



CONTACT

January 1973

"The Girl from MANWEB"

Southport Saleswoman chosen for 1973

A NEAT and petite saleswoman from our shop in Lord Street, Southport, Mrs. Patricia Ann Reed, became the "Girl from MANWEB—1973" after some very close judging just before Christmas. She was one of the six finalists—five from the Districts and one from Head Office—in this sixth year of the competition. Blonde-haired Pat has worked for us for the past two years—prior to this she was with a travel agency as their representative in Italy. She is interested in languages, enjoys ski-ing, playing tennis and keeping fit. Her husband, Douglas, is the advertisement manager for a group of newspapers.

OUR COVER PICTURE shows Pat with the other finalists. On the front left, is Mrs. Margaret Corlett, an energy sales demonstrator from our Mid-Cheshire District. Margaret, who was the runner-up, has been with us for about twelve months. In 1970 she was successful in winning the 'Miss Staffordshire' title. She likes sewing, gardening and driving, but hates cars that break down!

On the front right, is Mrs. Sandra Shakeshaft, who came in third place, a clerk in the Estates and Wayleaves section at Head Office. She worked for nine years with Hendersons of Liverpool before joining us twelve months ago. Sandra comes from a musical family, her own talents being on the piano. One day she would like to own or manage her own 'pub'—with catering.

On the back row, left to right, are the other finalists.

Mrs. Jennifer Knowles, a

clerk in our North Mersey District, who has worked for the Board since she left school six years ago. Jenny is a keen first-aider and would like to become a member of the District team when they get settled in their new offices. She was once a member of the MANWEB Ladies football team. Away from work, Jenny and her husband spend a lot of time sailing round the Anglesey coast in their G.P. and Lysander boats.

Next is Miss Christine Barbara Jones, who works at our Machynlleth offices. Christine has gained the bronze, silver and gold medals in the Duke of Edinburgh's Award scheme and in her spare time works as a 'Guider' with the Brownies. This year she hopes to qualify as a youth leader. Her fiance George, is an electrician with the Board at Machynlleth and at the moment they are both busy preparing



Helping to adjust the sash on the new "Girl from MANWEB" is Miss Carolyn Smith, who's hectic year of office ended on December 31st. Carolyn now has other things on her mind as she became engaged on Christmas Eve, her 20th birthday, to Mr. Gil Fieldhouse, from Thornton Hough. In offering them our congratulations we also extend our sincere wishes for a very happy future.

to build their own home.

Finally, we have Miss Mary Williams, a telephonist from our Gwynedd District Office at Caernarvon. Mary is a country-style girl and is engaged to a farmer. She is Secretary to the Caernarvon Young Farmers Club and in 1971, she helped judge the Welsh Mountain Pony class at the Royal Welsh Show.



THE JUDGES AND THE WINNER

Mr. D. G. Gwyn (Deputy Chairman) congratulates Pat on her winning the title "Girl from MANWEB—1973." Also in the picture are the other judges, from left to right: Diana Pulson (Women's Editor, Liverpool Daily Post), Mr. M. R. Cowan (Chief Commercial Officer) and Doreen Tysall (Principal, Patricia Platt Model Agency, Liverpool).



CONTACT

Vol. 25 No. 1

January 1973

On other pages

Employees' Meetings	
Head Office	4
North Mersey	6
Dee Valley	8
Mid-Cheshire	10
Gwynedd	11
Oswestry	12
Safe Drivers at South Lancashire	14
Party-Time at Head Office	16
Quiz	19
Clwyd District Social	20
Southport Social	21
Five-a-side	22
National Savings	23
Crossword Prizewinners	24

Editorial Staff
 Keith Baldwin
 John F. Perry
 Sam Doughty

EDITORIAL

Smoothing our Path

WE ARE not too sure whether this little story is fact or fiction but it bears repeating, to make a point

Many years ago (goes the story) there was a prominent agitator at a large factory who declared that he could "organise a strike over a cup of tea!"

Challenged to prove his words, or eat them, he called a shop-floor meeting which resulted—you've guessed it—in a strike to protest about the poor quality of the canteen tea!

Perhaps he was a mass hypnotist . . . perhaps the workers voted by bleating . . . perhaps the tea really was undrinkable and had stayed that way despite many reasonable requests for improvement . . . but the tale really illustrates the meaning of a "storm in a teacup."

While it is true that our industry suffered from organised industrial action a couple of years' ago over something as fundamental as pay, the chances of trouble brewing (!) over a cup of tea, or any minor irritation, are virtually nil.

The reason for our immunity from this kind of problem is a very simple one—a system of joint consultation which is the envy of every other industry.

Month after month, year after year, our Local Advisory Committees grind away patiently, investigating, discussing, and making recommendations and decisions on a wide range of topics, some large, some small, but all affecting our health, welfare and efficiency in one way or another.

Every year, too, the Committees organise employees' conferences where the whole staff can "have a go," and these are invariably merged into pleasant social occasions.

This number of *Contact* contains reports of several such MANWEB functions. We hope that our readers do not find that they unbalance the magazine, but something of a spate occurred in a short period of time!



Above left: Mr. D. G. Dodds, our Chairman, chats with the Bishop of Chester, whilst, above right staff relax after their meal.

BISHOP OF CHESTER AT HEAD OFFICE MEETING

AFTER an excellent meal in the Head Office restaurant, Mr. M. M. Parker, Secretary and Solicitor and chairman of No. 11 L.A.C., welcomed speakers and delegates to the Head Office employees' meeting.

The MANWEB chairman, Mr. D. G. Dodds, expressed his pleasure at being able to meet the staff at this type of meeting. He regretted the poor results shown by the annual report after such a good year's work by the staff.

The success of the Head Office building heating and ventilation system had been proved and buildings throughout this country had emulated the system, as well as there being much interest from abroad.

Mr. Dodds was pleased to see so many sports and social activities in the new building, and felt

that the staff were growing together like a family.

The guest speaker of the evening was the Bishop of Chester, the Right Reverend Gerald Ellison, who gave a very informative talk on the work of a bishop both today and through the centuries.

Historically the bishops were the centre of life. They ordained priests, were responsible for teaching and guarding the faith. High office had been given to them as they were the only people who could read and write. They had control of wealth and manpower and their advice was sought by the government and sovereign.

The character of the position changed over the centuries and they became political figures with seats in the House of Lords, in the days when the House of Lords had equal status with the Commons, consequently the appointments of bishops were political.

Ready for the business of the evening.





More pictures of delegates to conference.

Today the influence of the House of Lords is different, although people still regard the bishops as important political figures. It was thought that they lived in rich palaces and were enormously wealthy. It was true bishops did have a secure position and had a good living. However, historically Chester was a poor See and the bishops quickly moved on.

Until 10 years ago bishops came from a privileged strata of society. They were protected from the stresses and strains of everyday life.

Today bishops took more interest in matters which were not solely church interests and in view of their seats in the House of Lords were able to bring influence to bear on items in which they had a special interest.

The Bishop of Chester had three main interests, one being the road safety of the pedestrian because of the prolific development of the internal combustion engine.

Another of the Bishop's interests was gambling, not actually partaking, that is. He served on the churches committee on gambling as chairman. He was also on the House of Lords select committee on gaming.

A former distinguished oarsman, he was also a

member of the Wolfenden Committee on sport which was responsible for the setting up of the Sports Council. He also served on the House of Lords select committee on the state of sport in the United Kingdom under the chairmanship of Lord Cobham.

There are 26 Bishops in the House of Lords and 16 waiting for vacancies. The Rt. Revd. Ellison said that he thought churchmen in Parliament should not impose their beliefs on other people, although there were issues which caused great concern for the Christian conscience, such as divorce and abortion.

Finally the Bishop said that as long as bishops were tolerated they would enjoy the opportunity to be in Parliament.

Mr. Harold Wilson, the vice chairman of No. 11 L.A.C., thanked the Bishop for his most interesting talk, and handed the meeting back to the chairman Mr. Parker, who in turn introduced the open forum.

Questions from delegates ranged over a wide variety of subjects, including preparation for retirement, licensed bar in the restaurant, music in the offices, a pedestrian crossing in front of the offices, exchange of staff with districts, sports facilities, and tea machines.

Some of the younger members of the staff present.





***Southport Venue
for
North
Mersey
District
Conference***



THIS YEAR'S conference for Board employees, past and present, from our North Mersey District, was an outstanding success with some 282 people turning up at Southport's Floral Hall to enjoy a very good meal and a most pleasant and entertaining evening.

Mr. H. Telfer (*Group Manager*) welcomed everyone and had a special word of thanks for the 75 pensioners who had accepted invitations to join with their friends and former colleagues once again.

The record attendance posed quite a problem for the organising committee but they proved capable of meeting the challenge with the minimum of hitches throughout the evening.

Special guests included Messrs. D. G. Gwyn (*Deputy Chairman*), A. P. Whyte (*Chief Accountant*) and T. Dean (*Appliance Marketing Manager*) who missed their own conference at Head Office in order to be with friends in the District. Also present was Mr. R. A. Minns (*District Industrial Relations Officer*) and a few members of the staff from our Liverpool and North Wirral Districts.

Saving Schemes

Guest speaker for the evening was Mr. T. H. Adams an officer with the National Savings Movement. In his brief talk, he thanked the Board for their wholehearted co-operation over many years. He explained two special savings schemes for employees—one, the Direct Transfer whereby one agrees to have a fixed sum deducted from pay and credited to a personal account in the Trustee Savings Bank.

The other scheme described by Mr. Adams was the Premium Savings Bond plan with the tempting £50,000 monthly prize and the £25,000 weekly draw. Again, bonds could be purchased the easy way by deductions from pay. He concluded by reminding his audience that everyone needs savings for the rainy day which comes at least once in a lifetime.

The next item on the agenda was the summary of the work done by the No. 1 Local Advisory Committee during the year, and this was given by Mr. Telfer, who talked a little of the safety sampling techniques pioneered by the District, which helped to reduce the number of accidents. He went on to say that he was rather disappointed at the poor response from the NJIC staff to the offer of places at the Spring and Summer Schools. He advised all members of the staff to look a little more closely into this.

Mr. Telfer then spoke of the revitalised first-aid programme which was now getting under way. He brought his remarks to a close by offering his personal thanks to every member of the L.A.C.

for their being excellent representatives and for their honest endeavours at joint consultation.

Then came the film—the highlight of the evening—showing the District at work. The project was the work of Mr. C. S. Shimmin (*system engineer*) who shot all the film and provided the commentary. And a jolly good job it was too.

A number of cartoons in the film were drawn by our old friend Mr. F. Illingworth, a jointer from Southport. Help with the projection and sound equipment was provided by Mr. S. B. Jones of the Drawing Office.

Stars of the Screen

The audience were highly delighted with the entertainment and many lighthearted comments flowed as certain members of the staff appeared on the screen, the most popular ones receiving much acclaim and applause. Each department and section had a showing on celluloid, with perhaps, understandably, the engineers getting a little more screen time.

The idea of a film, no doubt, is an excellent way of showing and telling all members of the staff how their colleagues earn their wages and help them to know who's who and what's what. When a clerk sees an engineering gang laying a cable, they get some idea of what the work entails and when the engineers see the clerk up to his neck in papers, the 'cosy' office is not then all that it is cracked up to be.

The film, incidentally, has since been shown to members of the Head Office Local Advisory and Staff Committees.

The feeling among this gathering of North Mersey District staff was great as they went into question time which had some of the 'hardy annuals' as well as some new ideas and approaches.

◆◆◆◆◆
Mr. Telfer addresses the assembly during the 'Open Forum' session. On the left is Mr. Whyte and on the right, Mr. Gwyn.





**Staff,
retired
employees
and
guests
at
the
Dee
Valley
Annual
Conference**



Dee Valley Employees' Meeting

JUDGE IS GUEST SPEAKER

AFTER an excellent meal, No. 4 L.A.C. Chairman Mr. K. Helliwell, welcomed delegates, speakers and guests to the meeting, held this year at a Llangollen Hotel.

Over 200 members of the staff and retired employees attended the conference. The first speaker was Mr. Eifion Jones, L.A.C. Secretary, who gave an account of the work of the committee during the year. Mr. Jones paid particular attention to safety, and urged delegates to contact their local representative on all matters concerning health, welfare, efficiency and safety.

Following Mr. Jones, Mr. Helliwell then summarised the activities of the Board over the year. The results had been pretty dismal owing to circumstances beyond the Board's control. Restraint on our tariffs had been the cause of the MANWEB loss of revenue last year, and the limited increase we had been allowed to charge would probably not prevent a loss in the current year.

There were one or two bright spots in the gloom, mainly generated as a result of increased sales of appliances and a larger turnover in contracting work.

The guest speaker was His Honour Judge Seys Llewelyn, who served on the Chester and North Wales circuit. His talk on the lighter side of the law was entitled '*Law is about people.*'

The Cardiff-born judge told his audience that a law came from some human conflict or other, and proceeded to give some amusing examples.

The mythical image of the stuffy, port-and-brandysipping judge was shattered by the lively and witty speaker.

He told the meeting of sentenced prisoner's remarks on leaving the dock. One said 'Yes, he was lenient but a pig!' Another commented, 'Yes he was fair the rotten old b'. A further remark he had decided to strike from his notes in deference to the ladies present!

Jurors did not always take the advice of judges, and he recalled a case in which the judge in his summing-up had directed the jury to find the

prisoner in the dock either guilty or not of murder—there could be no verdict of manslaughter. The jury found him guilty of manslaughter!

Judge Llewelyn drew his talk to a close by giving some examples of antiquities and curiosities of the law. One he quoted was the principle of deodand, in which the weapon used in a killing was forfeited to the crown. In the 19th century a railway engine had been judged to be a weapon causing the death of four people, and the owners were required to forfeit the value of the engine to the crown.

Owing to the presence of the ladies His Honour had amended his notes and so avoided contravening one of the ancient Acts of Parliament, the Profane Oaths Act of 1745, in which a common labourer, soldier or sailor was fined a shilling for uttering a profane oath. A similar offence cost those classed as gentlemen two shillings, and for all ranks above the fine was five shillings.

An open forum followed the guest speaker's talk, and questions over a wide range of subjects were asked by the audience. Stock levels of street lighting equipment, pensions being paid through banks, staff notes for retired personnel and productivity schemes were just a few of them.

Vice chairman of the Local Advisory Committee, Mr. A. Roberts, proposed the vote of thanks.

Group Manager Mr. K. Helliwell (standing), addresses the meeting and introduces His Honour Judge Seys Llewelyn seated on his left.





A section of the large gathering at Nantwich.

MID-CHESHIRE STAFF CONFERENCE GOES WITH A SWING!

The success and popularity of a recent staff conference innovation—the provision of recorded music for an hour or two's dancing after people have had enough of eating and talking—was conclusively proved at Mid-Cheshire District's conference recently.

In the splendid and elegant setting of Alvaston Hall, a country mansion hotel just outside Nantwich, more than 200 people, including about 60 ladies bedecked for the occasion in long dresses, turned up for the evening's programme. This turnout by the ladies must surely be a record for any L.A.C. conference, and it is fair to assume that the chicken dinner was not the main attraction.

It seems likely that Mr. Norman Kenyon, of Head Office commercial department, will find increasing demand for his services as music-master—and that he may face the prospect of more than one long drive home with a car-full of recording equipment and amplifiers.

True, one open-forum-time questioner did seem to feel that this represented too radical a departure from the established pattern for these meetings, but as Mr. J. W. Trimble, Chairman for the evening, pointed out, the music-and-dancing had been added to the programme, and nothing traditional had been lost in the process.

Welcoming the assembly, and commenting on the year's working, Mr. Trimble outlined the now painfully-familiar circumstances surrounding the industry's unhappy financial situation, but added:

“Things are now beginning to look a little bit brighter in as much as sales of energy are starting to take an upward turn, and other encouraging signs include a fall in the unemployment figures.”

Guest speaker for the evening was Lord Strathcona, a leading figure in the saga which culminated in salvaging the *S.S. Great Britain* from her bleak resting place in the Falkland Islands, and her final return in triumph to the Bristol dock where she was built in 1843.

With the aid of many slides, Lord Strathcona described the design and construction of the ship, under the direction of the great engineering genius I. K. Brunel. She was by far the largest vessel ever built at that time, and represented the real breakthrough into the era of screw-driven, iron-built steamships. He described the ship's chequered career as a passenger liner and troopship, and her long and varied role on the Australian run, carrying both emigrants and cargo, first as a steamship and later as a sailing ship.

The many and varied difficulties of the salvage operation, and the ship's final piggy-back journey the length of the Atlantic on a floating pontoon to her new permanent home as a maritime museum at Bristol, kept the listeners fascinated, proving once more the popularity of bringing in an “outside” guest speaker for these occasions.

A lengthy Open Forum session, and a report on the Committee's work for the year by secretary Mr. H. Almond, completed the evening's programme.



Above: Mr. Parker presents First Aid Certificates.

Left: Some of those present at the Caernarvon meeting.

“MUCH TO BE PROUD OF”— Board Secretary

Despite the problems facing the electricity supply industry as a whole, MANWEB had a great deal to be proud of, declared Mr. M. M. Parker, Secretary and Board Member, at Caernarvon recently.

Mr. Parker was guest speaker at a staff conference organised by Gwynedd District Local Advisory Committee, and held at a Caernarvon hotel. Despite a wet and windy night, people travelled from all parts of the far-flung District boundaries to enjoy an excellent meal and renew old acquaintanceships.

Mr. Parker said that an outstanding cause for pride among MANWEB people should be the completion of the Rural Development Scheme, the biggest enterprise of its kind in Western Europe.

“This scheme could never have been carried out on such a scale without nationalisation” he declared.

Using a series of charts, he compared MANWEB's performance in several different fields of endeavour with the levels achieved by other distribution boards, and by the industry generally.

In several ways these showed MANWEB's efficiency to be better-than-average, while in the

case of average price per unit for all units sold—.815p—we were “top of the league.”

“I am sure one can honestly say that we have the most economical distribution system of all the Boards,” he added.

MANWEB's distribution costs per unit sold were the second lowest in the country, and this was a particularly good result in view of our large rural area.

Turning from MANWEB in general to the Gwynedd District in particular, Mr. Parker said that in many respects the District did exceptionally well during 1971/72. Appliance sales increased by 24%, compared with 18% for the Board as a whole, while the value of installation work rose by a striking 47%, compared with the average figure of 13%.

Earlier, the guests had been welcomed by Mr. K. Helliwell, (Group Manager), who congratulated Mr. Gwilym Davies on his appointment as a J.P. Mr. E. Griffiths (L.A.C. Secretary) reported on the committee's work during the year, and first aid certificates earned by several employees were presented by Mr. Parker.

An Open Forum session, dealing with a very wide range of topics, rounded off the evening.

SUCCESSFUL STAFF MEETING AT

Good Food — Good Company

Good Entertainment



Some of the staff, past and present, at the Oswestry District Conference.

Guest speaker, Mr. Duffus



OSWESTRY DISTRICT

A FEW WEEKS ago, members of the staff covered by the No. 9 Local Advisory Committee in the Oswestry District, gathered at the town's Queen's Hotel for their annual conference.

After an excellent dinner, well over a hundred people squeezed into the main room to hear Mr. J. W. Trimble (*Group Manager and Chairman of No. 9 L.A.C.*) welcome everyone and say how pleased he was with the all-time record turn-out, which included many members of the fair sex. He had a special word of welcome for the dozen or so former employees who had come along, including the former District Manager, Mr. J. L. Williams. He also tendered apologies from Mr. R. N. Pegg, the former Area Manager who was unable to be present on this occasion.

Guests from Head Office included Messrs. D. G. Gwyn (*Deputy Chairman*), M. M. Parker (*Secretary and Solicitor*) and W. N. Shires (*Deputy Chief Commercial Officer*).

Mr. Trimble then commented on the Board's Annual Report and Accounts, going some way to explain, in layman's terms, the main reasons for the complete turnaround in the balance of accounting in the industry from profit to loss during the last couple of years. He said that this was due to many factors outside our control . . . fuel price increases and restrictions on our own tariffs, with other costs going up including salaries and rates (£2 million in MANWEB's area alone!)

He said that last year the sales of electricity were down, but there was every indication that this year things would be a little brighter. Sales of appliances and contracting work were showing marked increases. Sales of electricity too were up, but we were still under restraint as far as our tariffs were concerned.

Then the Secretary of No. 9 L.A.C., Mr. Hubert Gwilliam, who took over the duties as Secretary in September on the retirement of Mr. G. Warburton, gave a brief and concise report on the work carried out by the Committee.

He noted that nearly 60 accidents were reviewed over the twelve month period and drew attention to the many items of protective clothing which should be used in order to prevent serious accidents. He reminded those attending the conference that a small exhibit had been staged in one of the hotel rooms with the accent on safety, and it would be well worth looking at. He talked a little about the Health and Welfare projects undertaken by the L.A.C.

He said that the Committee were a little disappointed at the poor response to the Spring and Summer School publicity as no-one from the District had taken advantage of the offers. He gave a 'plug' for the Suggestion Scheme saying that anyone with bright ideas for greater efficiency within the Board could be rewarded with money in their pockets.

Summing up the work and purpose of the Local Advisory Committee, Mr. Gwilliam said, "Has it worked? The machinery exists and our hope is that everyone will make use of it."

The guest speaker for the evening was Mr. A. Duffus, the Assistant County Surveyor for Salop County Council. The title of his talk was "Highways and Byways"—which in cold print looked rather dull and boring.

However, Mr. Duffus turned out to be a most excellent speaker and after a very brief reference to the road system in this country, started by the Romans to satisfy the basic need for communications, he went on to entertain and amuse his audience with a number of really good anecdotes, some in his native Yorkshire accent and others using an acquired Gloucestershire dialect.

The room rocked with roars of laughter many times before Mr. Duffus sat down amid thunderous applause from a delighted audience. This great storyteller and his stories will no doubt be long remembered by those fortunate enough to hear him.

After a vote of thanks to their guest, proposed by Mr. G. E. Davies (*District Engineer*), members of the District staff then got down to the Open Forum session with their many and varied questions ably answered by the Chief Officers from Head Office and District.

A great conference concluded with more excellent entertainment, this time provided by "The Lynettes," a glamorous close harmony trio from Rhostyllen, trained and accompanied by Mr. Emyr James from our Dee Valley District.



Visitors from Head Office ready with the answers to questions put in the 'Open Forum.' From left to right: Messrs. W. N. Shires, D. G. Gwyn, and M. M. Parker. Front right is Mr. J. W. Trimble.

Safe Driving Awards in the South Lancashire District

Three senior police officers took time out recently to go along to our depots in the South Lancashire District in order to present Safe Driving Awards to members of the staff who had qualified.

At Runcorn, Superintendent D. Robinson of the Cheshire Constabulary made the presentations, while at Carlton Street, St. Helens, Superintendent F. Kemp of the Lancashire Constabulary did the honours.

The ceremony held at District Office in Warrington had Superintendent M. Townley of the Lancashire Constabulary to make the presentations.

Our own District Officers were also present.

Runcorn

Bar to 15-Year Brooch: Messrs. Ernest A. Bold and Arthur M. Turner.

15-Year Brooch: Mr. Charles F. Oultram.

Bar to 10-Year Medal: Messrs. William Appleton, Frederick W. Bignall, Frederick R. Fryer, George K. Hazlehurst, Frank Nuttall and Thomas Topping.

Bar to 5-Year Medal: Messrs. Joseph R. Antrobus, Gordon L. Bevan, Harry Blythe, John B. Brassington, Alfred E. Houghton, Norman Ormson, Charles J. Osborne, Roy Vickerstaff and Trevor Whitney.

5-Year Medal: Messrs. Alan Hughes and William T. Jones.

Diploma: Messrs. Joseph Allen, Roy Balmer, William Blake, Raymond J. Cartwright, John Clarke, Frederick O. Clague, John P. Cox, Joseph Goode, Eric Hough, Edward Keogh, Leonard Keogh, James McKague, Paul Medlicott, John K. Melvin, William F. Mills, James A. Roberts, John A. Shaw, Douglas Sutton, Wallace Sutton and George A. Williams.

St. Helens

Silver Bar to 25-Year Medal: Mr. Thomas C. Coulshed.

Bar to 15-Year Brooch: Messrs. Thomas C. P. Baines and Francis Evans.

Bar to 10-Year Medal: Messrs. Terence Almond, James Arstall, John E. Moore and Alexander Sutton.

10-Year Medal: Mr. Lawrence Case.

Bar to 5-Year Medal: Messrs. Joseph Huyton and Arthur James.

5-Year Medal: Messrs. Albert R. Lovelady and Arthur Smith.
Diploma: Messrs. James Brown, David Caldwell, Thomas Fillingham, Kenneth Forber, William Lyon, George Mather, George McCarthy, Norman Rawsthorne, Arthur Tucker and Ernest J. Watkins.



Left: At Runcorn, Superintendent Robinson, centre, presents awards to Messrs. E. A. Bold, right, and A. M. Turner, left.

Below: Other award recipients with Superintendent Robinson and Senior Officers from South Lancashire District.





Above: Just a few of the District Safe Drivers based at St. Helens. Right: Superintendent Kemp presents the Silver Bar to the 25-Year Medal to Mr. T.C.Coulshed, right, with D.C.E. Mr. R.G.Monk, centre.

Warrington

Bar to 15-Year Brooch: Mr. Anthony A. Heathwood.

15-Year Brooch: Mr. John J. Waller.

Bar to 10-Year Medal: Messrs. Colin Antrobus, Edward Appleton, Richard A. Penlington, James Smith and James Tart.

10-Year Medal: Messrs. Reginald Bramhall and John B. Edwards.

Bar to 5-Year Medal: Messrs. Lewis Bowler, Horace D. Briggs, James A. Brown, Albert Horrabain, Alfred Houghton,

William F. Kay, Terence O. Mannion, Ronald B. Smallwood and Harold Worsley.

Diploma: Miss Margaret Furnival. Messrs. Joseph W. Atherton, Arthur Blears, Cyril W. Butterworth, Robert O. Clough, Derek Curtis, Arthur Dearden, Beresford Hope, Barry Howarth, David A. Johnson, James Povey, John Rae, Joseph C. Robinson, John J. Thornton, Albert E. Titchard, William Weaver, John W. Wells and Donald R. Willis.



Below: Seated and surrounded by Warrington Safe Drivers we see, from left to right: top award winner, Mr. A. A. Heathwood, Mr. D. G. Monk (District Commercial Engineer), Superintendent M. Townley, Mr. A. R. Cooper (District Engineer), Miss Margaret Furnival, the only female award winner, and Mr. G. H. Dodd (District Administrative Officer). Right: Mr. Heathwood receives his award from Superintendent Townley, watched by Miss Furnival.





Complete with tickling sticks, these busy beauties got the show off to a rousing and hilarious start and gave some meaning to the expression 'pin-up' at the close of their act.

Party-Time at Head Office

After their act, The Costamongers pose for a picture. In alphabetical order they are: Jane Allport, Liz Fletcher, Carole George, Linda Gillibrand, Glenys Griffiths, Valerie Hobbs, Karen Hughes, Gillian Jones, Judy Redhouse, Ann Stevenson, Chris White and Sheila Williams.

The Chester Choir (!) following their rendition of the Twelve Days of Christmas—again alphabetically: Dave Brayshaw, Chris Byrne, Martin Cross, Lenny Forbes, George Harrison, Gill Humphreys, Ann Jones, Fred Owen, Gren Roberts, Susanne Simcott and Nick Williams.





◀ A member of the Board's Corporate Development team, Rod Kenyon, left, interviews 'The Boss' (Gren Roberts).



▶ Presenting the Five Faces of MANWEB we had quick change artist and man of many parts, Dave Brayshaw, left, interviewed by Dobbie Ray (Fred Owen) right.



▶ Friends again after their crosstalk act, Eric Rodden, left, explorer extraordinaire just back from Khatmandu, and famous thespian, Tom Dutton.

This very entertaining Christmas Show was produced by Mr. T. H. Dutton. Music on the pianos provided by Eric Pearson and John Minshull.

Some of the Solo Artists



◀ Sweet music, on the saxophone and clarinet, from Noel Gardner.

A beautiful voice heard by many thousands when she broadcast with the B.B.C.—

▶ Betty Timms.



Looking for his own television series, comedian David Stoneley.

▶ Keith Roberts—a strong tenor voice.





WEDDING GIFT

Members of the staff in the Estates and Wayleaves Section at Head Office, gather round to see Mr. F. Ward (*Assistant Secretary—Legal*) on their behalf present a food mixer as a wedding present to Miss Jane Whitley, a clerk in the section.

Jane was married to Mr. Michael Keel, an electrician, on December 16th at Wrexham Parish Church. We wish them every happiness in the future.

CHILDRENS' PARTY

Nearly 400 children enjoyed the annual Christmas Party held for them at Sealand Road, Chester. After many party games, musical buses, team games and an exciting sack race event, the youngsters sat down to tea. This was followed by a talent show to while away the time until the arrival of Santa with his bag of presents.



Left: A study in expressions as Master of Ceremonies, Mr. T. H. Dutton organises the talent show.
Below: An unusual role for Mr. Hughie Hughes as he meets a satisfied customer.



PRIZEWINNER

One of the six winners of "1300" cars in a MANWEB competition open to all people who bought new electric cookers was Mrs. P. A. Owen of Overlea Avenue, Deganwy.

The cars were presented at various points in the Board's area by our 1972 "Girl from MANWEB," Miss Carolyn Smith, and our picture, *above*, shows her giving Mrs. Owen's new car the V.I.P. treatment as she fills up the tank at the Colwyn Bay garage where the prize was handed over.



Exciting Quiz Contest at Head Office

A TEAM from the Personnel Section fought some very tough battles to become winners of the recent Head Office General Knowledge Quiz held at Sealand Road. In an exciting final round they beat the Internal Audit "A" team.

With the Board's Commercial Economist, Mr. B. R. Campbell-Kelly setting the questions, the sixty contestants making up the 15 teams had to dig deep into their brain boxes to come up with the right answers to questions posed on a wide range of subjects.

After surviving two rounds, the Personnel team continued on their winning ways and defeated a team from the Commercial section by 17 points to 10 in one of the semi-finals. The other match was closely fought—17 points to 15—with Internal Audit "A" just pipping Legal.

The final game brought to an end three hours of quick-fire questions and answers. All the teams acquitted themselves



Above: The winners—representing Personnel Section, from left to right: Mr. D. W. Roxburgh (captain), Miss C. M. Jones, Mrs. D. Davis and Mr. J. G. D. Greenhalgh.

Below: The runners-up—representing Internal Audit—from left to right: Messrs. G. Thomas (captain), J. Tyreman, J. Gorman and P. Farrell.



admirably and a great spirit of friendly rivalry was encouraged by the ninety supporters who were most vociferous in their appreciation and encouragement for the teams.

The winners were presented with a silver cup and book tokens by Mrs. M. M. Parker, the wife of our Board's Secretary and Solicitor. The runners-up also received prizes and a further award went to the Management Services team who recorded the highest score in a single round of the competition.

Members of the Internal Audit "B" team—defeated but

far from disgraced in the first round, were presented with a wooden spoon!

Mr. Gren Roberts, Secretary of the Sports and Social Club, was Master of Ceremonies for the evening, and in addition to Mr. Campbell-Kelly as the quizmaster, Mr. T. H. Dutton acted as the enumerator and Mr. J. Wilcock was the timekeeper. The scorers were Miss J. Cadwallender, Miss G. Humphreys and Mr. M. Cross.

The winning team and the runners-up now go on to play in a challenge match against the Cheshire Constabulary.



Left: Quizmaster, Mr. B. R. Campbell-Kelly, left, with M.C. Mr. Gren Roberts. Below: from left to right: Timekeeper, Mr. J. Wilcock, Enumerator, Mr. T. H. Dutton and one of the scorers, Mr. M. Cross.



CLWYD

DISTRICT SOCIAL



The annual Social and Dance organised by the Clwyd District Sports and Social Club was held a short time ago at the Hydro Hotel in Llandudno.

Judging by the happy faces shown in the pictures on this page, a good time was had by one and all.



A farewell gift was presented to Mr. Edwin Parry Williams, left, who was leaving the Board after 18 years' service. For the past eight years he has been Treasurer of the Clwyd District Sports and Social Club.



RETIREMENT

Mr. G. F. LAMONBY

After 21 years' service with the Board at Caernarvon, Mr. George F. Lamonby retired recently.

Mr. Lamonby began as a labourer in the central stores at Caernarvon, and was appointed assistant storekeeper in 1959. A well-known character, and

very popular with his colleagues throughout the District, he played a valuable role as a member of the District Sports and Social Club Committee.

His many friends hope that retirement will bring George improved health to enjoy his main hobby of gardening.



Southport Social Evening | Another Terrific Success

What may be the last of the very popular Social Evenings to be organised and run by our colleagues at Southport, was held at the Floral Hall recently. Besides the local staff and their friends, many others from North Mersey District Office went along to enjoy a really great evening. All credit goes to the team who worked so hard to make this a successful event—Betty Jackson, Reg Cook, Stan Holt and Les Rigby. During the evening, local girl, Pat Reed, was given a warm welcome as the recently elected ‘‘Girl from MANWEB’’ for 1973.

FIVE-A-SIDE FOOTBALL TOURNAMENT AT HEAD OFFICE



Above: Members of the Systems Analyst team who won the tournament. *From left to right:* Messrs. Bill Taylor, Eddie Maxwell, Joe Pugh (*captain*), Bill Shaw and Dave Andrews.

Right: The losing finalists, Financial "A" team. *From left to right:* Messrs. Nigel Crossley (*captain*), Geoff Green, Ian Hamilton-Wood, Barry Hart-Davies and Neil Thomas.



Great enthusiasm was shown by players and supporters in the Head Office Inter-Departmental Five-a-Side Football Tournament held a few weeks ago in the Deeside Leisure Centre at Queensferry.

Sixteen teams were entered and a total of 63 matches were played during the day with initially two leagues being formed comprising of eight teams. They played their matches on a league basis and the top four teams from each league going into the quarter final round.

From these games, semi-finals were played

between Financial "A" who beat Revenue 360 by three goals to one, and Systems Analysts who defeated Financial "B" by two goals to nil.

In a good final game, the Systems Analysts team beat Financial "A" by two goals to nil.

This excellent tournament was organised by a sub-committee of the MANWEB (Chester) Sports and Social Club, whose members were Messrs. Lawrence Kirby, Rob Jones, Rodney Kenyon and Gren Roberts. Trophies were presented to the winners by Mr. Richard Gales, Chairman of the Club.

STRANGE REPORT

A most popular member of the staff in the Liverpool area, Miss Barbara J. Strange, left the Board recently to get married.

She is now Mrs. Barbara Molyneux, and has been since the wedding ceremony on January 6th at Christ Church, Barnston. Her husband Brian, is a graduate from Liverpool University and now works as a mechanical engineer in Hosham, Sussex where the couple are now living.

Barbara studied at the College of Crafts and Catering in

Liverpool before joining MANWEB about ten years ago at Lister Drive. Later she moved over to Marsh Lane and became senior demonstrator and then energy sales demonstrator.

Last year she won a busary from the Electrical Association for Women which took her to the International Congress on Home Economics in Helsinki.

She is the daughter of Mr. Harold Strange, a former Deputy Chief Accountant for the Board until his retirement a few years ago.



Barbara, right, receives the Joan Whitgift Award plaque from Miss Mary George, Director of the Electrical Association for Women, at a recent Conference in Southport.

Board Supports Savings Drive

"*Saving for a rainy day*" is not so fashionable a phrase today as it used to be. Many people feel that the umbrellas of sickness and unemployment pay, social security and supplementary benefits, will be enough to stop them getting really soaked if the storm-clouds gather.

But if "rainy-day" thinking has passed into history, it has been replaced by dozens of additional reasons why millions of people need a comparatively painless way of accumulating cash.

For many people the first really big demand for cash-in-bulk is to provide a roof over the family's head. For millions of young couples' saving the money to put down as a deposit on their first home represents a lengthy period of sacrifice and self-discipline, made much worse by the recent escalation in house prices.

The number of cars on our roads increases with every year that passes—as every motorist knows to his cost. After a house, a car is probably the biggest single item of expenditure which most people undertake, but while houses usually appreciate in value, we are all painfully aware that cars have a nasty habit of wearing out and going rusty, and that every so often they need replacing!

And how about the colour TV... washing machine... the new cooker... the fitted carpets... Mum's new coat... and Johnny's school uniform?

Save for a rainy day...? It's raining all the time, every day, raining bills, demand notes, and if you're not careful, nasty letters from the Bank Manager!

Yes—we know that you can get almost anything on credit, that the finance companies are constantly urging you to pick up the phone and fix up a loan quickly, and so on.

But—as your Bank Manager would again be quick to point out—borrowing money costs money, and usually the amount it costs increases in proportion to the eagerness with which the lender invites you to borrow it!

By far the best way to protect yourself against high interest charges and a too-heavy burden of repayments, is by saving as much cash as possible before making a major financial commitment. Accumulating savings is no easy matter, but the easiest of all the methods is by arranging for regular deductions to be made from your pay before you receive it.

Millions of people have already discovered the advantages of saving regularly in this way, and in the last financial year the total invested in National Savings increased by £767 millions, making it a year of record growth.

More than 1,500 MANWEB employees already participate in the various methods of savings-from-pay which the Board operate, and the start of 1973 sees a big drive to increase this number.

All pay packets and salary advices will shortly contain a leaflet outlining the various methods of saving available, and forms authorising savings-from-pay are available from the welfare department at Head Office, and from District offices.

Why not take advantage of the facilities offered? It could make your next big purchase a much less painful affair!

SAVINGS-FROM-PAY

can be made by MANWEB employees in the following ways:

- ★ By direct transfer to the National Savings Bank. (Interest at 4% per annum, with no income tax payable on the first £21 of interest. A five-year Save as You Earn contract offers large tax-free bonuses).
- ★ By buying Premium Savings Bonds, with the possibility of a £50,000 jackpot, and thousands of smaller prizes, from 'Ernie.' (These can be bought by instalments for as little as 50p a month).
- ★ By buying National Savings Certificates, which cost £1 each and become worth £1.25p in four years, and are exempt from all forms of U.K. tax. (These can also be bought by instalments).

Get your authorisation form NOW !

GOLF

SIX golfing enthusiasts representing MANWEB, put up excellent performances at Prestatyn Golf Club recently where they were successful in winning the Sir Geoffrey Summers Cup.

Originally, twenty-four teams drawn from some of the major industrial concerns in Chester and North Wales played in a knock-out competition to leave eight teams to compete for the trophy.

The course at Prestatyn is not an easy one to play, even in ideal conditions, but on match day it was at its most difficult with a near gale force wind blowing all day.

The MANWEB team however, were in top form, having defeated last year's winners in a previous round, they went into the final match to beat the John Summers team by six clear strokes. Their opponents, incidentally, had five members of the Prestatyn Golf Club in their team of six.

The best four scores from each team were used to determine the winners and MANWEB had a total of 312—with Mr. Derek Jones winning the individual prize with a fine round of 71.

Our full team was as follows: Messrs. W. E. Daniels (*Engineering*) captain, K. Gee (*Financial*), D. G. Jones (*Commercial*), N. Jones (*Associate Member*), W. A. Jones (*Secretarial*) and H. B. Parsons (*Engineering*).

Lady Winner

We congratulate Mrs. Hazel Gray, who works in Creditors Section at Head Office, on her winning the Lady President's Cup at the Padeswood and Buckley Golf Society's Annual Competition.

Crossword Prizewinners

The crossword which appeared in the November issue of 'Contact' must have been very easy judging by the massive number of entries received—a record we think. The three lucky people who's all-correct solutions were drawn from the bag first were as follows:

Mr. P. C. Gerrard, from Engineering Department at Head Office.

Mr. W. J. Fitzpatrick, a pensioner now living at 266 Boundary Road, St. Helens, and

Mr. W. R. Cowle, husband of Mrs. M. E. Cowle who works in the Internal Audit Section at Sealand Road.

Their £2 prizes have been sent out.

The Double Crossword competition in the December issue however, presented a much harder task and only a handful of entries were received. From these, the two prizewinners with all-correct solutions to both puzzles who receive £5 each were:

Mr. R. N. Thomas, a clerk in the Costs Section at Head Office.

Miss M. J. Smith, a tracer in the Engineering Department Drawing Office.

If you are still stuck with the puzzles and would like the solutions, please drop a line to the Editor and he will supply them for you.

ENGAGEMENT

Our very best wishes for a happy future go to Miss Susan Holmes, our delightful receptionist at Head Office, and to Mr. Trevor Jones, one of our electricians based at Mold in the Clwyd District, who became engaged on the eve of this new year.

RE-APPOINTMENTS

Mr. B. Nelson, C.B.E. and Professor H. T. Williams, C.B.E. have recently been re-appointed as part-time members of our Board.

Justice of the Peace

Our congratulations go to Mr. Islwyn Morris, our Production Engineer in the Clwyd District on his appointment as Justice of the Peace for the County of Flint.

New District Office

Our colleagues in the Oswestry District recently moved into a new office block in Maesbury Road. They are now settled-in and we shall be reporting on the move in the next issue of *Contact*.

Obituary

Mr. LI. ROBERTS
It is with deep regret that we record the death of Mr. Llewelyn Roberts, a senior clerical assistant in the Gwynedd District.

Mr. Roberts served with the R.A.F. during the last war and then joined the North Wales Power Company as a clerk. He was an

active member of the Gwynedd District Sports and Social Club and for many years was its Honorary Treasurer.

Many of his friends with the Board, including some retired members of the staff, attended his funeral and internment at Llanbeblig Cemetery.