Huyton).



In his last picture at
Wallasey before leaving to
take up an appointment in
the Liverpool South
District, Mr. Mal
Cooper is joined by three
ladies 'on course.' They
are, from left to right :
Mrs. Nora Jones
(Llanrwst), Mrs. Joyce
Oberg (Southport) and
Mrs. Marlene Robinson
(Runcorn).



EMPLOYEES' MEETING AT CHESTER

Financial Savings from Board Re-organisation

IT is expected that the ultimate financial savings resulting from MANWEB re-organisation will be considerable, said the Chairman of the Board, Mr. Denis Dodds, speaking at an Employees' Meeting organised by No. 11 Local Advisory Committee, and held in the staff restaurant at our New Headquarters during January.

Although the audience was substantial—with nearly 150 people taking part—only a small part of the restaurant was occupied. The acoustics proved to be excellent, and it was apparent that meetings involving much larger numbers would be practical.

Dealing with re-organisation, Mr. Dodds said that the original MANWEB structure had lasted for about 20 years. A very searching examination indicated that we were not making the best possible use of our human and material resources.

The Chairman then went on to refer to various aspects of the re-organisation plan, adding that although it was an uncomfortable process, it was being carried through with all possible consideration for everyone concerned.

In reply to questions, Mr. Dodds stated that savings from the re-organisation would not be applied to strengthening the network—a great deal of money had already been spent and continued to be spent on this work and the MANWEB network was now very strong indeed. Nor would it be used

directly to increase pay, though Mr. Dodds pointed out that all sections of the staff were in the process of receiving pay increases based in one way or another on productivity considerations.

The money saved as a result of re-organisation, continued the Chairman, would help us to contain our constantly-increasing costs, and thus to help us maintain competitive prices to our customers.

Any savings would thus go, indirectly, to the Board's customers, perhaps not in reduced prices in cash terms, but by reduced prices in real terms.

Safe Driving Awards

During the course of the evening Safe Driving Awards were presented to a number of MANWEB drivers attending the meeting by Supt. C. Halsall, of Cheshire County Police. Supt. Halsall complimented the drivers on their contribution to road safety, and stressed the importance of Safe Driving Awards as an example to all drivers.

Any Questions

A lively 'Question Time,' dealing with subjects as varied as the deployment of equipment, transport facilities, electricity tariffs, and the details and timing of the District stage of re-organisation, occupied the remainder of the conference. The questions were dealt with by different members of a representative Panel.

MANWEB

Part of the audience at the Chester Conference

GRAND 8 JOURNALS



SOUTHPORT PRIZEWINNER IN BOARD COMPETITION



Mr. D. E. Noad (*District Commercial Engineer*), left, officially handing over the 'Prize' to Mr. and Mrs. Hainsworth, seen here with their two children, Katherine and Keren.

Mr. John H. D. Hainsworth of Ainsdale, was named as the lucky winner in the MANWEB Central Heating Competition which was run in conjunction with the series of Comfort Heating Exhibitions held at Southport, Prescot, Pwllheli, Rhyl and Aberystwyth.

Recently electricians have been busily engaged installing two MANWEB 'Mexico' Superheat and two MANWEB 'Florida' Starheat storage radiators in Mr. Hainsworth's home. A water-heater time switch has also been fitted, the complete installation being worth more than £150.

The prizewinner has opted to go on the new 'White Meter' tariff giving him electricity at $\frac{3}{4}$ d a unit during the night hours.

Mr. Hainsworth works as an architect in the Southport Borough Architects Department.

Crossword Prizewinners

From the mass of entries to our recent crossword competition, the three lucky winners were drawn as follows :

Mr. G. E. Jackson, linesman, Llandudno Junction.
Miss Linda Thomas, Internal Audit, Head Office.
Mr. I. D. Parkinson, general assistant, Liverpool South District.

The half-guinea prizes are now on their way.

SOLUTION

Across : 1 Shades. 6 Isle. 9 Love. 10 Lane. 11 Avenue. 13 Fern. 15 Ken. 16 Petunia. 17 Goat. 19 Steps. 21 Pedal. 24 Fade. 25 Barrels. 27 Cat. 29 Area. 30 Aspects. 32 Stag. 33 Anne. 34 Mite. 35 Sorter.

Down : 1 Slakes. 2 Hove. 3 Avenue. 4 Den. 5 Sleet. 6 Infused. 7 Seen. 8 Etna. 12 Upas. 14 Rita. 18 Operate. 20 Tear. 21 Pass. 22 Decent. 23 Latter. 24 Flags. 25 Balm. 26 Rest. 28 Acne. 31 Par.

Planned your holidays yet ?

Going far ?

Don't forget to take your camera and shoot a picture for the

CONTACT PHOTOGRAPHIC COMPETITION

Cash prizes to be won for colour and for black and white pictures

There will be a special prize for the entrant who submits one of their own pictures taken from the farthest point from Chester

E. & E.I.B.A. Annual Ball

The Electrical and Electronic Industries Benevolent Association's Annual Ball will again be held at the ADELPHI HOTEL in Liverpool on TUESDAY, March 10th, 1970. Tickets—£2/10/0 each are available from Mr. J. Fisher, Head Office, Chester.

LIVELY DISTRICT MEETING AT RHYL



Members of the panel giving the answers—in triplicate—during the lively 'Question Time'

Deputy Chairman in forthright mood

Clwyd District's reputation for producing lively staff conferences lost none of its standing on the evening of January 22nd, when about 150 people packed the Medina Restaurant, Rhyl, for the annual dinner and conference organised by the No. 14 Local Advisory Committee.

Work Study—with particular reference to its application in Clwyd District—was the main theme of the conference. Chairman for the evening, Mr. D. R. Mellor found himself with a lively meeting on his hands, and at the close of the evening no-one could complain that the subject had not received a good airing.

The Deputy Chairman (Mr. D. G. Gwyn) was in forthright mood in answering a criticism of the Board's work study policy. He said that management had nothing to gain and everything to lose by misleading staff as to their motives, as was implied in the criticism.

He said that it was vital to preserve the unity of MANWEB and retain public confidence. Work Study was in the overall interests of the Board's staff and its customers and no-one—staff or management, could contract out of the opportunity which it offered for greater efficiency and productivity.

'It is essential that we do not lose faith in each other—that would be a very sorry day indeed' said Mr. Gwyn.

Other business at the conference included a report on the achievements of the Area 4 staff, presented by Mr. K. Helliwell (Area Manager)—and, of course, an enjoyable meal and social get-together.

In addition to leading Area and Head Office personalities, the 'Questions Panel' included a welcome visitor in the person of Mr. S. Bown, Area Secretary of the Electrical Trades Union.

Intent on catching every word at the Clwyd Conference



No. 14

Local Advisory Committee

Management Representatives:

Messrs. K. Helliwell, A. Kidd, D. R. Mellor and I. Morris.

Staff Representatives:

Messrs. T. E. Davies, H. Day, T. Field, O. George, D. L. Hayes, R. E. Jarvis, A. L. Manfredi and C. E. Parry.

Prize Winning Window

Adding to his many successes in the display field, Mr. John Casson, supervisor of our shop in Birkenhead, recently won the Hoover Window Display Competition.

This was open to all MANWEB shops and private dealers in the large area covered by the Hoover Branch Office at Chester.

The winning window contained much colour and movement, and was certainly an eye-catcher to the passer-by. Our picture below, showing the neat and colourful sales-hitting award-winning window was was expertly taken by our man in North Wirral, Mr. Reg. Bellis.



Mr. Casson, centre, holding his prize, is joined by Mrs. F. Tranter and Mr. W. Smith, both from the Hoover Company.



LAUGH LINES

NO BACK DOOR

A saleswoman at our St. Helens Shop had a customer who wanted an 'emergency' heater.

Guessing that he meant an immersion heater, our saleswoman said, 'Do you want side entry or top entry!'

'Tha can bring it up th'entry if tha likes,' replied the man, 'but I'd rather tha brought it upt' street!'

TWIN TUB TV

A lady bought a twin-tub washing machine and not having had one before asked a neighbour to show her how to use it. They duly got it filled then the neighbour said, 'Where is your aerial?' to which the lady of the house replied, 'I didn't know that it had to have one,'—and then started looking round the back of the machine!

IN A SPIN

Our service electricians are always in great demand in the Anglesey District, but it was very hard to find a volunteer to call on the customer who sent in the following letter:

Sir—Will you send one of your men. I've got an underpants in my Spindryer. I can't get it out at all. My Spindryer is on guarantee 1 year. Will you send a man today as I want to do the washing, and I can't with that in it. (Signed)

Happy memories in a letter from abroad

A letter, enclosing some photographs, including the one opposite, was recently received by **Mr. L. T. Broughton** of our Education and Training Department, and it brought back some pleasant memories of the visit made to this country by three young overseas students who came to MANWEB under an exchange scheme to enable them to gain more technical experience and information.

The young men concerned were **Goran Tage Hansson**, aged 20, from Sweden, **Martin Locher**, aged 23, from Switzerland and **Yoshiaki Ohnishi**, aged 22, from Japan.

Goran and Martin spent most of their time in the Liverpool North District and Yoshiaki went to Sandiway House and Northwich District.

They all received excellent reports and the MANWEB engineers said it was a pleasure to have them with us.



With Yoshiaki pointing the camera, the picture he took shows, from left to right, Mr. Lawrie Broughton, Martin Locher and Goran Hansson

On one particular day, with Mr. Broughton as their guide (*and chauffeur*) they did a round trip of some 360 miles taking in Trawsfynydd Nuclear power station, the Pump-Storage scheme at Ffestiniog, Caernarvon District, Menai and Beaumaris in the Anglesey District and the seaside resort of Llandudno in our Conway Valley District.

The letter received by Mr. Broughton was from Martin who wishes to thank everyone in MANWEB who were 'very kind and friendly,' and made it possible for the three visitors to have such a wonderful time.

Bursary Award for MANWEB Demonstrator



Our very popular District demonstrator from Llandudno, **Mrs. Joan Dittrich** has won a commercial catering bursary awarded by the Caroline Haslett Memorial Trust under the auspices of the Electrical Association for Women.

This will enable Mrs. Dittrich to widen her knowledge of large scale catering using electrical appliances.

She has now started on a six-months course, half the time being spent at Llandrillo Technical College and the other half in London at various large catering institutions.

Our sincere congratulations Joan.

BADMINTON

Any MANWEB employee who can play badminton, please let us know who you play for and what league you play in. We are trying to get two teams together to compete AND WIN in the

**ELECTRICITY SUPPLY
INDUSTRY
RESTRICTED
BADMINTON
CHAMPIONSHIPS**

to be held at
Sealand R.A.F. Station
Chester

on 4th and 5th April, 1970

Gents and Ladies Doubles
Mixed Doubles

TEN-TON TARGET

Ambition to fly at 1000 m.p.h.

by
**BRIAN
STIFF**



**Brian, right, talking to Squadron Leader
Bob Lightfoot beside his Lightning aircraft**

MY VISIT to R.A.F. Coltishall began at the guardroom where I was met by my guide, Flight Lieutenant Baronowski. Our first stop was at the Control Tower and its associated buildings.

I was shown the Operations Room from which the daily war games were conducted—the Met. Office, and the all-important radar room which not only fulfills its military role but also monitors the flights to and from the nearby airport at Norwich.

After a quick visit to the pilot's briefing room I was taken to one of the hangars where I was introduced to Flight Lieutenant Price, the officer commanding the Battle of Britain Flight. This historic group is made up of a Hurricane, reputed to be the last one built, and four of the famous Spitfires—one of these having the distinction of taking an airwoman aloft clinging to the tail!

These superbly maintained aircraft flew in 74 air displays in this country and on the continent during last year. They also 'starred' in the film *'Battle of Britain.'*

After spending a few moments in the cockpits of these fighting machines, I watched as three of them

roared into the sky as they set off on a visit to neighbouring airfields.

From the aircraft of yesteryear to the jet-age machines and men of today. Some of the pilots were in the crew room when I called in, and one of those present was the R.A.F.'s top Lightning acrobatic pilot, Squadron Leader Bob Lightfoot, who works as an instructor on the base. This ace pilot who has performed in displays all over England, in Europe (including the *Paris Air Show*) and in North America, took me out to look over his supersonic aircraft.

Sitting in the 'driving seat' of this '15 tons of screaming aluminium,' as one pilot described a Lightning, I was amazed at the number of dials and switches confronting me and wondered how one man could fly such a complex machine. For many years I have had an overwhelming desire to fly in such an aircraft, but unfortunately this particular day was not the one on which I could achieve my ambition. Due to bad weather, the flying training programme was behind schedule and the Ministry of Defence could not authorise my flight.

My disappointment was dispelled when I was invited to 'fly' in the Lightning Simulator. This is simply a Lightning front mounted on a hydraulically operated jig, and once inside this, a pilot can be taught to fly at supersonic speeds without ever leaving the ground. Coupled to a computer, the

OUR COVER PICTURE

From R.A.F. Coltishall, a Lightning formation
takes to the skies

simulator becomes the real thing with the pilot even experiencing 'G' loading as the machine is manoeuvred.

Quickly I was installed in the cockpit and was instructed to try an 'auto' landing when all I had to do was set the aircraft on course for the runway then sit back and watch.

The briefing over, the canopy closed and I was alone in the dark cockpit lit only by the soft lights from the instrument panel. I was at 4,000 feet and ten miles



Wing Commander John McCloud in the cockpit of one of the Spitfires of the Battle of Britain Flight which flew on a Christmas goodwill mission from R.A.F. Coltishall. With him are Flight Lieutenant Ron Price, left, and Flight Lieutenant William Maxain, who flew the other two planes.

from touchdown. Peering over the nose I could see the ground below. At 1,500 feet with the runway in sight, I put the airbrakes on to reduce my speed. Suddenly, a short distance from touchdown, I was racing skyward again. The next time the ground appeared, I was at 8,000 feet in a vertical dive!

After the 'crash,' I was told that a 'bug' had got into the works. It was then suggested that I had a go at flying the simulator myself.

I switched from auto to manual control and immediately felt the aircraft respond to the slightest movement of my hands on the control column. I went into a shallow dive and then levelled out at 500 feet with the air speed indicator showing 400 knots. Over the radio came instructions to turn to port. When I attempted this, much to my surprise, I completed a 360 degree roll. The same thing

FIGHTER BASE

The R.A.F. station at Coltishall became fully operational as a fighter base in 1940 under the command of Squadron Leader Douglas Bader, and has a wartime record of 80 'kills,' 21 'probables' and 16 'possibles' of enemy aircraft. It is still a fighter base in addition to its function as a training establishment for the jet-age pilots of Lightnings, the 1,500 miles an hour interceptors.

happened when I tried to turn to starboard. Already I was seeing myself as the Bob Lightfoot of the 70's!

Crash Landing

I soon became accustomed to the feel of the aircraft and my turns improved. With the airfield on my port wing I was asked to try a landing. Reducing height from 500 feet and with my airspeed down to 180 knots, I turned into the wind and lined up with the runway. Things were going very well when I suddenly remembered that I had not lowered the undercarriage!

With the runway rushing towards me, my height at only 50 feet, I concluded my flight in a most undignified manner by crashing inside the airfield perimeter.

This flight in the Lightning simulator, even with its disastrous end, concluded a most enjoyable visit to the R.A.F. station at Coltishall. Meeting the men who fly these supersonic aircraft and my experience in the simulator had further strengthened my ambition to fly at 1,000 miles an hour in one of these 'screaming monsters.'

THE AUTHOR

Brian Stiff, an engineering draughtsman, joined MANWEB from the Eastern Board just over four years ago. He started at Area 4 Office and was later transferred to work with the Civil Engineering staff on the construction of the new Head Office building at Chester.

As a youngster living in Norwich, his keen interest in flying was stimulated by a fighter base at the bottom of his garden.

Having flown in light aircraft, his desire to join the jet set grew until it became a burning ambition to fly at 1,000 miles-an-hour and become a member of the 'Ten Ton Club'—exclusive to people who fly in excess of that speed.

We wish him every success.

Candid Camera shots at the



Southport Social



THE CREWE DISTRICT QUIZ WINNERS

A quartette of quiz experts from our Crewe District Office recently gained a victory on their home ground against a team representing the Central Office staff of the South Cheshire Hospital Management Committee. The successful team are now in the semi-finals of the Crewe and District Hospitals Broadcast Association Quiz Competition.

This hard fought quiz battle was tape-recorded for relay to the two hospitals and the old folks home in Crewe at present served by the Hospitals Broadcast network. Several of our MANWEB colleagues at Macon Way are involved in one way or another in this service.

David Birchall and Ray Evans, two of our craft apprentices, handled the recording apparatus and



Pensive? Baffled? Apprehensive? Judge for yourselves from the expressions on the faces of the MANWEB team locked in quiz combat at Crewe. From left to right we have, Harry Machin (senior records draughtsman), Toni Boyer (telephonist), Irene Isherwood (shorthand typist) and Colin Barrow (storekeeper).

Reg. Jenkins, of the Commercial Department, acted as question master. Norman Walsh (District Commercial Engineer), was the able master of ceremonies as well as being one of the judges.

Who said, 'No wonder we won?'

CONWAY VALLEY SAFE DRIVERS

A few weeks ago, at a meeting of the No.15 Local Advisory Committee held at the Board's offices at Llandudno Junction, Chief Inspector Freeman of the Gwynedd Constabulary presented Safe Driving Awards to some members of the District staff.

After congratulating all those who had qualified for an award, Chief Inspector Freeman said that the very fact that there were so many on the list reflected well on MANWEB and on the high standard of maintenance of the vehicles.

The awards presented were as follows:

Bar to 10-Year Medal: Messrs. Wilfred J. Hopkins and Thomas L. Jones.

10-Year Medal: Mr. Evan L.I. Williams.

Bar to 5-Year Medal: Messrs. David Jones, Ronald Smith, Stanley V. Taylor, Elfed Thomas and Fredrick R. Williams.

5-Year Medal: Mr. George E. Allsup.

Diploma: Messrs. Glyn Davies, Thomas A. Everley, Geraint Griffiths, John K. Hawden, Percival H. Horsley, Brian James, Arthur F. Jones, Bryniog Jones, Harry R. Jones, Edward Owen, Goronwy W. Roberts, Edward A. Thomas, Thomas W. E. Walton, Bernard Williams and John Williams.

Exemption Certificates: Messrs. Morris Griffiths, Henry Hambley, David Hughes, Emlyn Jones, Herbert Roberts and George Simpson.

Some of the Safe Drivers from our Conway Valley District who received their awards from Chief Inspector Freeman, seated centre right, next to Mr. T. A. Maguire (District Engineer), centre left.



£25,000 CONTRACT FOR ALL-ELECTRIC HOUSING ESTATE

Our Conway Valley District Commercial staff have been successful in gaining a contract for approximately £25,000 for the installation of electric central heating, wiring and the supply of water heaters in the 92 new dwellings to be erected by the Conway Borough Council at Morfa Gardens.

The development will consist of 72 maisonettes, 15 bungalows and five houses and at the time of going to press, building work is well under way.

The whole scheme has been under consideration for about 18 months and MANWEB staff at Llandudno have spent many hours with the design architects and have been able to help with their specialised knowledge.

The 15 bungalows will be tenanted by old people and each home is wired with an alarm bell system which is linked to a numbered bell-board situated in the wardens flat in one of the maisonettes.

Every home, whether it be a house, bungalow or flat will be heated by a Selex Electricaire unit with ducted outlets.

We offer our congratulations to our colleagues on the Commercial staff at Conway Valley on their successful conclusion to the negotiations with Conway Council, first for the acceptance of electricity for central heating and second, for the placing of the contract for the electrical wiring and supply of water heaters.

A model showing the layout of the homes on the Morfa Gardens estate.



Obituary

Two of our former colleagues wrote to us recently giving us news of the deaths of some of our retired members.

First, Mr. W. Brock informs us of the passing of Mr. John Hodgson who was close to his 81st birthday. Mr. Hodgson, who joined the Wallasey Corporation

Electricity Department in 1903 as an 'Indentured Clerk' retired in the service of MANWEB in 1949.

Mr. G. E. Lee, also of Wallasey, tells us of the deaths of Mr. Frank Colliesson (formerly of Wallasey and Chester), Mr. Edgar Meredith (formerly of Birken-

head) and Mr. M. C. McDonnell (also from Birkenhead).

The many friends of Mr. Henry Holbert, foreman meter reader/collector, who retired in 1966 after 50 years' service, will join us in offering him our sincere sympathy on the death of his wife, Helen Anne.

FAREWELL NALGO DANCE in Liverpool . . .



Above: Mr. George Hill, from Liverpool South District, with his wife Margaret and his eldest son Maurice.

Below: A smart quartette, from left to right: Mr. D. Ritchie, Miss P. Haslam, Mr. J. McGee, Miss R. Kelly.



Although our cameraman took a number of pictures at this event, unfortunately one roll of film hit trouble in the development stage and was wiped clean. Sorry !

Two of our Liverpool South District demonstrators, Miss Alma Fleming, *second from left*, and Miss Vivian Dent, *fourth from left*, with some of their friends, from left to right, David, Alan, Robert, Jeanette and John.



where



Miss M. Riley and Mr. M. Morrissey

some danced

while

others

!!!



Mr. D. Corlett and Miss P. Buckley

Successful Tour

A tour of a lifetime was recently undertaken by Mr. Richard O. Edwards, one of our electricians working from Dolegellau.

Richard toured the United States of America and Canada as a member of the Godre'r Arran Penillion Choir, giving concerts in Utica, Niagara, Toronto, Detroit, Milwaukee, Chicago, Cleveland, Pittsburgh, Washington D.C., Philadelphia and New York.

They travelled nearly 3,000 miles by Greyhound coach.

The choir was chosen to appear in the ceremony of the Investiture of H.R.H. Prince Charles of Wales at Caernarvon during last year. They have also made several records and have sung on radio and appeared on television many times. They have won four times at the Royal National Eisteddfod of Wales.

'Come to Britain' Trophy

The 'Come to Britain' trophy—awarded annually by the British Travel Association for

tourist enterprise—has been won by the Illuminating Engineering Society for the installation in Trafalgar Square, London, of Britain's biggest-ever floodlighting scheme.

The trophy—a bronze statuette of St. Christopher—is awarded annually by the Association to the company, organisation, local authority or individual judged to have introduced the best new tourist service or amenity during the year.

The 1969 floodlighting scheme in Trafalgar Square marked the diamond jubilee of the Illuminating Engineering Society.

Increase in Sales

Over half-a-million storage radiators were sold by Electricity Boards during the year ended September 1969. This was an increase of 24 per cent on the corresponding previous twelve months.

A proved popular form of central heating, the storage radiator system has shown increased sales every year since it was introduced in 1962.

TV TEAM AT HEAD OFFICE

A few weeks ago, a team of TV cameramen and sound recorders, together with a director, an assistant director, continuity staff and a reporter arrived at Sealand Road to prepare a short film about our new Head Office block. The brief, but explanatory showing was on the weekly Wednesday evening programme 'Octopus' televised by the Granada network.



BITS and

Campaign for Grocers

A 120,000 direct mail shot aimed at independent grocers was launched by Electricity Boards in England and Wales. The mail shot brochure shows how better lighting, refrigeration, water heating, space heating and other electric services all help the grocer to sell his goods more quickly. Supporting advertisements are being used in the grocery trade press.

The brochure deals with refrigerated displays, hot water for cleanliness, warmth for comfort and electric air conditioning—which is only just beginning to be installed in Britain's high street shops but could be the grocers' new business asset.

Grocers are also reminded that the language of shopping is visual—'I had a look around the shops.' 'Did you see anything worth buying?' 'This caught my eye.' 'An illuminated fascia or sign and a brightly lit window will draw shoppers past poorly lit shops and bring them to your door. Once on your doorstep, a bright, friendly interior and interesting illuminated displays at the rear of the shop will draw them in.' Once inside the shop, air conditioning will help the customer to stay longer and buy more.

Actual case histories are included in the brochure telling how individual grocers have solved problems and increased business by the greater use of electricity.

This is the second in a series of national direct mail campaigns aimed at existing shops and offices with the overall theme 'How to get more out of electricity.' The first was aimed at small offices, others will be directed at doctors' surgeries, newsagents and confectioners, hairdressers and butchers.

PIECES

Home Freezing

Our customers are rapidly getting wise to the fact that a home freezer is a most valuable appliance which will save much labour and add variety to meals all the year round. In view of the many questions on choice and use of home freezers, the Electrical Association for Women has produced a leaflet entitled 'Home Freezing—The Golden Rules'.

This is designed to act as a guide to those about to choose a home freezer and as a quick reference for those who have newly acquired one.

Sections deal with types of freezers (front and top opening); size, siting and running costs; methods of freezing different kinds of fresh food; suggestions for putting cooked food in the freezer; buying in bulk; packing and labelling; care of the freezer, including de-frosting and precautions against an accidental switch-off.

Single copies are obtainable free from the E.A.W., 25 Foubert's Place, LONDON, W1V 2AL, provided that a stamped addressed envelope is sent.

Please don't forget . . .

The E.E.I.B.A. Ball on March 10th—The Badminton Championships on April 4th and 5th—The Annual General Meeting of the Manual Workers' Benevolent Society on May 14th and the Contact Photographic Competition.

Letter of Thanks

From a Llandudno lady who has just had her first baby after 18 years of marriage came the following thanks (NOT for the event!) to our District Office:

'As I am affected by throm-

bosis/phlebitis it is essential that I rest. So that I need to prepare baby foods for a full day (all at once) to be put into the refrigerator . . .

After explaining that her refrigerator, which she had had for some years, developed a fault, the lady went on to express her gratitude for the speed with which a new refrigerator was delivered, and added '*on the few occasions in the seven years we have lived here that we have needed help from MANWEB we have always had speedy and efficient service, and know we can rely upon your staff to assist us at all times . . .*'

J.P.

One of ten new magistrates sworn in at the Caernarvonshire Quarter Sessions was Mr. Emlyn Jones, the sales supervisor from our Bethesda shop.

Car Rally Enthusiasts

If any of our readers are very keen on motor car rallies they may be interested to hear that a very

successful 'Cambrian Rally' was held recently. This was organised by the North Wales Car Club and they are now planning for another one very soon.

Mr. J. S. Jones (*chargehand meter reader*) at Llandudno Junction is the Clerk of the Course, so if you would like any further information, get in touch with him and will be happy to provide it.

Selected

An electrician in our Southport District, Mr. Colin Reid has been selected to play for the Lancashire Amateur League in a match against the Cheshire Amateur League.

He will also play in the game against a Grammar Schools XI.

Please Sir!

A few weeks ago, friends in our Liverpool South District presented Mr. V. Morley, assistant section engineer, with a Parker pen and a stick of chalk when he left the industry to take up a new profession—as a teacher!

FIRST CALL ON OUR 'GIRL FROM MANWEB'

One of the first engagements for our 'Girl from MANWEB 1970'—Miss Peggy Francis, was at the official opening of the Board's Comfort Heating Exhibition held at the Town Hall, Llandudno a short time ago. Our picture shows, from left to right, Councillor W. H. Jones, Chairman of Llandudno U.D.C., Mrs. Jones, Peggy and Mr. B. G. Baxter (*District Commercial Engineer*).



QUESTIONS IN THE HOUSE

Nuclear Power Stations (Electricity Productions)

Mr. Adam Hunter asked the Minister of Technology in which year he now estimates that the first nuclear power station in this country will be producing electricity as cheaply as the best coal-fired station that will then be in operation.

Mr. Benn : In 1972.

Electricity and Gas (Charges)

Mr. Frank Allaun asked the Minister of Technology if, in view of the profits of the State electricity and gas boards, he will give a general direction to the boards to provide for a reduction of power prices for domestic rather than for industrial consumers.

Mr. Alan Williams : No, Sir. The boards relate their prices to the associated costs, and it would not be in the national interest to deprive industrial consumers of price reductions warranted by the reduced costs of supplying them.

Mr. Allaun : Although it is a triumph for public ownership to produce lower charges alongside higher profits and higher wages, is not my hon. Friend aware of the resentment among Labour supporters that some State boards seem to be much more generous to commercial companies than to the ordinary consumer ?

Mr. Williams : My hon. Friend will appreciate that in the long-term development of the power industries it is essential that we should have clear criteria where the appropriate investment should lie, and for this reason there has to be a clear relationship between the pricing of products in different parts of the market.

Mr. Edward M. Taylor : Does the Minister think that we might now be able to make a move towards removing the ridiculous situation whereby consumers in Scotland pay about 26 per cent. more for their gas supplies than the average consumers in England and Wales ?

Mr. Williams : What will be the exact impact on Scotland of the introduction of natural gas which, I believe, is due to come next year, I cannot as yet prophesy. All I can say is that, where it has been introduced, natural gas has been accompanied by reductions in tariffs.

Mr. Lubbock : Is the hon. Gentleman aware that in the long term it is to the benefit of both domestic and industrial consumers for the C.E.G.B. and other generating boards in the United Kingdom to give power at special prices to large industrial consumers and energy intensive industries—and to the aluminium smelters, which I welcome—and that there is scope for very much more of this kind of activity ?

Mr. Williams : There is truth in what the hon. Gentleman says. The encouragement of bulk consumers gives a wider base for spreading overheads and can in the long term have repressive effects on price trends.

Mr. Atkinson : Does not my hon. Friend agree that one primary function of nationalised industries is the redistribution of wealth, and that therefore the decision to give preference to industrial users is a contradiction of a primary function of the public sector ?

Mr. Williams : There may be a certain clash of interpretation of what is the primary function, but the one given by my hon. Friend is certainly not what I would envisage as the primary function of nationalised industry. (HON. MEMBERS : 'Oh.') I am sorry, but my hon. Friend asked the question and I am giving him the answer.

I think that this is mainly a role to be played by the Chancellor of the Exchequer and the Department of Health and Social Security.

Mr. Hannan : Is my hon. Friend aware that the charge for electricity to domestic consumers in Scotland is less than the charge of all other area boards and that this is very much appreciated in Scotland ?

Mr. Williams : I am grateful for some supporting information.

Wylfa Power Station

Mr. Woof asked the Minister of Technology when he now expects the Wylfa nuclear power station to be in operation ; what delay that represents by comparison with the original estimate ; and what has been the increase in the estimated capital costs.

Mr. Alan Williams : The C.E.G.B. expects Wylfa to come into commercial operation in March 1970, compared with the initial estimate of late November, 1968. The increase in the C.E.G.B.'s estimate of cost is £10/KW.

Who's Who

The Rt. Hon. A. W. Benn
Bristol S.E. (Lab.)
Minister of Technology

Mr. Alan Williams (Lab.)
Swansea West
Joint Parl. Sec.
Ministry of Technology

Mr. F. Allaun (Lab.)
Salford East

Mr. N. Atkinson (Lab.)
Tottenham

Mr. W. Hannan (Lab.)
Maryhill

Mr. A. Hunter (Lab.)
Dunfermline

Mr. E. Lubbock (Lib.)
Orpington

Mr. E. M. Taylor (Con.)
Catcart

Mr. R. E. Woof (Lab.)
Blaydon

RETIREMENTS

Mr. G. LAWTON

After fifteen years' service in the Liverpool North District, Mr. George Lawton retired recently. George was employed as a labourer whose main job was to keep the substation compounds neat and tidy and free from rubbish . . . quite a difficult job at times when old bedsteads, bikes and prams had to be removed!

In presenting George with a parting gift on behalf of his colleagues at Marsh Lane, Mr. A. W. Hawley (*District Engineer*) wished him a long and happy retirement.

Mr. H. EVANS

A very popular member of our garage staff at Legacy in Area 4, Mr. Herbert Evans set off for a life of retirement recently.

Before leaving however, his many friends gathered to see Mr. J. Davies (*assistant Transport Engineer*) on their behalf, present him with a cheque as a parting gift.

Mr. Evans is particularly interested in music having been the organist and choirmaster at Hope Parish Church for the past 30 years.

Mr. Evans, centre right, receiving his presentation and a farewell handshake from Mr. Davies. Adding his own special 'tribute' is Mr. Evans' four-legged 'mate.'

A Letter of thanks

Dear Editor,

I should be grateful if you would allow me, through Contact, to thank my many friends and former colleagues who were unable to attend my retirement presentation, not only for the many generous gifts with which I was presented but even more for the unfailing kindness shown to me throughout my years of service with MANWEB.

*L. J. Archer (senior assistant engineer
—Transmission).*

From an old Friend

Those who remember Mr. T. W. Findlay, formerly supervisor at our Wallasey shop, will be interested to hear that he is as energetic as ever, having recently been appointed Sales Controller of the Midlands Electricity Board's Mid-Shropshire District.

Mr. Findlay's new base is at Spring Gardens, Shrewsbury, and his home address is 17 Kingsway East, Westlands, Newcastle under Lyme, Staffordshire.

Informing us that he would be delighted to hear from any of his old friends, Tom adds that he and his family always find plenty of interest in the copies of *Contact* which he still receives.



Manweb BARGAIN TIME again

The latest MANWEB 'Store-type' advertisement currently appearing in the local newspapers circulating throughout the Board's area.

FREE
EASICURL
BY MORPHY RICHARDS
WITH



SAVE £11.11.0
Hotpoint Supermatic 1460

Manufacturer's Recommended price £91.7.0.

Manweb price
76 gns.

SAVE £19.19.0
Hotpoint Automatic 1504

Manufacturer's Recommended price £130.4.0.

Manweb price
105 gns.

SAVE £13.2.6
Hotpoint Automatic 1600

Manufacturer's Recommended price £117.12.0.

Manweb price
99½ gns.

FREE



24 piece Stainless Steel Cutlery Set plus savings with

SAVE £14.4.1
English Electric Liberator Twin 4151

Manufacturer's Recommended price £89.16.1.

Manweb price
72 gns.

SAVE £19.19.0
English Electric Automatic 4028

Manufacturer's Recommended price £110.5.0.

Manweb price
86 gns.

SPECIAL FEBRUARY OFFER

FREE
Manweb brand Kettle (£5.2.0)



with De-Luxe Manweb twin tubs

ONLY £55/10/-

FREE
Lady's hot nylon umbrella with Froplaine Skin Drier (norm. 50/-)
SAVE £5.8.8

Manufacturer's Recommended price £25.8.8.

Special bargain price
£21.0.0

Offer closes 31 March

LIMITED SUPPLIES JUST A FEW LEFT

Electrolux 4.8 cu. ft. Frost. Family size Freezer. Manufacturer's Recommended price £69.19.0

SAVE £10 PLUS FREE

Freeze pack of polythene wrap. Plus 3% discount on your first frozen food order over £15.

Manweb price
£59.19.0

GEC 45 REFRIGERATOR
(model DA 1718)



REDUCED TO £35

limited period offer only

Manweb 3-8 REFRIGERATOR



ONLY £32/11/-

FREE
nylon double size bedspread

when you buy a new Manweb, Hotpoint, Hoover or Electrolux vacuum cleaner with the heart sign

AS SEEN ON TV.

SAVE £1.13.0

Belling Gemini Electric Fire
(Model 8317)

Manufacturer's Recommended price £15.15.0.

Manweb price
£14.2.0



SAVE £2.4.4

Belling Tempo Electric Fire
(Model 222)

Manufacturer's Recommended price £22.8.4.

Manweb price
£20.4.0



SAVE £3.2.3

Morphy Richards Shannon Radiant Convector

Manufacturer's Recommended price £21.2.3.

Manweb price
£18.0.0



Dimplex heated Towel Rail completely installed and wired.

FOR £19.13.0

Credit Sale terms over 9 months

S.E.B. Deep Fryer at the new low price of £19-19-0



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