

## "Contact" Correspondents

### No. 1 SUB-AREA

Derby House ...	Miss P. TAYLOR	... (Accounts Dept.)
Halton Garden ...	Mr. R. W. J. KEEN	... (Secretarial Dept.)
Lister Drive ...	Mr. J. BUTTERWICH	... (District Engineer's Office)
Southport ...	Mr. L. T. BROUGHTON	(District Office)
Whitechapel ...	Miss F. D. BLIZARD	... (Service Centre)
Marsh Lane ...	Mr. D. PATRICK	... (District Office)

### No. 2 SUB-AREA

Northwich ...	Mr. C. P. BOOTH	... (District Office)
Runcorn ...	Mr. G. W. WELLS	... (District Office)
Sandiway House ...	Mr. C. STELFOX...	... (Secretarial Dept.)
St. Helens ...	Miss M. WORTHINGTON	(Bridge Street)
"	Mr. G. E. H. WHEELER	(Carlton Street)
Warrington ...	Mrs. S. ROBINSON	... (Howley)
"	Mr. E. RICHARDSON	... (Buttermarket Street)
Widnes ...	Mr. H. H. TURNER	... (35 Albert Road)
Eversley ...	Mr. H. HUGHES	... (Revenue Dept.)
"	Mr. A. WADCOCK	... (Costs Section)

### No. 3 SUB-AREA

Chester ...	Mrs. J. GWYTHYR	(Newgate Street, Chester)
"	Mr. L. SEWELL	(New Crane Street, Chester)
"	Mrs. K. MCKENZIE	(Northgate Street, Chester)
"	Mrs. E. BURKE	(New Crane Street, Chester)
North Wirral...	Mr. F. GORDON	(Craven Street, Birkenhead)
"	Mr. T. FINDLAY	(Wallasey Road, Wallasey)
"	Mr. F. CASEY	... (Seaview Rd. Depot, Wallasey)

### No. 4 SUB-AREA

Aberystwyth ...	Mr. D. G. THOMAS	... (Mill Street)
Bangor ...	Mr. P. ROBERTS...	... (Garth Road)
Barmouth ...	Mr. D. HUGHES	... (High Street)
Bethesda ...	Mr. E. JONES	... (Service Centre)
Blaenau ...	Mr. L. E. JONES...	... (High Street)
Ffestiniog ...	Miss D. EDWARDS	... (High Street)
Caernarvon ...	Mr. E. GRIFFITHS	... (St. Helens Road)
Colwyn Bay ...	Mr. H. JONES	... (Station Road)
Crewe ...	Mr. H. T. MCBRIDE	... (Electricity Street)
"	Mr. E. SMITH	... (Grid Sub-Station)
Dolgellay ...	Mr. E. A. WHARTON	... (The Square)
Holyhead ...	Mr. L. C. JONES	... (Kings Road)
Llandudno ...	Mr. L. HUGHES	... (Mostyn Broadway)
Llangefni ...	Mr. R. M. JONES	... (Glanhwfa Road)
Menai Bridge ...	Mr. W. H. WILLIAMS	... (Dale Street)
Nantwich ...	Mr. J. R. JENKINS	... (High Street)
"	Mr. A. T. K. KNOTT	... (Beam Street)
Newtown ...	Mr. W. LI. WILLIAMS	... (27a Broad Street)
Oswestry ...	Mr. H. G. FINCHETT	... (6 Salop Road)
Pwllheli ...	Mr. L. S. LEWIS	... (New Street)
Rhuddlan ...	Mr. J. DROVER	... (Abbey House)
Sandbach ...	Miss G. BAXENDALE	... (Congleton Road)
Shotton ...	Mr. J. W. FORRESTER	... (Service Centre)
Towyn ...	Mr. R. ALFRED JONES	... (Bryn Llewellyn)
Welshpool ...	Mr. W. D. MORRIS	... (Old Quarry, Brook St.)
Whitchurch ...	Mr. A. L. BARKER	... (50 High Street)
Wrexham ...	Mr. J. L. THOMAS	... (Rhostyllen)



January  
1961

The Staff Magazine  
of the  
Merseyside and North Wales  
Electricity Board

# Contact

THE SEVERN'S NEW COURSE (See page 14)





## ACROSS THE WEAVER

A 33kV cable link between Hartford and Northwich, which forms the major reinforcement into Northwich town, is near completion. After running three miles across country the final hurdle for the cable was the crossing of the River Weaver, but this kind of "aquabatics" comes easy to No. 2 Sub-Area Construction Department. They used the same technique as was employed in a similar crossing of the Mersey a couple of months back—laying the cable in a prepared channel in the river bed—and after this day's work all that remained was a short run to the new substation.



Hauling the cable across by barge.

Dredging the channel and pumping away the silt along the pipeline seen in the picture.



# Contact

THE STAFF MAGAZINE OF THE  
MERSEYSIDE AND NORTH WALES ELECTRICITY BOARD

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No. 1

### EDITORIAL

## A New Year's Prospect

The First of January has a fascination shared by no other day in the calendar. The mistakes, defeats, wise decisions and victories of the past year slide away towards history. Before us stretches a clean sheet, a new year which will bring success to some, tragedy to others, opportunities and challenges to everyone.

It is this atmosphere of newness, the dawn of yet another uncharted year, which stimulates in everyone who is not utterly overwhelmed by trouble a mood of buoyancy, of determination and resolve, and from this mood springs our old custom of making New Year Resolutions.

Our resolutions reflect our personal lives to a large extent. We feel that perhaps we could do better, do more, get rid of some of the bad habits that most of us are prone to!

*Many of these New Year Resolutions tend to survive for short periods only! Nothing is easier than to decide that we will give up smoking, or drinking, or that we will help with the washing up, or that we will be more courteous, careful drivers. But old-established habits grip us in bands of iron, and sometimes more than resolution alone is needed to effect the desired change. The right kind of incentive can be an enormous help. Only the most stubborn donkey will resist the twofold drive of the carrot in front and the stick behind, and it is sometimes possible to re-arrange things so that our resolve is strengthened in this way.*

### A Fruitful Field

As employees of the electricity supply industry our incentives are strong. We are lucky enough to work in an ever-expanding field which offers opportunities to everyone willing to make the effort. It will not need much resolution for us to sell more electricity in 1961 than we sold in 1960, but a determination to give of our best will not come amiss.

Perhaps the most valuable thing to come from the New Year Resolution habit—and the effort involved—is that it must, inevitably, increase our capacity for achievement.

As Burns put it—"Wha does the utmost that he can, will whiles do mair".



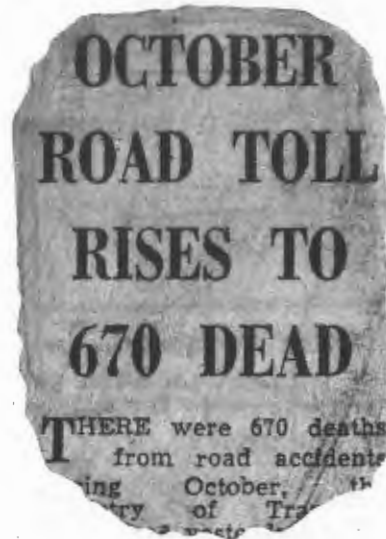
## THE ADVANCED DRIVER'S TEST

A contribution to Road Safety

by

**W. W. HUGHES**

(Assistant Secretary)



THE newspaper headline in the next column tells its own story. Among organisations playing an active part in the campaign to cut the toll of the roads is the Institute of Advanced Motorists.

In fact the I.A.M.'s single purpose is to contribute to the efficient and safe use of the roads by encouraging a decent standard of car driving competence and conduct. To some people, the Institute's method may seem rather odd because it can be made to sound somewhat unjolly—an intentionally fairly searching test, followed by a frankly critical assessment of the candidate's performance—but this bleakish impression is contradicted by the long waiting list of drivers anxious to "have a go".

The nature of the I.A.M. test is probably already fairly well known—but not as well as it deserves to be.

One of the Institute's examiners (former police drivers and first-class graduates of the best of all motoring schools—a Metropolitan or County police school of "advanced" driving) sits with you (i.e. the candidate) while you drive him for nearly two hours through a mixture of heavy town traffic, suburban streets, country lanes and fast main roads.

He is a sensitively observant man, and I have no way of knowing which would amuse him less—a Stirling Moss aspirant without Stirling's skill, or a middle of the road fuddy-duddy. Almost certainly he expects you to be neither, but would like to be taken round smoothly and reasonably quickly and without his driver being a nuisance to anybody or ill-treating the car.

As to what is "reasonably quickly",

candidates have been known to fail through excessive "after you" and hand-wagging stuff when they would be better employed in safely pressing on. No trick driving is called for—perhaps some precise manoeuvring in an awkward situation, but nothing that could not be useful in day-to-day driving.

'Roadcraft', an advanced driving manual, published at 4/- by H.M.S.O., gives a very good idea of what an I.A.M. examiner looks for—and why.

The test is intended to be sufficiently varied to show up any ingrained faults the driver may be unconscious of or which he could conceal in a shorter concentrated effort to "be good for teacher". At the end of it, the examiner says what he thinks and whether he will recommend election to the Institute (who may possibly be interested in something declared in the application form). Whether the examiner's

assessment is favourable or not (and it must be very rarely that it is all praise) he says his piece very nicely and these "lectures" have earned the reputation of being well worth the test fee.

*Something like 50,000 drivers have already tried the test (nearly half of them passed at the first or a later attempt) and when ten times as many have done so the roads will be safer and more enjoyable than they are now.*

Occasionally, after passing the test, a driver does something (motoring) which makes the Institute disown him—there have been about twenty cases of this—and a conviction for dangerous or careless driving is a sure way of being cast out.

### A challenge?

Why do people take the test? There must be many different reasons. Probably some take it because they want to know and correct their shortcomings (very good types, these,)

others look on it as a challenge, some want to qualify for special insurance terms, some take it because their firm makes it a condition of car using employment (or of being allocated one of its best cars)—and many a husband (or wife) has probably been moved by the hope of getting an independent expert opinion to set against his wife's (or her husband's) firm and constantly proclaimed conviction that he (or she) should not be allowed on the roads.

Anyone attracted by any of these reasons (or any other which may occur to him) should enjoy taking the test and (although it is safer to impute doubts about a man's morals or sanity than about his driving methods) it would probably do him good. Official information about the test—as distinct from this personal impression—is obtainable from:—

*The Secretary,  
Institute of Advanced Motorists Ltd.,  
21, Harrington Street,  
LONDON, S.W.7.*

## BRITISH EMPIRE MEDALLISTS

The group picture was taken at Lancaster House, London, on Thursday, November 10th, 1960, when Mr. Richard Wood (Minister of Power) presented B.E.M.s awarded to employees of the electricity supply industry. Included among the recipients was (*standing, left*), Mr. Robert Hugh Owen, J.P., a high tension linesman on the Board's staff at Llanberis.







Members of the cast pose for the camera after the show.

## PANTO SPECTACULAR

The Love Lane Christmas Pantomime—high-spot of the Board Headquarters Christmas social evening—has gained a reputation as being a period of great danger for anyone with tendencies towards pomposity or self-importance, a couple of hilarious hours during which skeletons are dragged from cupboards for public display, and when those whose backs are considered broad enough stand an excellent chance of seeing the funny side of themselves.

This year's lavish production—entitled "*Omlot*"—was no exception. No member of the Love Lane Staff could consider himself immune from the shafts of wit fired from the stage, and many a funny yoke was cracked at the expense of Lord Thomas of Manchester, newly-appointed keeper of the henroosts, who was dragged in as a spectator with malice aforethought.

Talent abounding graced the stage on the night in question, and a true pantomime it was. The prompter's desperate bellows from the wings added fuel to the flames of hilarity in the audience, and those in the know tell us that the pantomime behind the scenes had to be experienced to be believed.

The search for a Regent of the Land, carried out by King Bill Gibson, was the theme, and what better choice could there have been than Des Carter, who was obviously thoroughly primed for such an important role? As the Engineer-General perhaps Norman Jones would have looked better on elephant-back. We did hear rumours that someone thought of this, but that the elephant bolted on seeing Norman. Distinguished performances were given by Tom McFall (First Lord of the Establishments), Reg. Huyton (Overlord of the Commercials), Frank Spence (Keeper of the Secretariat), Hugh Thompson (Comptroller-

General), Eric Roddan (Privy Seal of Purchasing) and John Woods (Abdul—in the heart-stirring uniform of the *Anfield 'Ussars*).

Tom Dutton filled with distinction the dual roles of Efficiency Expert (!!!) and Chief Witch, though no one knows why he should have been lucky enough to share a dark corner with such charming changelings. After making a first appearance as apprentice witches his assistants—Barbara Bartlett, Janice Corker, Betty Dowling and Sonia Mason—later appeared in more attractive forms together with Helen Ferns and Beth Tinsley to cheer us with a lively song-and-dance routine arranged by Beth.

### Behind the Scenes

Putting in a lot of hard work behind the scenes were Bert Edwards (Stage Manager), Steve Reynard and Stan Ellis (Lighting), Tom McFall (Pianist), Norman Bolton (Piper) and Eric Roddan (Drummer). The producer was Bill Gibson, and though the panto itself, as usual, flowed from the gifted pen of A. P. Whyte, most of the credit goes to Madge Conway who saw to it that he finished the script in time!

The rest of the evening's programme was equally successful and entertaining. The dining and common rooms were cheerfully decorated by members of the Registry staff and a number of sideshows devised by Colin Boston drew plenty of entrants, eager to try their skill at a penny a time, the prizes being tickets which were later used for a draw.

Popular cartoon characters, created by Bert Boyce of the Drawing Office staff, added to the fun, and dancing and jollifications continued throughout the evening.

*Everyone showed their appreciation of the hard work put in by the Christmas Party Committee in the most satisfying way—by thoroughly enjoying themselves!*

## MOVES TO SANDIWAY

The Board's Chief Engineer, Mr. P. d'E. Stowell (*right*) presents a camera to Mr. J. Cross, a former member of the engineering staff at Board Headquarters, on his recent move to take up the post of 2nd Assistant Engineer (Protection) at No. 2 Sub-Area Headquarters, Sandiway House.





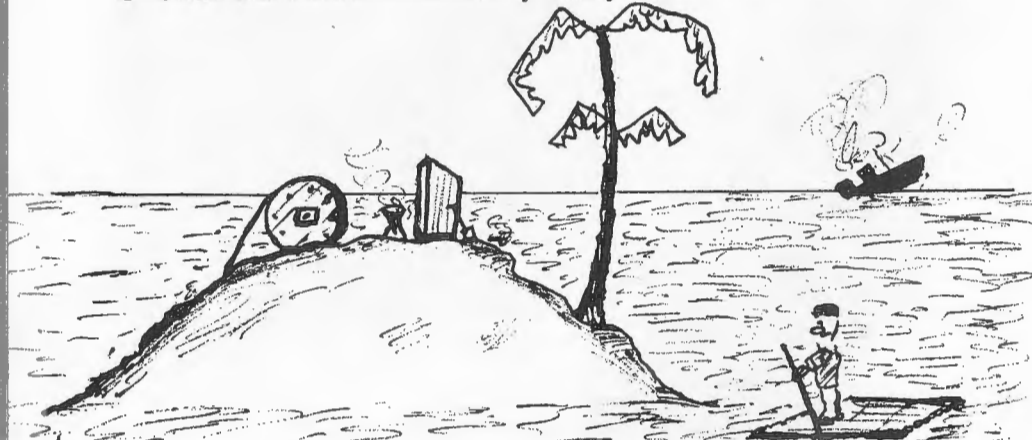
## THE SAME TWENTY QUESTIONS

In the Christmas number of *Contact* we posed the question—How sharp are you? We then offered prizes for the first three all-correct solutions to a Twenty Question Quiz. Judging from the few entries received (of which none were correct) we assume that you were not sharp enough to spot the quiz or maybe the seasonal festivities prevented you from posting your entry. The furthest thought from our minds was that our colleagues were unable to work out the answers. To prove this point, we once again set out the original quiz and repeat our offer of prizes of 10/6 each to the senders of the first three all-correct solutions. The closing date for entries will be February 6th, 1961, and should be addressed to "The Editor, *Contact*, MANWEB, Love Lane, Liverpool 3". The competition is restricted to Manweb employees, pensioners, and their families.

1. What is the national sport of Spain?
2. If **ABLE** = 20, what does **CABLE** equal?
3. Name the colours of the rainbow.
4. *Heads or tails! How many different ways can five pennies come down if tossed in the air?*
5. Arrange the following in natural ascending order—gale, squall, breeze, wind, calm, typhoon.
6. Who was Wackford Squeers?
7. What is a Watt?
8. Fill in the missing letters—O, T, -, F, F, S, S, -, N, T
9. *Who was the creator of Donald Duck?*
10. Which of these are primary colours—Red, Green, Blue, Orange, White?
11. What is the Davis Cup?
12. Find the missing figures—49 (42) 6  
36 (—) 9.
13. *What do the letters B.T.U. mean?*
14. Complete the following sequence,  $\frac{1}{2}, 1, 3, 6, 12, 24, -$ .
15. What is the second letter before the tenth letter of the alphabet?
16. How many players are there in a hockey team?
17. What word connects the following to make two separate words NEC(----) MAC?
18. Write down the two missing figures 3, 9, -, 81, -, 729.
19. *Who were the first men to fly the Atlantic?*
20. Fill in the missing letters in the following sequence V D S I Q M - - .

### WRITE US A CAPTION

Bill Pickett, of the Board's Pumpfields depot, drew this cartoon, but he forgot to put a caption to it. A prize of 10s. 6d. will be awarded to the sender of the caption regarded by the Editor as the most amusing and original. Send your idea—which should consist of not more than 12 words—to the Editor by January 31st.



## BREVITIES

### VICE-CHAIRMAN

Congratulations to Mr. P. Hill (Chairman's chauffeur) who has been elected Vice-Chairman of the West Lancashire area of the British Legion. Mr. Hill has long been active in the Legion, and has done much good work on behalf of disabled ex-Servicemen.

### BACK TO H.Q.

Welcome back to Love Lane to Miss Sonia Mason, as a Private Secretary in the Accounts Department. Sonia was formerly a member of the staff of the Typing Pool, until she transferred to Southport District office last year.

### CASH IDEAS

Awards under the Employees Suggestion Scheme have been recently made to the following Board employees:—

<i>No. 1 Sub-Area</i>	
Mr. J. C. Bather (Chargehand Electrician) ... ..	£2
Mr. H. Holburt (Foreman) ... ..	£2
Mr. T. E. Parker (Labourer) ... ..	£2
<i>No. 3 Sub-Area</i>	
Mr. R. F. Keenan (Assembler)	£5
Mr. P. G. Mahon (Mains Foreman) ... ..	£10
Mr. W. H. Quinn (Jointer) ... ..	£3

### CITY AND GUILDS

Congratulations to Mr. Stanley Littlewood, First Assistant Consumer's Engineer, who has been awarded the City and Guilds Intermediate Certificate in Illumination Engineering. Mr. Littlewood has been employed by the Board since 1952.

### P.O.A. PRIZE

Congratulations to Mr. J. R. Craine, Purchasing Department, Board Headquarters, who has been awarded a prize for his examination script on the subject of storage and control of stock, in an examination connected with the Purchasing Officers' Association's Diploma course. This prize is only awarded for outstanding papers, and has only twice come to the north of England.

## BEGORRAH!

From time to time the oddly addressed envelope turns up at most business premises, and the latest one to arrive at Board Headquarters was addressed to:—

*The Liverpool Electricity Board,  
Murphy Site & North Wales  
Electricity Board,  
Love Lane,  
Pall Mall,  
Liverpool, 3.*

### NEED ANSWERED

The Board's service centre in Salop Road, Oswestry, which was opened recently after extensive alterations and modernisation work to the building, is appreciated by the people of the town in more ways than one.

This is made clear by the following comment reproduced from a recent issue of the "Oswestry Advertiser."

*"A substantial canopy extending from the front of the building over the pavement, will be much appreciated by local people waiting for buses."—This was one of the references made by the Electricity Board, to the features of Oswestry's new electricity service centre, when it was opened two or three months ago, and how true those words have proved in the down-pours of recent weeks!—But what a reflection on the town it is that so many of the people who come and go by road transport still have to rely on the good nature of Manweb and similar other shops and business houses, to provide them with canopies, arcades, or simple doorways under which to shelter from the weather when waiting for buses at the stops which are scattered higgledy-piggledy all over the town".*



## G. E. H. Wheeler reports . . . . News from St. Helens District

### NIGHT OUT

Now hard at work with the London Electricity Board is Mr. R. Taylor, until recently a Drawing Office Assistant at St. Helens District.

A very good night was held at the "Bird i' th' Hand", St. Helens, on the occasion of Mr. Taylor's departure, when colleagues and ex-colleagues foregathered to wish him farewell. Gerry Maudsley, Colin Partington and John Heald from Liverpool were very welcome visitors.

Earlier Mr. Barr had presented Mr. Taylor with an 8-day travelling alarm clock on behalf of Carlton Street staff.

Good luck, Bob, from all at St. Helens.

### STORE IN A STORE

A novel development took place recently when the No. 2 Sub-Area Commercial Department installed a Sales and Display Centre on the first floor of Oxley's Departmental Store at St. Helens. Here, a wide range of domestic electrical appliances are tastefully arranged and visitors to the store have the opportunity to inspect and purchase the very latest in electrical aids for the home. This experimental feature is to be run for a trial period of six months.



### WELCOME

A very hearty welcome to St. Helens District is given to Mrs. R. E. Wake, our new Shorthand Typist. Although new to St. Helens, Mrs. Wake is no stranger at Area Board Headquarters.

### GET WELL SOON

We wish a speedy recovery for the following members of the District Staff who have been having hospital treatment: Mr. F. G. Stevens, District Commercial Engineer's Department, Mr. F. White and Mr. S. Wilson of the Mains Department, Mr. H. Bott of the Transport Department and Mr. W. Prendergast of the Building Department.

### GOODBYE PRESENTATION

The good wishes of St. Helens District staff go to Mrs. D. Griffiths, Shorthand Typist, District Engineer's Department, who recently resigned.

Mrs. Griffiths was presented with an electric blanket by Mr. H. C. Barr, District Engineer, on behalf of staff and colleagues at Carlton Street.

### A WORD OF THANKS

I would like to take this opportunity to thank my colleagues and friends throughout the Board for their kind messages and good wishes during my recent illness. Throughout my operation and hospital treatment and subsequent long convalescence I was helped considerably by the kindness and consideration of the District Staff at St. Helens and friends on the Industrial Staff.

I would like to thank particularly several of the pensioners who visited me in hospital.

### Brevities—continued

#### PRIZEWINNER

Following a good report from the Hoylake Training School, Apprentice Electrician Meirion W. Jones, based on Barmouth, has been awarded First Prize in Area 14 of the Electrical Trade's Union Education Scheme (Grants to Apprentices).

#### A.M.I.P.M.

Congratulations to Mr. G. A. James (Senior Assistant, Establishments) No. 2 Sub-Area, who has been admitted as an Associate Member of the Institute of Personal Management.

#### CELEBRATION

Members of the staff at Chester Service Centre, manufacturer's demonstrators, sales representatives, together with their wives and husbands, thoroughly enjoyed themselves at a Christmas dinner-dance organised at a local hotel on December 21st. Prizes given by manufacturers were won by Mrs. J. Sutton, Miss M. Coathupe, Mr. D. Williams, and Mr. D. Moore.

### IN ENGLISH AND WELSH

The Board's various offices receive quite a few letters of thanks and appreciation from time to time, but when Mr. J. Ellis Williams of Bronygarth, Llanbedr, the eminent Welsh dramatist and writer, wrote to Caernarvon District Office, he expressed his appreciation of a smart piece of emergency repair work as follows:—

*'Byddwch yn derbyn digon a gwynion am ddiffygion, ond a fyddwch yn derbyn gair o ddiolch weithiau? Llongyfarchion cynnes iawn i bwy oedd yn gyfrifol am y trwiso ar y fath noson neithiwr! Rhagoroll!'*

Being translated the letter reads:—

*"You no doubt receive plenty of complaints about interruptions, but do you sometimes receive a word of appreciation? Warmest congratulations to whoever was responsible for the repairs which were carried out on such a night as last night. Excellent."*





An exterior view of the new Service Centre.

## NEW MIDDLEWICH SERVICE CENTRE

The opening of a new Service Centre at Middlewich, which took place recently, means that each of the four towns in the Northwich District—Northwich, Knutsford, Winsford and Middlewich—now has its own Service Centre.

The new Middlewich centre, which is located in Wheelock Street, is in the middle of the shopping area, and is a completely new building erected on a site formerly occupied by two cottages. The exterior is in red brick with the now familiar Manweb tiled frontage, and although essentially modern in design it blends well into the property in the vicinity. It is a two-storeyed building, having on the ground floor a sales area approximately 23 ft. by 42 ft. with a conveniently placed supervisor's office, and a small workshop for the service electrician. On the first floor a large room has been fitted out and equipped for use as an exhibition room and demonstration theatre. Electric floor heating with a total loading of 25kW produces a comfortable sense of warmth.

Mr. J. E. Shaw, formerly a member of the Northwich Service Centre staff, has been appointed to take charge.



A shot of the sales area in the Middlewich Service Centre showing the well-planned lay-out and the wide range of electrical appliances.

## Dorothy Edwards reports ....

### NEWS FROM BLAENAU FFESTINIOG

#### NEW ARRIVAL

Congratulations to Mr. Ben Jones, Jointer's Mate, on becoming the proud father of a daughter recently.

#### TWENTY-FIVE YEARS

Congratulations to Mr. T. E. Hughes, Senior Service Centre Assistant, who has just completed 25 years with the electricity supply industry.

Mr. Hughes, incidentally, is the organist of the Methodist Church at Llanwrst, from where listeners heard two broadcasts on Armistice Sunday.

#### APPOINTED

Colleagues at Blaenau Ffestiniog wish every success to Mr. R. J. Hughes, who was recently appointed Assistant Consumers' Engineer. Mr. Hughes began his career as an apprentice with the Yale Electric Power Company.

#### SYMPATHY

We extend our deep sympathy to Mr. S. E. Jones, Linesman, on the death of his wife on December 14th.





## FROM NEWTOWN-UNDER-SEVERN

The little market town of Newtown, Montgomeryshire, will never forget the night of December 3rd, 1960 . . . for that was the night when the River Severn, swollen by prolonged torrential rain, broke its banks and carved a path for itself right through the centre of the town. Travelling at more than thirty miles an hour the six-feet-deep wall of water swept away piles of telegraph poles and roared through shops and houses, shattering plate glass windows and carrying hundreds of pounds worth of goods away.

The boundary wall of the bowling green at the rear of the Manweb Service Centre in Broad Street collapsed under the water pressure. The flood water burst open the doors of the Board's yard, partly submerged lorries and vans which were parked, and swept into the building itself. In a very short time there was four feet of water in the Service Centre, and the Senior Service Centre Assistant, Mr. C. E. Arthur, who had been on duty since early on the Saturday evening, opened the street doors to prevent the windows from being broken by the water pressure.

Cookers, washing machines and refrigerators were piled up against the showroom front and many smaller appliances were carried away by the torrent.

Meanwhile the Section Engineer, Mr. V. D. J. Heard, was watching the situation carefully, and when the floods reached danger level the Board's

**OUR COVER PICTURE** might be a puzzle shot, with the question "Find the meter reader's van" This picture, and the picture on this page, show the yard at the rear of the Board's premises.

network in the lower part of the town was switched off for safety and to enable us to maintain supply on the rest of the network.

During this period our Consumers' Engineer, Mr. W. Ll. Williams, was among those marooned in their homes. During the height of the flooding Dr. Stewart Dallas, who occupies premises adjoining the Board's offices, got into difficulties in his efforts to escape through a passage adjacent to the Service Centre and Mr. Arthur helped to rescue him by forcing the passage door.

### Cleaning up the mess

After a few hours the water began to recede and soon our staff were able to get into the Service Centre to begin mopping up operations.

Assistance given by Mr. P. Pickerell, who is engaged on a Manweb survey in the district, and his wife, was much appreciated.

*All flooded premises were inspected by the Board's staff so that the supply to the individual consumers was restored with the least possible delay, to enable them to carry out their mopping up operations. It was found that approximately 300 meters had been under water, and in addition to attending to consumers' installations, the meters have all been removed and replaced.*

The Transport Superintendent's staff with the assistance of the local staff lost no time in attending to the Board's transport, and two of the lorries and one van were back in commission by mid-day Monday and the rest of the vehicles were operating the following day.

A great deal of agricultural land and a number of farmhouses and buildings were badly flooded in the Welshpool and Pool Quay areas, and in this part of the district the flood water took two to three days to recede, causing a great deal of loss in livestock. Some of the premises had to be evacuated for several

*(continued overleaf)*

**Mopping up after the deluge.** Gum-booted youngsters look on with interest as Mr. P. Pickerell (*outside*) and Mr. C. E. Arthur (*inside*) sweep the waters of the Severn through the Service Centre door.





## RHOSTYLLEN ARTIST

Sixty-seven paintings by three local artists were submitted at an Exhibition held recently at Wrexham Public Library. Of these, 28 were exhibited by Mr. Richard Appleton who is the Chief Draughtsman at No. 4 Sub-Area Office, and his work drew the following newspaper recognition:—

### Liverpool Daily Post:

*"The pictures by Richard Appleton are more perplexing. The majority are conventional views with sometimes an element of prettiness. Three stand out sharply against these in mood which is sombre, and handling which is vigorous. 'The Pass of Llanberis' and 'Dolbadarn Castle' in particular are noteworthy. These are not dated but it is to be hoped that they are more recent".*

### Liverpool Echo:

*"In terms of grey poetry, Richard Appleton pictures the ruined tower of Dolbadarn Castle, Llanberis, makes vivid contrast of tree trunks against a shining fall of sunlight in his 'Woodland Scene', gives a lively Japanese touch to his 'Coast Scene' and offers 'Elm Hill, Norwich' as bright as the lid of a chocolate box."*



Mr. Appleton has won many prizes with his paintings and has successfully exhibited a number of times in the industry's Arts and Crafts competitions.

The photograph shows Mr. Appleton (left) discussing one of his paintings with Mr. C. Harris, the librarian at the Wrexham Public Library.

### Flood Report—continued

days, but the occupants returned as soon as conditions made it possible, and when they were able to re-occupy their premises the Board's Staff followed up to ensure that their supply was resumed under safe conditions.

An emergency laundry was set up by the British Red Cross Society at Welshpool and some of the appliances were loaned by the Board to assist people who were temporarily unable to re-occupy their homes.

Great credit is due to the local engineers and their staff for the prompt and efficient way in which they dealt with the situation.



**Making up the parcels.**  
*Left to right: Mrs. J. Dunne and Messrs. W. Vance and W. Gibson, of Board H.Q. staff.*

## Santa's Helpers

Each year as Christmas approaches, the Manweb Manual Workers Benevolent Society crowns its good work by preparing food parcels in order to brighten the festive season for those who are in need. The various committees throughout the area submit the names of employees whose sick-pay has run out and retired employees who have struck a bad patch and fallen on hard times. A few weeks ago, some 34 parcels were sent out, each containing such festive fare as ham, plum pudding, dates, biscuits, fruit cake, mincemeat, tinned fruit, sweets, cigarettes and wine. In addition there was also a choice of a piece of pork or a chicken.

All these parcels are very well received as proved by the letters of thanks. We have seen one or two of these letters and reprint the following extracts:

*"Thanks for the wonderful Christmas fare and the marvellous selection of goods. The festive season would not have been so good for us without this gift. The very thought behind it means such a lot to us . . ."*

*"Thank you for the kindness during my father's long illness . . . made us all so happy to know that he was so well remembered by his many friends at Manweb . . . that such people are in the world to bring joy and beauty to one's life by their kindness . . ."*

*"My family and myself were greatly impressed by the care and thought which had gone into the preparing and packing of the parcels . . ."*

*" . . . delight and appreciation of the very generous gift made by the Society."*

**Take a bow, committee members, for a job well done.**





Members of the Sub-district office staff. *Left to right, standing:* Messrs. J. E. Powell (Section Engineer), K. Lockett (Clerk), P. Hughes (Mains Foreman), J. Barnes (Asst. Consumers' Engineer), L. C. George (Sub-district Clerk), L. Davies (Asst. Consumers' Engineer), A. Jones (Asst. Section Engineer) and J. W. Forrester (Consumers' Engineer). *Seated:* Miss M. O. Jones (Shorthand Typist), Miss R. A. Jarvis (Telephone Operator), Mrs. M. Griffiths (Clerk), Miss L. Roberts (Clerk), Miss D. Wallace (Clerk) and Miss A. Williams (Typist).



Staff at Shotton Service Centre. *Left to right:* Mr. B. Garratt (Service Centre Assistant), Miss T. O'Dowd (English Electric Demonstrator), Miss W. A. Williams (Service Centre Assistant) and Mr. D. Jones (Senior Service Centre Assistant).

## Contact's Camera Visits Shotton

In this group we see, *left to right:* Messrs. S. Jones (Meter-reader), J. Millington (Meter-reader), P. Davies (Meter-reader) and N. Tushingham (Senior Meter-reader). The broad smiles tell us that they haven't just read their own meters.



Waiting for the flash. *Left to right:* Messrs. I. A. John (Installation Inspector), W. Parks (App. Electrician), D. Fenwick (Chargehand Electrician), A. Roberts (Electrician), T. Bentley (Electrician), M. Bellis (App. Electrician), A. Perrett (Electrician), K. Humphries (Electrician), C. Ryder (Electrician), R. Hood (Electrician) and B. Reece (App. Electrician).







Mr. D. G. Dodds (Deputy Chairman) with the senior officers from No. 2 Sub-Area and members of the Local Advisory Committee.

## STAFF CONFERENCE AT RUNCORN

Runcorn staff face the camera at their annual 'get-together'.



## RETIREMENTS

### NEVER ABSENT—AND NEVER LATE!

Thursday, December 8th, 1960, marked the end of an era for electricity supply in Chester, with the retirement of Mr. W. J. Packer, B.E.M., after 43 years unbroken public service in the city.

Mr. Packer, originally a Londoner, served in the Army during the first world war, and was badly wounded on the Somme. Invalided out, he joined the outside staff of the Chester City Engineer and Surveyor in 1917.

His record is one which has been rarely equalled—during the whole of his working life he has not been absent for a single day, and has never been late



Mr. Packer (left) receives his presentation from Mr. Hayes. Seated (right) is Mr. Kellett.

for work! His outstanding service was recognised six years ago when he was awarded the British Empire Medal—the first member of the Sub-Area staff to be so honoured.

Presenting him with his Superannuation cheque, Mr. J. W. Kellett (Sub-Area Manager), expressed his sincere thanks for Mr. Packer's long and loyal service, and wished him many years of happy retirement.

A silver teaset and an eight-day clock were presented on behalf of his friends and colleagues by Mr. H. U. Hayes (District Engineer) who, together with other speakers, paid tribute to Mr. Packer.

### OVER 50 YEARS' SERVICE

John Alfred Major, a popular figure in the Liverpool South District, recently retired after serving the industry for over 51 years. On this special occasion the Lister Drive canteen was packed with his many friends and colleagues who witnessed the presentation of a 1,000-day clock by Mr. W. J. Forster (Sub-Area Commercial Officer).





**Mr. J. A. Major** (forefront, second left) with some of his many friends on the occasion of his retirement presentation, which was made by Mr. W. J. Forster.

After starting work in February 1909 in the general office at Hatton Garden, Mr. Major later joined the army and served in the first world war. He attained the rank of lieutenant and probably had the unique distinction of being the only Lieutenant Major in the British Army. He was later captured and was 'behind the wire' for a spell as a prisoner of war. Returning to civilian life in 1919, Mr. Major rejoined the supply industry.

Still very active, Mr. Major has a wide range of interests which will no doubt keep him fully occupied during his well deserved retirement.

#### **Mr. MARK WILLIAMS**

Mr. Mark Williams, Linesman's Mate, Legacy, retired from the service of the Board on November 23rd, and on behalf of his colleagues he was presented with a clock and a watch by Mr. Idris Williams, Section Engineer, Legacy.

### **OBITUARIES**

#### **MR. H. GIBSON**

We deeply regret to report the death of Mr. Harold Gibson, Shift Electrician, Northwich District, which occurred recently at the age of 61.

Mr. Gibson served his apprenticeship with the former Northwich Electric Supply Co., and later worked at Warrington power station before moving to Northwich District.

#### **MR. P. WILLIAMS**

It is with deep regret that we report the death of Mr. Price Williams, who until his retirement two years ago was employed at the meter test department at Legacy, we extend our sincere sympathy to his family.

#### **MR. R. V. JONES**

We deeply regret to record the death of Mr. R. V. Jones who was a Clerical Assistant at our Bangor office. His death, at the age of 57, came very suddenly after being off sick for only three weeks. He had been in the supply industry since 1919, and was the Chief Clerk at the Bangor Corporation Electricity Department, and for a time, served under the late Mr. F. O. Harber. Mr. Jones was a well-known cricketer in North Wales, and at one time captained one of the Bangor cricket teams and also played for his County. A very keen Bangor City football supporter, he rarely missed a home match, and was present at a match on the Saturday prior to his death.

Mr. Jones leaves a widow and a son, and is sadly missed by all his colleagues.



**Mr. D. G. Dodds** (Deputy Chairman) and **Mr. P. Bregazzi** (No. 1 Sub-Area Manager) (seated in the centre of the front row) with some of the recipients of Long Service Awards.

## **Long Service Awards at Hatton Garden**

A total of 1,085 years faithful service has been accumulated by the 37 employees in our No. 1 Sub-Area who received their awards a few weeks ago. The awards were presented as follows:

**35 Years:** Mrs. L. M. Sorrell, Messrs. A. G. Allenby, A. E. Boothroyd, A. Brown, H. Burke, D. O. Davies, H. Davies, V. J. Duffy, G. Harrison, R. Hewitt, E. Meyer, L. W. Oliver, G. A. Roberts, H. E. D. Walker, S. F. Whiteside and W. H. Wilkinson.

**25 Years:** Miss E. M. Roberts, Messrs. T. F. Bradley, H. J. H. Cattroll, A. F. Connor, R. R. Crosbie, J. Doyle, R. J. Ellis, T. C. Farnell, E. A. Floyd, E. Hare, J. Hughes, C. J. K. Jones, T. W. Jones, W. F. McCoy, A. Mitchell, G. H. Morton, C. Nicholls, W. V. Peterson, W. Pickett, A. Taylor and E. J. Webb.

#### **READERS**

If you have any news, views or anything that you think may be of interest to other readers of this magazine get in touch with your local correspondent right away. If you are not certain who he or she is, take a look at the back cover of this issue.





The route of the new by-pass takes shape. The embankment in which the Board's cables were buried formerly ran along the right of the picture.

## QUEENSFERRY'S NEW BRIDGE

Delays, queues and traffic jams along the roads of Britain are a major source of frustration, danger and waste, particularly during the summer months, and in the Manweb area there is probably no bigger bottle-neck than at Queensferry, where streams of vehicles often wait for long periods before they are able to cross the river Dee.

The building of a two-mile-long by-pass, incorporating a new dual carriageway bridge across the river, will do much to solve congestion at this sore spot on the Merseyside to North Wales run, and work on this bridge began in August when the Minister of Transport, Mr. Ernest Marples, gave the signal which set the first earth-moving machine in operation.

But before construction work could get under way, Manweb staff in the district had to carry out some urgent cable re-routing. Along a mile of the proposed route for the new by-pass ran a railway embankment carrying a dis-

used mineral line from nearby coal mines to Queensferry docks, and in this embankment were laid three 11kV cables supplying electricity to Sealand Aerodrome and the Sealand area in general. Before the bulldozers could go to work on the embankment new cables had to be laid to provide alternative supplies, and in view of the age of the existing cables it was decided not to re-lay them, but to modify the circuit arrangements, lay new cables, and recover the old ones as scrap. Along the banks of the river Dee ran a 66-kV overhead line from Chester, supplying the nearby steelworks of John Summers and Sons Ltd., and it was necessary to lay 300 yards of this line underground to make room for the new bridge and its approaches. The same consideration made it necessary to re-route about 100 yards of a 33-kV cable supplying a nearby steel pipe manufacturing works.

### New Substation

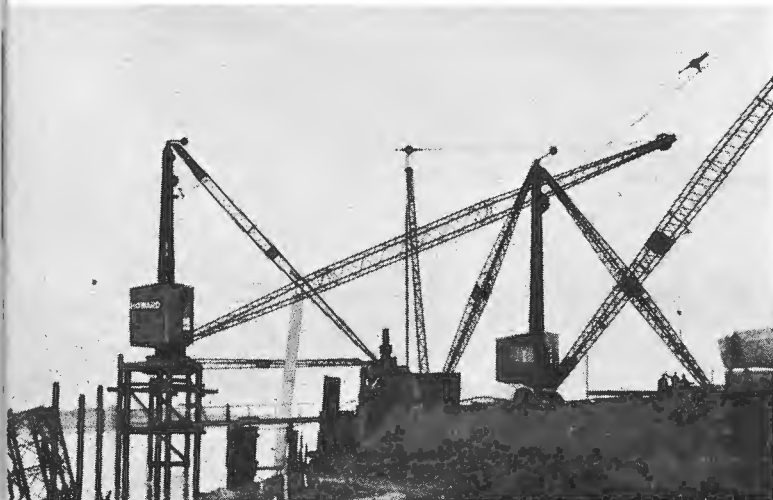
The main contractors responsible for the construction of the new road required a supply of electricity to operate the three derricks which are now hard at work on the banks of the river, preparing the bridge approaches, and for the sand pumping machinery which will later be brought into use.

Manweb provided a 100kVA supply at the existing substation, and had a new substation built on the far bank of the river, to enable this work to go forward.

About 60 members of the Board's staff have been engaged on various aspects of this work. These men have come from the Vauxhall and Legacy depots, under the general direction of Mr. E. Corfield, Assistant Construction Engineer. In charge of the operation generally has been Mr. E. T. Peters, Wrexham District Engineer, while the day-to-day operations have been the responsibility of Mr. John Powell, Section Engineer, Shotton, and in particular of his assistant, Mr. Arthur Jones.

It is hoped that the new by-pass will be open to traffic next autumn, when vehicles will leave the existing road just before the present Queensferry bridge, and will rejoin the present Chester-Queensferry road at a new roundabout to be constructed.

A cheerful group of men from the Vauxhall and Legacy depots. *Left to right: Back row: Messrs. A. Williams, L. Evans, L. Hughes, C. Marshall and A. Mason (labourers); Front row: Messrs. S. Parry (Chargehand), A. Jones (Assistant Section Engineer), F. Owens (Driver), R. E. Powell, N. Roberts, E. Howells, B. Casey and D. G. Powell (labourers).*



At the water's edge. Contractor's derricks at work preparing the approaches to the bridge.







The Deputy Chairman of the Board, Mr. D. G. Dodds, meets members of No. 4 Local Advisory Committee and the Staff Committee at Chester. *Left to right:* Messrs. J. Kellett (No. 3 Sub-Area Manager), S. Spratt, E. Bennion, W. Packer, T. H. Thompson, D. G. Dodds, S. W. Savage, H. U. Hayes and Miss S. Timmins.

# Round and About

Members of the Warrington district staff get in the picture prior to 'tucking-in' at their annual staff conference organised by the Local Advisory Committee.



## No. 4 SUB-AREA ANNUAL DINNER DANCE

The Memorial Hall, Wrexham, was the venue for this year's dinner dance for the staff of No. 4 Sub-Area Office. Soon after 7.30 p.m. on November 18th, the hall, which had been tastefully decorated for the occasion, was alive with the chatter of the 250 staff and friends as they sat down to an excellent dinner of roast turkey with all the trimmings.

The chief guests were Mr. D. H. Kendon (Chairman) and Mrs. Kendon, Mr. D. G. Dodds (Deputy Chairman) and Mrs. Dodds, Mr. P. d'E. Stowell (Chief Engineer) and Mrs. Stowell, Mr. W. Parkinson (Chief Commercial Officer) and Mrs. Parkinson, Mr. T. R. Smith (Assistant Chief Commercial Officer) and Mrs. Smith and Mr. W. A. Williams (District Manager, Oswestry) and Mrs. Williams, and all were in very good form.

The guests were formally welcomed by Mr. Pegg, and Mr. Kendon replied in a very amusing manner on their behalf. After the dinner there was dancing to suit all tastes until 1 a.m. to the music of Billy Gibbons and his orchestra.

### Prize for newly-weds

During the evening a little ceremony was held to decide the winner of a prize which had been donated by Mr. Kendon. The prize—an electric kettle—was to be given to the member of the staff present at the dance with over three years' service, and who had most recently been married. The lucky winner was Mr. F. B. Doyle of the Technical department, Legacy, who had been married just eight weeks. The prize could not be available for presentation as the suggestion was a spontaneous one of the Chairman's, but Mr. and Mrs. Doyle were introduced to Mrs. Kendon, who it is understood gave them a little timely advice. Close runners-up to Mr. Doyle were Mrs. Ann Nicholls of Wrexham Service Centre and Mrs. Margaret Roden of the Secretarial department, who had been married eleven weeks. Later in the evening prizes were presented to the holders of lucky ticket numbers by Mrs. Stowell. While some of the prizes were rather expensive, others were not quite so, and among the less fortunate winners were Mrs. Pegg who, on behalf of Mrs. Dodds and to the delight of the crowd, won a baby's rattle, and Mrs. Stowell herself, who won a washing-up mop. Other prizes were won by Mr. Fred Owen, Mr. Dale Jones, Mr. George Keay, Mr. Glyn Williams, Mr. Fred Evans, Mr. Stan Lloyd, Mr. Harry Garrett, Mr. Barry Evans, Miss Moonyeen Randles, Miss Susan Beveridge, Miss Diane Mitchell, Miss Irene Davies, Mrs. Mavis Edwards, Miss Jean Lloyd, Miss Mavis Williams, Mrs. Kay Allen and Miss Francis Hughes.

### The best yet

The evening ended with the happy dancers joining together for Auld Lang Syne and then making their weary way homeward through a pea-soup fog.

All arrangements for the dance were made by the Social Committee of the Sports Club, and they deserve thanks and congratulations for "the best yet" which includes the dinner, the band and the organisation.

### CORRESPONDENTS

Please send in your contributions for the February issue of *Contact* as soon as possible.